

A Letter To The Members of the Congregation:

“We believe that FCCB’s system of governance should be a reflection of the Spirit that animates our congregation – living, growing, and changing us in ways we have yet to imagine. A church has some institutional similarities to a corporation or a political system, but ultimately we are not a corporation or a political body. We are a community of faith, bound in love, trusting one another, caring for one another, listening for God’s still speaking voice.” From the Restructure (RTF2) document Voted on 2013.

Revising our Constitution –

Our constitution has been updated in a piecemeal fashion over the years and that leaves some gaping holes. People reported to RTF2 that it was out of date as to what the boards actually do. The Council was interested in updating and adding Bylaws that are more easily modified and can be put into immediate practice until the annual meeting votes on them. The people who wrote the original constitution made some presumptions and assumptions that were not spelled out clearly for new generations. The change in the constitution and adding Bylaws is simply an attempt to make who we are more clearly defined, to make the process of future changes clear and to be a guideline for decision making and best practice for the moment.

IMPORTANT: What it means to be voting on the new Constitution/Bylaws

Although the changes in the constitution are fairly small and often indicate areas that have already changed in practice, the whole document has been reformatted and the language has been updated. The addition of the Bylaws is the main change. The arrangement of sections in both documents is intentional in order to reflect the polity of our denomination. Any changes or new additions are listed on a separate sheet for both the Constitution and the Bylaws. Reasons for the changes have been documented.

Because of the length and complexity of the document, we gave the congregation a month’s time to address any concerns or issues before the day of the vote. The latest documents are posted on our FCCB website and a printed copy is available (by request to the church office) to any person who does not have computer access.

The motion you will be voting on at the June congregational meeting will say, “I move that we accept this Constitution and Bylaws of the First Congregational Church of Bellingham as presented.

Yours in faith,

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