

Constitution Review Summary

Over the past few years, AMC has adopted a more flexible approach to its committee structure as fewer people were willing and able to participate in these structural elements. There have been a few comments during this time that having a meaningful constitution remains an important way to orient a group of people purporting to express a common desire. I acknowledge that we have been operating within a tolerable but ultimately unsustainable tension and, as a result, struck an ad hoc committee consisting of Ang Enns, Kim Batchelor, and myself to consider and recommend certain amendments to our constitution. These recommendations have also been canvassed by the Leadership Committee at our meeting on January 14, 2025 and are being presented to the membership now for consideration and adoption.

The amendments fall into 3 general categories:

- 1) General cleanup
- 2) Revision to the Committee Structure
- 3) Revision to the definition of Membership

This summary addresses each in turn below and I am proposing that each be moved and adopted individually (subject to a motion from the congregation to adopt them together).

General	Committee	Membership
Article I	Article VI para 3	Article IV para 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 12,
Article IV para 7	Article VI Section A, para 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11,	Article VI para 1
Article V para 2, 4, 5	Article VI Section B, para	Article VI Section B, para 1, 2
Article VI, para 5, 6		Article VII

General - These changes include the following changes

- Highlighting our legal structure as a religious society
- Add written and numeric numbers as required
- replace “he/she” to the singular “they” to improve readability
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Committee

- Moderator term increased to 2 years to provide more continuity of leadership
- Secretary confirmed as retainer of church records (previously with the trustees)
- Commissions replaced with committees
- Removed Sunday School Superintendent as a particular position

Membership

- Change from “resident member” to “active” and “inactive” membership
- Annual renewal of membership required
- Remove category of “associate membership”
- Add “Declaration of Commitment” to the congregation as a path to membership in addition to baptism

One area that has not been reviewed thoroughly is Article 3, which contains a number of scriptural references. It may be that these references continue to serve as relevant benchmarks for our congregation but there may be other passages we want to highlight and some of these passages may not need to be elevated to a “constitutional” position. I am recommending that the church deliberately consider these passages and recommend changes if and when required to ensure this element of the constitution remains relevant to our current identity.