

**What need to be improved and why?**

The current bylaws do not say what happens when an elder leaves their three-year term early. This update to the bylaws will clarify how that situation should be handled.

**Why does this matter?**

When Robert Stark left The Mount's Board of Elders in March 2022, he did so with eight months remaining in his term. This left the board down to three members from the usual five, as it was missing Robert and the Lead Pastor. The Board acted where the Bylaws were silent to bring in Tim Wallace, a former elder who had "sat out" for a full year from his last elder term, and who was found as still fully qualified to serve again as an elder. Tim was asked to fill in until he could be replaced in the next regular elder nomination cycle in January. This procedure should be formalized in the bylaws to prevent confusion about how to address this situation when it comes up in the future.

**What will change in the Bylaws?**

<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed Replacement</b>
Bylaws, Article 5, Section 5. Vacancies. A vacancy on the Board of Elders due to death, resignation, removal, disqualification or any other cause will be filled in accordance with these Bylaws for the remainder of the term.	Bylaws, Article 5, Section 5. Vacancies. A vacancy on the Board of Elders due to death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause will be filled in accordance with these Bylaws. Until such time as a new elder can be nominated and elected, the Board of Elders may, by unanimous vote, ask a former elder, who continues to be in good standing, and who is found to continue to meet the elder qualifications, and who has been off the Board for at least one year, to serve such time as sufficient to nominate and elect a new elder. The term served by a temporary elder must not exceed one year. An elder serving an abbreviated term is a member in full standing of the Board of Elders.