

## MCFAI Constitution Amendments Summary – Key Items

Section / Clause	Original (excerpt)	Amended (excerpt)	Nature of change	Rationale
Definitions	*(No “Inactive Member”)*	<i>Inactive Member - means non-voting member who is excluded from the registered voting members.</i>	new definition	“Inactive Member” supports the new membership status framework used later.
10.1 Qualification	Any person who accepts the... DOCTRINE ... may be accepted into membership.	<i>10.1.1 Members shall be persons who demonstrate a sincere profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, have been baptised as believers by immersion and agree to hold to the doctrines set forth in this Constitution under the heading “Section 5 Doctrine”.</i>	Substantive policy revision	Clarifies criteria (faith profession, baptism, age) to reflect practice and ensure adult capacity for voting/office.  Biblical basis of church membership is through following Christ in water baptism. (Acts 2:41)
10.2 Admission for Membership	<b>10.2 Application for Membership</b>  10.2.1 To apply to become a member of the Fellowship a person must;  (a) submit a written application for membership to the Fellowship  (b) in a form approved by the Fellowship's Executive Board  (c) signed by any two members of the Executive Board of the Fellowship  (d) all applicants who meet the qualifications set forth on the subsection 10 clause 10.1 to 10.2 will be accepted into the Fellowship	<b>10.2 Admission for Membership</b>  <i>10.2.1 Admission Process</i>  (a) Applicants must submit a completed Membership application form (approved by the Executive Board) to the Pastor/Elders.  (b) Applicants must meet with at least two members of the Executive Board (with at least one Pastor/Elder) to discuss their testimony to faith in Jesus Christ, Membership responsibilities, the Church Constitution, By Laws, as well as the ministries of the Church.  (c) Applicants must complete the membership class(es).  (d) The responsible Pastor/Elder shall report on the status of the Applicant for the Executive Board's approval.	Process overhaul	Strengthens discernment and onboarding: pastoral interview, orientation. This guards doctrine and accountability. Membership class attendance is a requirement for new members to educate them about the doctrines, beliefs, practices of MCFA and to make them aware of their responsibilities as new members.  Also explicit EB approval improves governance and member readiness.

<p><b>11 (NEW) Responsibilities of Members</b></p>	<p>*(Not present)*</p>	<p><b>11. Responsibilities of Members</b></p> <p>11.1 Members are expected to;</p> <p>(a) Remain faithful in all the duties essential to the Christian life.</p> <p>(b) Regularly attend the worship services of the Church.</p> <p>(c) Regularly attend the General meetings (AGM &amp; SGM) of the Church.</p> <p>(d) Give consistent support the Church's work and mission.</p> <p>(e) Actively participate in its organized efforts to carry out the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>New section</p>	<p>Sets clear expectations for participation, responsibility and accountability, supporting unity and mission.</p>
<p><b>15 Visiting/Attendees</b></p>	<p>A regular or visiting attendee to the Fellowship service and activities who is still making up his/her mind whether to become a member must not vote, but may have other rights as determined by the Executive Board or by resolution at a general meeting.</p>	<p>A regular or visiting attendee to the Fellowship service and activities. Who cannot vote and hold leadership roles.</p>	<p>Wording change + content removal (possible oversight)</p>	<p>Give clarity to visiting attendees and remove ambiguity.</p>
<p><b>16 Discontinuance of Membership</b></p>	<p>(i) by letter of transfer to another church</p> <p>(ii) by written request</p> <p>(iii) exclusion/disciplinary action</p> <p>(iv) notice of resignation addressed and posted to the Fellowship or given personally to the Secretary or</p>	<p>16.1 The Executive Board shall prayerfully review the register of members every 12 months or as required.</p> <p>16.2 Any member may request discontinuation of membership by submitting a written request to the Executive Board.</p>	<p>Substantial expansion</p>	<p>Keeps the role current, builds pastoral care steps, and adds fair reactivation—clearer, more transparent process.</p>

another Executive Committee member

(v) if a member dies or the whereabouts of a member is unknown, the Executive Committee shall cancel the member's membership.

