



## **Special Members Meeting**

### **Call to Order**

Opening with prayer, Pastor Sean Harris initiated the Special Members Meeting. Motion to enter meeting was made by Pastor Sean Harris. Attending members unanimously approved motion.

### **Recommendation for Change to Articles of Faith**

- The elders recommended the following change to the Articles of Faith

#### ***CURRENT Article III.8.e***

**e.** We believe that God intends marriage to last until one spouse dies (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3). When circumstances cause a believer to become legally separated or estranged from their spouse, they must hold fast to the truth of Scripture and seek the healing of their marriage devoting their time and energy to that pursuit. There is absolutely no reason for a married person who is separated to seek out, allow, or cultivate the romantic affections of a person or people who are not their current spouse. This would include close friendships with the opposite sex that could lead to what would be seen as a dating relationship. Further, the separated believer should wholeheartedly seek the restoration of their marriage until it is no longer possible within biblical standards (i.e. remarriage or death). (1 Cor. 7:10-11) **Remarried or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service; they may not be considered for the offices of pastor, elder or deacon (I Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).** We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God (Gal. 3:28) but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home (Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 3:4-5, 12) and church (I Tim. 2:8-15). The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors, elders and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church.

#### ***PROPOSED Article III.8.e***

**e.** We believe that God intends marriage to last until one spouse dies (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3). When circumstances cause a believer to become legally separated or estranged from their spouse, they must hold fast to the truth of Scripture and seek the healing of their marriage devoting their time and energy to that pursuit. There is absolutely no reason for a married person who is separated to seek out, allow, or cultivate the romantic affections of a person or people who are not their current spouse. This would include close friendships with the opposite sex that could lead to what would be seen as a dating relationship. Further, the separated believer should wholeheartedly seek the restoration of their marriage until it is no longer possible within biblical standards (i.e. remarriage or death). (1 Cor. 7:10-11) **Recognizing the nature of sin and**

**the redemptive power of Jesus Christ, the church does allow remarried or divorced men to hold positions of leadership, to include deacon and elder, provided there is longitudinal evidence that they have established a reputation that meets the “husband of one wife” or more precisely, the original language’s “one woman man” requirement found within the Biblical qualifications for those positions (1 Tim. 3:2,12; Titus 1:6).** We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God (Gal. 3:28) but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home (Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 3:4-5, 12) and church (I Tim. 2:8-15). The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors, elders and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church.

- Results of Vote: PASSED - YES 144 NO 25

### **Adjournment**

Attending members unanimously approved motion to adjourn.

7:18 pm

*Respectfully Submitted: Daniel Wardlow, Church Clerk*