

March 9, 2020

Dear Marion Church Members,

The following contains important information regarding the Church's bylaws amendment process. Please read through this letter completely.

During the 2017 and 2019 General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day), the Conference's bylaws were amended by the members-in-session, including amendments to articles governing membership and local churches. This action resulted in the need for General Conference-affiliated churches to review and amend their local church bylaws in order to come into compliance with the Conference's amended bylaws.

In November 2019, the Joint Board of Directors formed a Bylaws Committee consisting of Calvin Burrell, Jacque Rudolph and Wes Stucker. The committee's charge was to review the Marion Church's bylaws and make recommendations that would bring the Church's bylaws into compliance with General Conference bylaws and State of Oregon statutes. The committee held over 12 hours of meetings and worked many additional hours outside their meetings. The committee also engaged the services of an attorney with experience in assisting churches in creating bylaws and articles of incorporation.

The proposed restated bylaws, which are provided on the Church's website, are the result of the combined efforts of the committee and Joint Board. The Joint Board has approved these restated bylaws and recommends approval by the Church's membership.

We encourage all members to actively participate in the bylaws amendment process by reading the material on the Church's website, attending one of the two information sessions and participating at the April 19 membership meeting. The following information is located at <https://marioncog7.org/>.

**1. *Proposed Restated Marion Church Bylaws***

**2. *Current Marion Church Bylaws***

These are Marion's bylaws which are currently in effect.

**3. *Church's Leadership Structure***

This organization chart is an overview of the leadership boards and their relationships to each other. The chart provides a framework for better understanding the sections of the proposed restated bylaws that address church governance.

**4. *Bylaws Amendment Form***

We will use the Bylaws Amendment Form at the April 19 membership meeting. If you have a proposed amendment(s), we ask you to print out the form, complete it and bring it with you to the meeting. If you are unable to print out the form, we will make copies available in the church foyer area prior to the April 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will not be taking amendment proposals verbally from the floor during this meeting.

**5. Meeting Calendar**

Please put the following dates on your calendar and join us:

**March 28, 7:30 pm, at the Church – Bylaws Information Session – Bylaws**  
Committee members will be available to discuss with you questions you have about the contents of the proposed restated bylaws.

**April 12, 10:00 am, at the Church – Bylaws Information Session – Bylaws Committee**  
members will be available to discuss with you questions you have about the contents of the proposed restated bylaws.

**April 19, 2020, 8:30 am, Family Center – Breakfast –** Join us for breakfast before we meet to approve bylaws.

**April 19, 10:00 am, Family Center – Membership Meeting to Approve Restated Bylaws**

**6. Membership Application and Covenant**

The Marion Church is working with the General Conference to update our membership roster. We have found records to be out-of-date and incomplete. If you would like to confirm your membership, we encourage you to complete a membership application and covenant form. This will ensure that you are recognized as a voting member and eligible to participate in approving the restated bylaws. The form is available on the website link. Or you may find copies in the church foyer area. After completing the application and covenant form, you may give it to either Pastor Loren, Pastor Tim or Elayne Durham.

**7. Information Regarding Bylaws and Policies**

This document provides general information regarding the need and role of bylaws in an organization and how bylaws and policies work together.

Lastly, a word about how the membership meeting on April 19 will be conducted. Due to the extensive restatement of the bylaws, we will not read through the document during the meeting and will have some time limits on discussions about bylaws content. The informational sessions on March 28 and April 12 are provided for this purpose. You are strongly encouraged to attend an informational session to have your questions answered and learn more about the contents of the proposed restated bylaws.

We look forward to working together in unity to complete this important task. If you have difficulty accessing any of the material posted on the Church's website, please contact Elayne Durham for assistance.

In Christian love,

Wes Stucker  
Chair, Joint Board of Directors