



LAMBRICK PARK CHURCH

GORDON HEAD + VICTORIA + THE WORLD

May 20, 2021

If you haven't heard yet, the vote passed!

This past Sunday, May 16th, our membership voted on the Board's proposal to open the door for women to serve on the Board of Elders (and remove the male-only language in our bylaws that enshrined this practice).

After two years of congregational conversation, 4 Sunday teachings that explored what the Bible teaches on women in church leadership, small group studies, theological study, pastoral letters on church history and biblical exegesis, a congregational meeting (on May 2nd), and a lot of prayer on the part of many – a very strong representation of our members gathered on Zoom for our SGM. Despite a significant malfunction on the part of Zoom's system (their fault, not ours), everyone logged off and returned brilliantly. Much thanks to everyone for your patience and generosity through it all, and special thanks to some fast work by Lucy and Treace to sort out a plan. Thirty minutes after the intended start, we resumed the meeting with everyone present. 115 of our members were present for the meeting (we have 146 members), 115 votes were cast, 115 votes were received, and in the end **81% voted in favor of the proposal** (specifically, 94 yes's and 21 no's).

As you'll see in the attached data, 103 votes were received electronically (via the Zoom poll feature), 3 votes were conveyed via Zoom phone, 3 people voted through the Zoom chat (who had difficulties with the digital polling), and the 6 cohosts also cast their vote. One member lost their connection during the vote, and one non-member was confused about their inability to vote. In the end, the result was clear – with both a strong majority voting in favor of the motion, and the 75% threshold being surpassed to make the proposed change successfully approved.

Clearly, this is a very significant moment in the life of our congregation, one that is both very personal and far reaching. We want to thank everyone for contributing to the conversation, praying and voting, and honoring others in the process. Although this vote was specific to removing the barrier to women serving on the Board, we hope and pray that this vote will also be received as a deep affirmation of women in the life of our church, and an invitation for us all to grow together as equal partners in life and leadership.

As I shared at the meeting, I'm thankful for way we've walked toward Sunday's vote. Huge thanks to Lucy Rosenberg for all the work she put in to ensure an effective and trustworthy voting process, and similarly, to Treace Alton for attention to many details, including reaching out to the membership to make sure everyone was appropriately informed and invited to engage. Although we've had a steady trickle of individuals seeking to join the membership over the last few years, there was no attempt to rush any memberships at the last minute for the sake of tipping the vote (either way). We're confident that Sunday night's vote was a true reflection of our membership, and a sign of unity to build on.

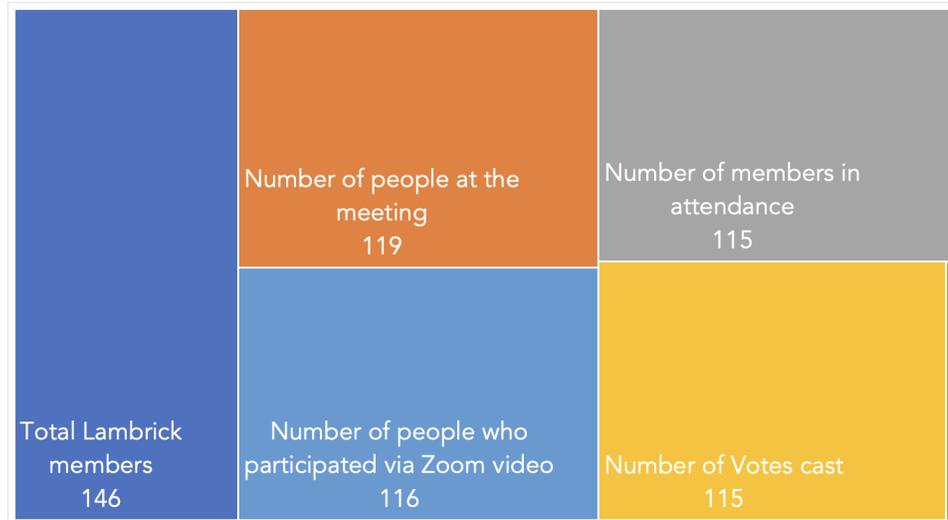
**seeking and following Jesus with you,
Scott Anderson**

