

## Summary of Updates

Section	Current Language	Proposed Language	Reason for Change
PREAMBLE	This constitution was adopted by the Church on January 25 2009.	This constitution was adopted by the Church on <b>January 25, 2026</b> .	Update to reflect the 2026 annual meeting date.
ARTICLE I Purpose	We believe that we are called to love God by worshiping Him at church and at home, grow together by participating in Biblical community and reach the world by meeting needs and sharing Christ at church, in our local neighborhoods and cities and around the world.	We believe that we are called to <del>love God by worshiping Him at church and at home, grow together by participating in Biblical community and reach the world by meeting needs and sharing Christ at church, in our local neighborhoods and cities and around the world</del> <b>make more and more disciples who love God, love one another, love our neighbors, and love the nations.</b>	Update to reflect current Mission Statement.
ARTICLE II Statement of Doctrine and Faith	ARTICLE II Statement of Doctrine and Faith	ARTICLE II Statement of Doctrine and <b>Christian</b> Faith	Clarifies language and ensures consistency.
ARTICLE V Membership Section 1 - Types of Membership	<p>The use of the term “Member” or “Members” in this Constitution does not include Associate Members.</p> <p>2. Associate Members are believers eighteen (18) years of age or older who agree with the Church’s statement of doctrine and faith, who want to maintain a relationship to the Church but who cannot attend on a regular basis. Associate Members do not have the right to vote.</p>	<p><del>The use of the term “Member” or “Members” in this Constitution does not include Associate Members.</del></p> <p><del>2. Associate Members are believers eighteen (18) years of age or older who agree with the Church’s statement of doctrine and faith, who want to maintain a relationship to the Church but who cannot attend on a regular basis. Associate Members do not have the right to vote.</del></p>	Section has been removed since Associate Membership is no longer used.
ARTICLE VI Meeting of Members Section 1 - Annual and Special Meetings	An annual meeting of the membership of the congregation shall be held in January of each year.	<b>The date of the Annual meeting of the membership of the congregation shall be held in January <del>August</del> of each year as determined by resolution of the Board.</b>	Aligns congregational approvals with the new ministry year.

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ARTICLE VI Meeting of Members Section 3 – Business to be conducted at Annual Meeting	The fiscal year of the Church shall close December 31 of each year	The fiscal year of the Church shall close <b>December 31 June 30</b> of each year	Aligns fiscal reporting with the new ministry year.
ARTICLE VII Board of Elders Section 2 -	The board of elders shall consist of at least eleven (11) and not more than sixteen (16) members without further amendment of this Constitution. Any change in the number of elders within this range shall be initiated by the Board and approved by the congregation. The senior pastor shall be an ex officio member of the Board.	The board of elders shall consist of at least eleven (11) and not more than sixteen (16) members, <b>not including the Senior Pastor</b> , without further amendment of this Constitution. Any change in the number of elders within this range shall be initiated by the Board and approved by the congregation. <del>The senior pastor shall be an ex officio member of the Board. The Senior Pastor shall be an ex officio member of the Board, entitled to participate fully in discussions and all voting matters.</del>	Clarifies that the Senior Pastor is now included in total and voting status.
ARTICLE VII Board of Elders Section 8 - Committees and Advisory Bodies	3. Shepherding Committee: The shepherding committee shall... lead the overall shepherding responsibilities of the Church...	<del>3. Shepherding Committee: The shepherding committee shall... lead the overall shepherding responsibilities of the Church...</del>	Shepherding duties are now managed through existing structures.
ARTICLE VII Board of Elders Section 9 - Church Nominating Committee	The recommendations of the committee shall be published in the Church bulletin for two weeks before the annual meeting.	The recommendations of the committee shall be published in the Church's <del>bulletin</del> <b>regular communications (such as email, website, or other approved methods)</b> for two weeks before the annual meeting.	Reflects current practices; bulletins no longer used.
Article IX Section 1 - Senior Pastor Point 2	2. The senior pastor shall be a member of the board of elders and executive committee and a non-voting member of all other committees.	2. The senior pastor shall be a member of the board of elders and executive committee. <del>and a non-voting member of all other committees.</del>	Simplifies text; aligns with the practice that the Senior Pastor may participate if needed.

