

# Redline Suggestions for Vineyard Bylaws Template

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Note: This document provides suggested redline-style edits and comments to flag concerns about vagueness, power imbalance, or lack of accountability in the bylaws. Actual tracked changes are not possible in PDFs, but comments and suggested replacements are listed below each section.

## ARTICLE II – Membership

- - Consider granting legal voting rights to members on major governance issues (e.g., pastoral appointments, bylaws changes).
- - Define clearer, less subjective criteria for membership removal. Terms like 'disagreement in spirit' are overly vague.
- - Add an appeal process for terminated members.

## ARTICLE III – Board of Elders

- - Consider congregational ratification or vote on Elder appointments to improve accountability.
- - Add clear term limits for Elders to prevent entrenchment.
- - Require at least one Elder to be unaffiliated with paid staff or family to minimize conflicts of interest.

## Section 3.04 – Election and Term of Office

- - Allow congregational feedback to have formal weight or establish a minimum threshold of congregational objection to block a candidate.
- - Add language ensuring the nomination process is inclusive and transparent.

## Section 5.05 – Correction and Removal of the Lead Pastor(s)

- - Establish an independent third-party panel for Lead Pastor removal investigations.
- - Provide clear due process protections for both the pastor and complainants.
- - Consider defining what constitutes 'substantial departure' to prevent misuse.

## ARTICLE VI – Ordination

- - Add transparency to ordination and revocation processes.
- - Ensure candidates can appeal a revocation to an outside review body.
- - Limit the ability of local leadership to override objective ordination standards without oversight.

## ARTICLE IX – Amendment of Bylaws

- - Require congregational ratification of bylaw changes.
- - Establish an amendment notification period to allow for member review and input.