*16.3 Exclusion/disciplinary action subject to Section 17.*

**16.4 Absenteeism**

*16.4.1 Any member who is continually and/or unreasonably absent from Sunday worship services for a period of more than 6 months without prior notification to the Executive Board, may be subject to removal from membership.*

*(a) In such cases, the Pastor/Elders shall make reasonable efforts to contact the member and seek resolution of the situation (Ezek 34:4). Should these efforts be unsuccessful, the Pastor/Elders shall recommend to the Executive Board, that the member be removed from membership.*

*(b) If the Executive Board consents to the discontinuance of membership, the Pastor/Elders shall notify the individual that their membership has been discontinued.*

*(c) Pastor/Elders may recommend to the Executive Board that the member shall be classified as an inactive member.*

*(i) Inactive members have to request to the Pastor/Elder for their membership to be reactivated and subject to Section 10.2.1(d).*

*16.5 if a member dies or the whereabouts of a member is unknown, the Executive Board shall cancel the member's membership.*

<p><b>19.3.2.1 Pastors &amp; Elders (viii)</b></p>	<p>In the absence of the Pastor the Elders shall assume <b>his/her</b> duties...</p>	<p><i>In the absence of the Pastor, the Elders shall assume <b>his</b> duties...</i></p>	<p>Updated terminology</p>	<p>Identifying that MCFA Pastor will always be a Male. 1 Tim 3:2</p>
<p><b>19.3.2.4 The Treasurer</b></p>	<p>(i) Keeps an account of all monies received from the Fellowship and all monies expended, taking receipts for all disbursements and keeping a ledger of such.</p> <p>(ii) Oversees the process and delegates the counting of the regular offering, recording in the original book of entry (signed by at least 2 authorised members counting the offering) and the depositing into a bank account.</p> <p>(iii) Prepares and submits the financial records for audit as directed by the Executive Board and as required by the external Auditor.</p> <p>(iv) Prepares and submits annual church budget for Executive Board's approval and then to members of the congregation for approval at a special general meeting.</p> <p>(v) Gives treasurer's report at all regular meetings of the Executive Board.</p> <p>(vi) Ensure cheques are signed by him/her and at least one other approved signatory. This also applies to electronic payments.</p>	<p><i>(i) Oversee and maintain the church's financial records, ensuring adherence to Executive Board policies, accounting standards, and proper stewardship of financial assets.</i></p> <p><i>(a) The Treasurer shall nominate a Bookkeeper, either from the Fellowship or outsourced, who agrees to the duties and confidentiality of the role in accordance with the approved guideline. The nomination must be approved by the Executive Board and recorded in the minutes to ensure segregation of duties, thereby preventing any single individual from having control over both transaction authorisation and record-keeping.</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Ensure that necessary insurance (e.g., property, worker(s) compensation, officer's liability with indemnification) is secured, regularly reviewed, and maintained.</i></p> <p><i>(iii) Establish and maintain clear policies, internal controls, and practices governing the collection, handling, recording, receipting, use, and reporting of church funds.</i></p> <p><i>(iv) Oversees the process and delegates the counting of the regular offering, recording in the original book of entry (signed by at least 2 authorised members counting the offering) and the depositing into a bank account.</i></p> <p><i>(v) Prepares and submits the financial records for audit as directed by the</i></p>	<p>Major governance enhancement</p>	<p>Significantly strengthens controls (segregation, insurance, policies), reducing fraud/error risk and clarifying authority. Protects against misuse, promotes transparency.</p>