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Article IX Ministering Staff Section 1 - Senior Pastor Point 3	He and his wife shall become Members of the Wheaton Bible Church upon his installation as senior pastor.	He and his wife shall become Members of the Wheaton Bible Church upon his installation as senior pastor, <b>and shall remain Members for as long as they continue to attend the church and are not otherwise removed pursuant to Article VII, Section 7.</b>	Reflects current practice for membership continuation.
Article IX Ministering Staff Section 4 - Other Ministry Leadership Staff Point 1	The senior pastor shall recommend to the board of elders those of his choice to assist him in carrying out the ministry of Wheaton Bible Church, both full and part-time. The titles, duties and responsibilities of positions to be filled by other ministry leadership staff shall be confirmed by the Board. The specific duties will be outlined in the related position descriptions.	The senior pastor shall <b>recommend inform</b> the board of elders of his choice to assist him in carrying out the ministry of Wheaton Bible Church, <b>consistent with the approved budget.</b> <del>both full and part-time. The titles, duties and responsibilities of positions to be filled by other ministry leadership staff shall be confirmed by the Board. The specific duties will be outlined in the related position descriptions.</del>	Clarifies process; Senior Pastor confirms duties and titles, within budget.
Article IX Ministering Staff Section 4 - Other Ministry Leadership Staff Point 2	Upon commencement of employment, each pastor and ministry director and their spouses shall automatically become Members of the Church	Upon commencement of employment, each pastor and ministry director and their spouses shall automatically become Members of the Church and <b>shall remain Members for as long as they continue to attend the church and are not otherwise removed pursuant to Article VII, Section 7.</b>	Reflects current practice for membership continuation.
Article X Ordination, Licensure, and Commissioning Section 1 - Ordination	Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Church will respond to the calling of gifted men within the Church to the Gospel Ministry and will confer Licensure and Ordination with the approval of the elders. This will be done in accordance with the elder-approved procedures for Licensing and Ordination.	Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Church will respond to the calling of <b>gifted qualified</b> men within the Church to the Gospel Ministry and will confer <b>Licensure, Commissioning, and Ordination</b> with the approval of the elders. This will be done in accordance with the elder-approved procedures for <b>Licensing, Commissioning, and Ordination</b> .	Ordained pastors have full authority; licensed/commissioned ministers serve supportive roles under oversight.

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Article X Ordination, Licensure, and Commissioning Section 2 - Licensure and Commissioning	Additionally, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Church will respond to the calling of gifted men and women within the Church to the Gospel Ministry and will confer commissioning with the approval of the elders. This will be done in accordance with the approved procedures for commissioning approved by the elders.	Additionally, Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Church will respond to the calling of gifted qualified men and women within the Church to the Gospel Ministry and will confer Licensure and Commissioning with the approval of the elders. This will be done in accordance with the elder-approved procedures for Licensure and Commissioning. <del>approved by the elders</del>	Ordained pastors have full authority; licensed/commissioned ministers serve supportive roles under oversight.
Article XI Amendments	Proposed changes in, or additions to, the Church Constitution as approved by the Board must be submitted to the Members in a letter or be published in detail in a Church bulletin at least two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting or a constitutionally called special meeting.	Proposed changes in, or additions to, the Church Constitution as approved by the Board must be submitted to the Members in a letter or be published in detail in the <b>Church's regular communications (such as email, website, or other approved methods)</b> at least two (2) weeks prior to the annual meeting or a constitutionally called special meeting.	Modernizes communication methods.
All	Various	Various	Typographical updates; no change to meaning.