

Glossary of Terms and Phrases from the Proposed Bylaws for Travis Avenue Baptist Church

This document is intended to be a reference guide to the proposed new Bylaws as the congregation studies and prays. As such, it is not considered part of the recorded Governing Documents of Travis Avenue Baptist Church.

Catastrophic event (Article XV) – A catastrophic event refers to any natural disaster, emergency, or disastrous event that may render a quorum of Elders extremely difficult or impossible. The intention of this article is to enable the available or remaining Elders continuity in conducting business on behalf of the church, should a disaster occur.

Church conference (Section 9.2.A) – The Bylaws require the Elders to hold three church conferences per year with the intention of conducting usual church business during these meetings, e.g. voting on budgets, adding new members to the Congregation, deacon affirmation, etc. These are also known colloquially as business meetings, and they are subject to advance notice and scheduling as defined in Section 9.2.A.

Congregation-accountable (Article II) – This references the importance and responsibility of the congregation with regards to the church's organization. The duties and privileges of membership in the congregation are outlined in Section 4.3. Accountability includes participating in Church conferences, voting, and ensuring a high level of integrity with respect to the organizational actions of the church.

Elders' designee (Section 4.3.A) – A designee is likely to be a staff member appointed by the Elders for a specific task or express purpose, such as hiring administrative positions or ordering office supplies, not committee appointments or ministry hires.

Extraordinary circumstances (Section 4.3.C) – These circumstances reference any reasonable barrier that would prevent a member from attending church for 2 years. Examples include missionary service, military deployment, ill health, and homebound members.

Governing documents – Travis Avenue Baptist Church is governed by two documents:

1. The Certificate of Formation (formerly known as Articles of Incorporation). This is a legal document filed with the state of Texas, required to formally recognize TABC as a non-profit entity.
2. The Bylaws. This is a legal document defining the organizational actions of the church. Any document or policy produced by TABC is subject to the Bylaws; that is, in a situation of conflicting documents, the Bylaws supersede any other policy set forth by TABC. Any changes to the Bylaws are subject to a congregational vote.

Inactive (Section 4.3.C) – Inactive status is a membership designation for any member who has not participated at TABC in 2 years. The intention of this section is to require a periodic review of membership by the Elders, to communicate with those who may have been absent, thus hopefully drawing them back into fellowship.

Like faith and order (Section 4.1, 10.A) – This phrase may be best explained in two parts: 1. “Like faith” describes individuals who subscribe to the same parameters of TABC’s Statement of Faith, meaning they are “like,” or same in our faith. 2. “Order” references the individual also practices the two ordinances—same as TABC Members—baptism by full immersion and the Lord’s Supper.

Ministry staff – This term refers to all non-administrative staff employed by the church.

Present a candidate to the church (Section 7.4.B) – In the calling of a Lead Teaching Pastor, the presentation of a candidate to the church refers to providing an opportunity for the congregation to hear the candidate preach or teach.

Reasonably participate (Section 4.3.C) – Reasonable participation in worship or other set church activities demonstrates an established pattern of present attendance. The intention of this section is to require a periodic review of membership by the Elders, to communicate with those who may have been absent, thus hopefully drawing them back into fellowship.

Senior Pastoral Staff (Section 5.3.O, 7.3.A) – The Senior Pastoral Staff consists of the Lead Teaching Pastor, Associate Teaching Pastor, Senior Assistant Pastor for Administration, Assistant Pastor for Worship, and Assistant Pastor for Discipleship.

Special church conference (Sections 4.2, 5.4.C, 9.2.B) – This Conference is so named as it may be called as needed to conduct the business of the church and is subject to the same requirements of advance notice and scheduling. This was included to give the Elders latitude to call a conference as needed for unusual church business, such as the sale of property or voting on governing documents.

Staff elder (Section 5.2.A) – An Elder who is employed by Travis Avenue Baptist Church is considered a Staff Elder. The Lead Teaching Pastor is included in these proposed Bylaws as a Staff Elder.

Valid cause for removing an elder (Section 5.6.B) – Valid cause for dismissing an Elder is anything that invalidates that Elder’s Scriptural qualifications set forth in 1 Tim. 5:19.