**The nature of the proposed changes to Rockland’s Constitution**

Articles 1 & 2 deal with the church name and purpose. The section on the purpose was expanded to make it clearer that we value outreach to others in obedience to the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20), as well as care and service to Rockland members in obedience to the Great Commandment (Mk12:30-31).

Articles 3 & 4 dealing with governance were revised slightly to make clear we are guided by the Bible and to affirm the congregational structure of the church where the members elect the Deacons and Elders. Finally, this section makes it clear the Lead Pastor is accountable for the day-to-day operations of the church.

Articles 5-7 deal with our church doctrine. The addition of scriptural references are the majority of the insertions in this section. The Vision, Mission, and Covenant statements were taken out since the essence of these is covered in the expanded Purpose Article. Lastly, the Lord’s Supper paragraph was rewritten by Pastor Brown who wrote his master’s thesis on this sacrament.

Articles 8-10 deal with membership and is where the major changes to the constitution are proposed. The smaller changes are allowing our youth to join (but not vote until age 18) and no longer requiring those joining to stand before the congregation, which has been an issue for some.

Our current constitution makes no specific provision for church discipline. It is implied that the church has the right to discipline a member through the statements in the Head of the Church Article indicating we are guided by Scripture, but it is not specifically spelled out. Several paragraphs were added to Article 10 detailing a Biblical process for church discipline at Rockland.

The final constitution change modifies the number of members required to call a special meeting from 25 to 10% of members. A specific number was appropriate when we were a much smaller church but a percentage that changes as we grow seemed more appropriate.