

The Sunday Roast

“BYLAWS BITS” FROM *THE SPIRE*, APRIL 2014

A young man was watching his new bride prepare dinner. John observed Amy cut the two ends off the roast and asked her why she was wasting all that meat. Amy said that this was how her mother made the Sunday Roast.

Amy's curiosity was aroused, and she called her mother to ask her why she cut the ends off the roast. Amy's mother said that she learned to do that from *her* mother.



They both went to ask Grandma why she cut off the ends of the roast. Her answer was that she did that because the roast was too large for her pan.

You may wonder what that story has to do with bylaws.

In performing our due diligence, the Bylaws Committee is asking a lot of questions: *Who? What? Where? When? How? and Why?* We respect the expertise of those who have gone before us, but we also acknowl-

edge that our world has changed considerably in the 43 years since the last major revision of the bylaws. There are new laws and regulations to consider, the culture has changed significantly, our practices no longer match the current bylaws, paid staff has replaced many volunteers, and technology has substantially affected what we do and how we do it.

While a lot remains to be done, we know that, eventually, recommendations will be presented to the Board—and, ultimately, to the congregation—for their consideration. These proposed changes will include opportunities for improvements as well as opportunities to reduce exposure to risk. We ask you to be in prayer for God's guidance and that He will enable us all to have a humble and teachable spirit that will be adaptable to whatever conclusion He leads us toward.

The Committee—**Tina Balmer, Amber Bird, John Davis, Anton Hertle and Steve Soderberg**—encourages any First Church member to share his or her views regarding updating the bylaws. This can be done by mail, email, or notes to the Committee delivered to any Committee member, the Board chairperson, the chairperson of the Research and Long-Range Planning Committee (R&LRP), or the senior minister. Notes to the Committee may also be dropped off with the church receptionist, for the R&LRP mailbox. For your convenience, the current First Church Bylaws are posted on the Church website and are also available in the Church Library.

www.firstchurch.org/BylawsCommittee