

Shippensburg First Church of God Updated Proposed Reconstruction

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit

God's Word

Deacons

Elders

Trustees

**Pastoral Staff*

Deacon Mentors

Elder Mentors

Trustee Mentors

Proclaiming the Gospel through the ministries of Shippensburg First Church of God

**Committees (Teams) will still serve under the Deacons, Elders, and Trustees as they have done in the past.*

Mentors will assist Deacons, Elders, and Trustees in their ministries.

Items from the Constitution and By-Laws to Consider for Review

- **The issue of women in ministry is widely varied among the congregation. The consensus appeared to be that women certainly are capable of holding positions of authority in the congregation. The concern is women in those positions discourages men from stepping up and taking positions of authority. Shippensburg First Church of God must decide what culture they are going to identify themselves with in the matter of women in ministry.*
- Council to consist of up to twelve members (4 Elders, 4 Deacons, and 4 Trustees).
- Officers will be elected for up to a three year term. A duly elected person may serve a second term, then must take a Sabbath, by sitting off the Church Council for one year.
- One must be a member of the local church at least one year before holding the office of Elder.
**There was much concern about limiting this to a year. Suggestions were made of at least 2 – 3 years would be better in the case of elders.*
- An installation service for ministry staff and leaders may be held every January and as needed.
- Teams (formerly Committee) members may freely serve on teams and shall elect the team chair as needed. Chairperson term is from January to December of the year. Council has the right to remove team members and chairs. At the regular January Council meeting, the Church Council shall appoint an Elder, Deacon, or Trustee as a representative to each team. Team members are encouraged to attend all regularly scheduled team meetings.
- Semi-annual Congregational meetings are to be held in the evening of the first Sunday in May and November of each year or another time near those dates upon Council approval.
- Do we want to allow absentee balloting at Congregational meetings? **Absentee ballots were taken away a few years ago to encourage people to attend the meetings to hear the discussion on things that were going to be voted on. It was also shared that there are times when allowances need to be provided in cases of surgeries, individuals being away to giving testimonies in judicial cases, or family emergencies that take voting members out-of-town.*

** Bold italics identifies input added or changed from June 5th town hall meeting.*