

**BYLAW TASKFORCE**  
**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH OF QUINCY, ILLINOIS**

***Minutes – Sunday, April 18, 2010 meeting – Church Parlor***

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|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Fox, Chair          | <input type="checkbox"/> Karen Boyd                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bruce Cannell          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chet Coonrod, Secretary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peggy Pryor                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dave Smith             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lynn Sprick                        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adina Butler, Children’s Ministry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ryan Donoho, Youth Min |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rev. Ivan E. Greuter    |   |  |

**Guests: the Rev. Dr. Dwight Stinnett, Executive Minister**

**Chairman Jim Fox called the meeting to order and established a quorum.**

**Bible Lesson:** Ivan gave a Bible lesson from John 15 on the (tomato) vine and the branches.

**Vision for Ministry:** Ivan presented his Vision for Ministry at CBC:

- We are a large multicultural fellowship of maturing followers of Jesus Christ who love God and love people
- Our aim is to be a place where every person is free to actively serve God with their gifts and to grow to spiritual maturity.

**Functional Structure:** Ivan discussed “functional structure” (see Natural Church Development handout). Functional structures within the church relate to people, policy, and property.

Types of Governance Systems for Churches: Dwight spoke about various ways in which churches govern themselves. Biblically, there is no specific blueprint — we can organize any way we wish.(See handouts: “Formational Documents for a Church”, “Effective Organization”, “Organization Questions”)

Some common issues/problems in church government arise from concentrations of authority, questions about membership (who is, who isn’t, what are the requirements, which positions within the church must be held by members, can any positions be held by non-members?). Other issues can concern finances and how the church deals with situations that do not fit into the existing structure.

**Purpose and Role of Bylaws:** Dwight further discussed the role bylaws and other formational documents of the church. He pointed out that most churches are still operating under a structure established in the fifties. Bylaws are supposed to describe the STUCTURE of how the church operates, but many churches address ministries in their bylaws instead of the structure that supports the ministries. This makes it difficult to establish new areas of ministry or to change existing ones.

Ivan noted that one of the reasons for the formation of the taskforce was the difficulty encountered by the nominating committee in filling all of the required positions within the church.

Dwight pointed out that the Constitution of the United States was only four pages, much shorter than the bylaws of many churches. He re-iterated that Bylaws should establish a framework or structure for how the church operates. Good Bylaws should not need to change if the church adds

or changes an area of ministry, as these are addressed by resolutions and policy statements. (A policy stands until it is specifically changed by the congregation; a resolution expires after a stated time.)

Dwight also reminded the taskforce that Bylaws are legally binding.

**Discussion:** After a period of discussion and brainstorming that included questions about CBC's membership policy with regards to active, inactive, shut-ins, college students, etc.

**Jim appointed the next meeting to take place on Monday, May 03, 2010, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Dave Smith.

Respectfully submitted,

**Chet Coonrod**

*Acting Secretary*