

Under the Radar or Don't Wait Until It's Finished

"BYLAWS BITS"—JANUARY 2016

With hyperlinks in blue

On September 25, a rural Illinois community came together to aid a cancer stricken farmer. Some in the community provided equipment, fuel and labor, while others provided food, refreshments and transportation, and the grain elevator provided preferential access in support of the team of harvesters. Together they were able to harvest 450 acres of corn and accomplish, in one day, work that would normally have taken a week.



Similarly, the committees and ministries of the First Church Board are working and coming together to share their experience and recommendations for updating the Bylaws.

Many of you have seen the material the Leadership Committee and the Trustees have provided (see the [Leadership Committee](#) and [We Want You!](#) articles at firstchurch.org/bylawscommittee), and, in coming months, we will share similar responses from the Deacons, Inreach, Outreach, Personnel, the Historical Resources Committee, and others. Some of you have provided invaluable responses to the draft

content that has been shared, and your responses are helping to fine-tune the content that will ultimately be included in the proposed bylaws that the Church Board and the church membership will consider adopting.

While all committees, current office holders and ministries are working to write charters to define and describe their **Purpose, Roles and Duties, Accountability, Authority** and **Membership**, the Bylaws Committee is working—under the radar—to provide a coherent approach and the text needed to complete a draft of the proposed bylaws for further consideration and votes.

As the efforts of each committee come together, they will be described in future articles—and later in workshops that you can attend to learn more, ask questions and make suggestions—so that, when appropriate, the initial draft language can be improved. We are eager to receive your questions and suggestions. Your early and timely input will assist in shortening the time needed to complete this important project and help to assure a good result.

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 available at firstchurch.org/bylaws and at the Church Office.

www.firstchurch.org/BylawsCommittee