		<p><i>Executive Board and as required by the external Auditor.</i></p> <p><i>(vi) Prepares and submits annual church budget for Executive Board's approval and then to members of the congregation for approval at a special general meeting.</i></p> <p><i>(vii) Gives treasurer's report at all regular meetings of the Executive Board.</i></p> <p><i>(viii) The Treasurer shall ensure that all cheques, as well as electronic payments, are executed with the signatures of both the Treasurer and at least one other authorised signatory, who must be a member of the Executive Board, with the exception of the Bookkeeper.</i></p>		
<b>19.3.2.5 Diaconate</b>	Treasurer automatically a member; Treasurer exercises general supervision over finances; property & legal affairs with Eldership.	<i>Treasurer no longer automatically on Diaconate; financial supervision line removed; property and legal affairs retained.</i>	Role realignment / partial deletion	Deacon is a biblical office focused on spiritual service and caring for the church's physical needs (Acts 6:1-6, 1 Timothy 3:8-13). This role requires spiritual qualifications. Though Treasure may meet the above qualification, Treasurer's role, responsibilities and qualifications are also distinct to of a Deacon.
<b>19.3.2.6 (NEW) Pastor Emeritus</b>	*(Not present)*	<p><b>19.3.2.6 The Pastor Emeritus</b></p> <p><b>(i) Eligibility</b></p> <p><b>(a) A Pastor who has faithfully served MCFA for many years and retires while retaining active membership, with his agreement, may be honoured with the title Pastor Emeritus</b></p> <p><b>(b) Appointment shall be initiated by the Senior Pastor and Executive Board, and</b></p>	New role added	Pastor Emeritus is an honorary title conferred upon pastors who have faithfully served for many years in dedicated ministry—marked by spiritual leadership, teaching, and pastoral care. The purpose of this designation is to honor their legacy while ensuring the role remains a source of encouragement,

		<p><i>confirmed by congregational approval at a General Meeting.</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Nature of the Title</i></p> <p><i>(a) The title Pastor Emeritus is honorary, distinct from the active responsibilities and leadership of the Senior Pastor and Associate Pastors.</i></p> <p><i>(b) It carries no governing authority or decision-making powers within the church.</i></p> <p><i>(iii) Scope of Involvement</i></p> <p><i>At the invitation and direction of the Senior Pastor and with Executive Board concurrence, the Pastor Emeritus may contribute through:</i></p> <p><i>i. Occasional participation in special services (weddings, funerals, guest preaching, teaching, shepherding, counselling visiting).</i></p> <p><i>ii. Mentorship or advisory input if requested by leadership.</i></p> <p><i>iii. Presence at church events as a respected elder.</i></p> <p><i>(iv) Review</i></p> <p><i>The Senior Pastor and Executive Board may periodically review the role to ensure it serves both the congregation and the support of current leadership.</i></p> <p><i>(v) Governance</i></p> <p><i>The Pastor Emeritus may attend Executive Board meetings in an advisory capacity but shall not possess voting rights or be counted toward quorum requirements.</i></p>		<p>counsel, and wisdom to the church. At the same time, it clearly distinguishes the Pastor Emeritus position from the active leadership and responsibilities held by the Senior Pastor.</p>
<p><b>20.1(B)(i) AGM nominations</b></p>	<p>≥ 1 week before election</p>	<p>≥ 3 weeks before election</p>	<p>Timeline extended</p>	<p>Allows the congregation ample time for prayerful discernment. Also, it allows Pastors and Elders adequate time for screening and orientation.</p>

<b>20.1(B)(iii) AGM terms</b>	<b>Elders and Deacons: 2-year term; re-eligible.</b>	<i>Elders, Deacons, <b>Treasurer, Secretary</b>: 2-year term; re-eligible. (Inline comment left re Deacon terms)</i>	Scope expanded + editorial note left in	Added Treasurer and Secretary for clarity.
<b>20.1(B)(iv) Interim vacancies</b>	may be filled... by election through a special meeting.	<i>Specifies offices and that EB determines filling via Special General Meeting.</i>	Clarification / scope broadened	Gives a cleaner process and identifies the offices explicitly.
<b>20.3.3 EB quorum</b>	quorum of 50%	<i>quorum of <b>at least</b> 50%</i>	Clarity tweak	Removes ambiguity; threshold now explicit (≥50%).