

Absentee Ballots

Note: For, “Any member in good standing who is providentially hindered from voting in person may request an absentee ballot.” (WBC Constitution)

Secure a Deacon Ballot for the Quarterly Family meeting prior to the meeting date, the Sunday of the last week in April. If you have questions on this process, please contact Pastor right away for additional details.

If you are not able to make the meeting on that Sunday, the Constitution allows for absentee ballots which must be in the moderator’s hands by the start of the meeting. Here are some basic instructions to protect your privacy in the vote and remain in compliance with the Constitution.

1. Open and/or print the attached document/ballot and mark **only** your votes on the ballot (**no names** on the ballot, please).
2. Place the ballot in a plain envelope and seal. On the outside of the envelope write only the words, “*Deacon Election*” (Please do **not** write your name or anything else on this envelope).
3. Place that sealed envelope in another envelope, seal, and on the outside of that second envelope write your full name (signature) and reason for absence (such as, “out of town,” “working,” “sick,” etc.). One envelope for each member.
4. Make sure that we get the envelopes before the start of the meeting. They can be dropped in the mailbox at church, brought by another family member or friend, dropped off at pastor’s house, handed to a deacon or usher at the morning service, or any other way that gets it into the moderator’s hand by the start of the meeting.
5. Follow this **separately** for each member of your household that is an **eligible, 17** years old or older **member**. (Please do not do one for an entire household, one for each member).

If there is no way that you can physically return it to us prior to the meeting, but still wish to send it in, you may do so via e-mail to pastor@wbchurch.org, understanding that he will keep your vote confidential to himself alone and prepare your ballot according to the directions above so that it can be verified and counted with the members present. Please be sure that your e-mail contains the information needed for him to do so. (Note: e-mail is not a sure thing and has the possibility of being delayed, filtered out incidentally as spam, missed if sent last minute, or not able to be prepared if sent last minute. Please keep that in mind if using this method. This method cannot guarantee that your vote will be counted)

Please remember:

1. This is for active members, 17 and older
2. This is for those who cannot make the meeting and should not be used simply as an option in place of attending the meeting.
3. According to Hiscox and Robert’s rules, these absentee ballots do **not** count towards the quorum, only for the vote. A 15% quorum of members present is still needed.

These ballots, in their outside envelope, will be considered individually and voted on by the membership confirming that they meet the criteria for membership and reason for absence. Upon approval by motion, second, and vote, the outside envelopes will be removed that has your names on them and discarded, and the inside sealed envelopes with your ballots will be handed to those responsible for the counting. Upon collecting the ballots present, your ballot will be removed from its envelope, shuffled in, and counted with them.