***Roles and Responsibilities of the Nominating Team for the Maranatha Niverville BOD***

*“Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established”* (Proverbs 24:3).

Recognizing that the government of God comes from *within* (Luke 17:20, 21) and *by way of our spirit* that is joined to the Lord as one spirit (I Corinthians 6:17-20), a primary need in the establishing of church government is *the discerning of spirits* in choosing people who are self-governed, and in submission to the Kingdom of God that is within them. At Maranatha, there is a welcoming of great diversity of gifting and of expression, as long as there is agreement with the core message of the gospel (the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ, and our identification with Him in that finished work).

Further, if we are to fulfill our mandate to take the good news of the gospel to all creation (Mark 16:15), and to every sphere of authority within the creation (Romans 8:19-23), we are going to need to build loving connections and relationships into every sphere of the created in order to see heaven penetrate and influence our part of the earth and beyond to the ends of the earth. This is why we want leaders who have a Kingdom mind-set, since the Kingdom of God embraces *all* of creation, and *every* principality and sphere of rule and authority.

To that end, even in appointing deacons or administrators in the New Testament, *a discerning process* was needed. They had to be people *“of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business”* (Acts 6:3). Deacons or administrators were *“to first be tested, and then let them serve as deacons”* (I Timothy 3:10). Paul reminded Titus to test leaders and to *“remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities…to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men”* (Titus 3:1,2).

We are not to *judge* one another according to the flesh or outward appearance (John 7:24; 8:15), but to *discern* all things by way of our recreated spirit (I Corinthians 2:14, 15; 12:10; I John 4:1). Are we humble rather than proud, peaceful instead of argumentative, flexible rather than rigid and dogmatic, endeavouring to maintain the unity of the Spirit rather than stir up strife? This does not mean that we should not ask questions, but we must be willing to engage, to interact, and if there is an offending brother or sister among us, to *first* go to them personally and entreat them with a heart to restore them rather than to destroy them.

The purpose of the Nominating Team at Maranatha is to receive the input of names and nominations from members of the Congregation for the Board of Directors, as well as to be open to submit names themselves. They are to be familiar with the ***Evaluative Questionnaire for Maranatha Board of Directors*** candidates, so that they can walk each year’s nominees through the questionnaire, and *be a discerning agent* in a relational manner from there as to if their name should go on to the list to be elected at the Annual Meeting. To give stability to this process, it is encouraged that a Nominating Team of three to five people be set apart each year, where the majority of team members have served in a previous year.

1. The Nominating Team will be proposed to the Congregation in the **November** Congregational meeting.
2. In early **January**, the proposed Nominating Team will be confirmed. The Nominating Team can then do their work throughout the month of January and February *to receive nominations from the Congregation* or *to make nominations themselves*, but they cannot nominate themselves.
3. The aim would be to fill any vacancies to the end that ideally we would have seven BOD members, but the number is not so important as the recognition of those who are spiritually qualified for this office, and whose hearts are willing and ready to constructively make a contribution. That means we may end up with just *under* seven or just *over* seven members, depending upon how *the discerning process* turns out.
4. By the Congregational Meeting in **March**, the Nominating Team will submit the list of the names of the nominees to the Congregation, either to be newly elected or re-elected at the ***A****nnual* ***G****eneral* ***M****eeting*.
5. The Congregation is free to ask questions or to comment on any of the nominees during the March Meeting, and to the Nominating Team until the Wednesday before the ***A****nnual* ***G****eneral* ***M****eeting* in **April.**
6. No further questions will be received after the Wednesday prior to the ***A****nnual* ***G****eneral* ***M****eeting* so that the Nominating Team can finalize the list in a timely manner for the BOD elections at the ***AGM*** in **April**.