****see attached**



Bylaw Amendment ~ Post Vote Details

This past Sunday, May 16th, our membership voted on the Board's proposal to open the door for women to serve on the Board of Elders, and remove the male-only language in our bylaws that enshrined this practice. The vote was conducted via Zoom, which was new for many of us. In the following document, we share some data from the meeting, and also answer a few questions about the process we took to ensure fairness and validity of the vote.



1. How many attended the meeting?

119 people attended the Zoom meeting. 115 of those were members.

2. Voting online is new for Lambrick. How did you help people participate?

- Members were informed of the method of voting when the meeting was announced.
- Options were given to participate by phone or by video.
- Tech instructions were sent when people registered.
- For those desiring more tech support with Zoom, test 'meetings' were held, and one-on-one support calls were offered in the days prior to the meeting.

3. How did you confirm which participants were members?

At the meeting, all information was validated in more than one way. For example: members were registered in advance, counted at check-in and by an in-meeting poll. This was also verified by video after the meeting.

4. How did the vote work and how were results verified?

- At least two Elders and staff were present at every stage of voting, counting, and verification.
- A Zoom poll was launched on-screen for all members.
- Results were anonymous, meaning the host could not see a voter's name or decision.
- Call-in Members were moved to a breakout room with two Elders to vote verbally.
- Non-members were moved to a Zoom break-out room prior to launching the vote and so did not receive the vote option on screen.
- After the vote, the Board and two staff verified the numbers prior to announcing results to the attendees.



5. I heard there were some tech problems. Did they affect the results?

The problems were resolved and did not affect the outcome of the vote:

- 3 members were not able to see the launched vote, and their votes were immediately taken by an elder during the voting process.
- 1 member had a few initial problems, which were resolved so they could vote electronically.
- 1 member lost internet connection during the vote and although reconnected, was unable to vote. From our reports, the number of votes cast matches the number of members, and we are working to account for this one vote. In this situation, it is reassuring to know that one vote in either direction would not have changed the overall outcome. (This member was contacted after the meeting as well.)
- 1 person misunderstood their membership status (membership still in progress).
- Despite the initial problems with the Zoom call, all but 6 members who registered for the meeting were in attendance.

6. Why was there no absentee or proxy voting?

Our bylaw states that proxy voting is not allowed, and members must be at the meeting to vote.

7. How were new requests for membership handled prior to the meeting?

The process for new members includes a meeting with elders, followed by affirmation at a Board meeting held at the end of each month. No memberships were expedited outside of this process. Those requesting memberships after the April 27 Board meeting were informed requests would be not be processed in time for the May 16 vote.

8. Why was the bylaw a part of this conversation?

The Board of Elders seeks to open the door for women and men to participate together fully as equal partners in life and leadership at Lambrick, including serving as Elders. This required an amendment to Lambrick's Bylaws, Article V which names men as Elders and does not name women.

9. Why did we need this formal process?

Lambrick Park Church is a society, and its business practices are governed by the Societies Act, and its own Bylaws. Amendments to our Bylaws must be made by a membership vote. This ensures members have a voice in changes made to the documents that guide our practices.

10. What exactly is changing?

This change in the Bylaw language enables both women and men to be nominated and serve as elders, according to our existing prayerful process of discernment for selecting elders. There's more information about that process on Lambrick's website.

The amendments affect one section of the Bylaws – Article V – and include changing the word 'men' to 'person', the word 'Chairman' to 'Chair' and the word 'his' to 'their'.

We've written out exactly what this looks like to our Bylaws and posted on our website.

Now that the vote has passed, the change becomes effective once the revised bylaws are submitted to the Registrar.

11. Who do I contact if I have more questions?

Please call our office Monday through Thursday 9-5 and we will answer your questions!