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# Affirming Decisions in Congregational Meetings

## *An understanding of Lakeshore's Leadership Team*

### Lakeshore's form of church government as indicated by relevant segments from our constitution

#### Article IV Church Government

##### Section A

Leadership team Lakeshore Bible Chapel is governed by a Leadership Team (elders).

##### Section B

Operations Team Lakeshore Bible Chapel is further administered by an Operations Team (deacons).

##### Section C

Congregational Meetings

Although the congregation is governed by the Leadership Team (elders), congregational involvement is a significant part of the decision-making process. At least three congregational meetings are held each year. The Leadership Team sets the agenda, including items requiring dialogue, clarification and affirmation. Examples include: the church budget, congregational direction, etc.

##### Section E

Trustees

Lakeshore Bible Chapel is an unincorporated association of believers in Jesus Christ. Trustees are appointed by resolution of the congregation for the sole purpose of holding the church's property in trust. The trustees are not a decision-making body. They represent the unincorporated association as required under The Religious Organization Lands Act. A minimum of three trustees are appointed for three year terms. One trustee will be appointed every year. They may be removed from office in the same manner as appointed.

#### Article V Amendments

The constitution may be amended at the initiative of the Leadership Team. The congregation will be notified of the intent to amend. Such amendments must be presented at a congregational meeting for affirmation. Ultimately, decisions of the Leadership Team will be considered final.

#### Guidelines to follow

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##### Items which legally require Cong'l Resolutions

- Appointment of Trustees
- Appointment of persons to perform marriages

##### These resolutions must be

1. Read to the congregation

2. Formally moved and seconded
3. Opened for discussion
4. Approved by a show of hands indicating a clear majority
5. Carried

##### Items requiring dialogue, clarification and affirmation.

- *Examples include: the church budget, congregational direction, amendments to the constitution*

1. Elders responsible for leading congregational meetings must be clear about what they are doing. Are they facilitating a dialogue that only requires a hearing or clarification?
  - a) If so the item must be introduced clearly so that it is understood by all that this item is being raised for the purpose of giving it a broad hearing or for the purpose of clarification
  - b) The person in charge must conclude the matter by clearly indicating what the next steps will be.
  - c) Should uncertainty prevail the leadership team member should refer the item in question to the appropriate group or person for reconsideration
2. Are they proposing something for which affirmation by the congregation is desired by the Leadership Team?

If so:

  - a) The subject must be clearly presented
  - b) It must be stated that we will be seeking affirmation by a clear majority through a show of hands
  - c) Adequate time for discussion must be allowed
  - d) When the leader senses a readiness to affirm a show of hand will be called for
  - e) When unity or affirmation is lacking the matter will be deferred to the Leadership team or whoever brought the matter forward for further consideration
  - f) The matter must be clearly concluded