

Presbytery of Missouri River Valley

Manual of Administrative Operations

Containing By-laws and Standing Rules



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Bylaws of the Presbytery

I. Name and Authority

A. The name of this Council is the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley.

B. The Bylaws of the Presbytery are subordinate to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). In any matter in which these Bylaws conflict with the Constitution, the requirements of the Constitution shall prevail.

II. Purpose

The purpose of the Presbytery is to provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard; to provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received; and to nurture a covenant community of disciples of Christ (G-3.0101) in the region and among the congregations under the Presbytery's jurisdiction.

III. Members and Commissioners

A. Permanent Members of the Presbytery are those ministers of the Word and Sacrament enrolled as members through the Presbytery's regular procedures.

B. Temporary Members of the Presbytery are:

1. Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are members of other councils or communions, serving congregations under the jurisdiction of this Presbytery, enrolled for the duration of their service;

2. Ruling elders serving as officers of the Presbytery (Section IV) or as Chairs of Presbytery commissions and committees (Sections VII and VIII).

3. Ruling elders commissioned to particular service to congregations of this Presbytery, for the duration of their commission.

C. All members of the Presbytery, permanent and temporary, have all the rights and responsibilities of membership.

D. Each Session shall commission at least one ruling elder member of its congregation to meetings of the Presbytery. Additional commissioners may be allocated to Sessions by the procedure specified in the Standing Rules.

IV. Officers

A. The two constitutional offices of the Presbytery have those duties defined by the Book of Order:

1. Moderator
2. Stated Clerk

B. In addition, for purposes of leadership and continuity, the Presbytery has these officers:

1. Vice Moderator, who presides at meetings of the Presbytery in the absence of or at the request of the Moderator, who assumes such duties as the Moderator requests, and holds other responsibilities described in this Manual.

2. Treasurer, who assists the Stewardship of Resources Committee in supervision of the Presbytery's financial affairs, oversees accounts and financial statements, ensures that appropriate financial systems and controls are in place, ensures that record-keeping and accounts meet the requirements of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and relevant statutory bodies, and ensures compliance with relevant legislation.

C. Only ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders may serve as Moderator, Stated Clerk, or Vice Moderator. If the Treasurer is not ordained as a presbyter, then that person will have the privilege of voice at all meetings of the Presbytery and of the Leadership Team but will not be a voting member of either.

V. Meetings

A. The Presbytery will hold four stated meetings per year.

1. Dates, times, and locations of the meetings are set by the Leadership Team.

2. Upon reasonable notice to members and commissioners, date, time, or location of a meeting may be changed by the Leadership Team.

B. The Presbytery may be called to a special meeting by the Moderator, in consultation with the Vice Moderator and the Stated Clerk. The Moderator may call a meeting as needed, and will call a meeting if requested in writing by two minister members of Presbytery and two ruling elders who are members of different churches.

C. Quorum: The quorum for any meeting of the Presbytery shall be twelve, six ruling elders from at least three different churches and six minister members.

D. Cancellation: a stated or called meeting may be canceled.

1. In the case of inclement weather, the Moderator and Stated Clerk shall consult and determine if the meeting should be canceled. Reasonable attempt shall be made to inform members and commissioners of the meeting's cancellation. A canceled stated meeting shall be rescheduled for no sooner than ten days' later and notice shall be provided.

2. A called meeting may be canceled if the Moderator and Stated Clerk agree that the business for which it was called is moot, or if those who requested the meeting agree that it should be canceled.

E. Docket

1. The docket of called meetings shall include only matters included in the call.

2. The docket of stated meetings shall be prepared by the Leadership Team.

F. Expenses

1. A commissioner's reasonable expenses for attendance at meetings of Presbytery should be reimbursed by the Session issuing the commission.

2. If a minister member or ruling elder member needs reimbursement from the Presbytery for expenses to attend a meeting, the member shall request such reimbursement through the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery.

VI. Leadership Team

A. Mission

The Presbytery's Leadership Team will be a planning group and a resource which focuses on human resources, capital and productive capacity to assist and serve churches within the Presbytery in the most efficient and productive ways possible. Visionary thinking led by spirituality and discernment will drive the process.

B. Responsibilities

1. Leadership for the Presbytery by being visionary; to look toward the future by working with churches and addressing their concerns

2. Appoint and recruit members of ad hoc committees

3. Appoint Investigating Committees (D-10.0201b) and Committees of Counsel

(D-6.0302a).

4. Plan the docket for Presbytery meetings
5. Maintain communication with commissions and committees
6. Plan training for commissions and committees as well as its own continuing education

7. Serve as the trustees of the corporation
8. Nominate persons for the Presbytery's Nominating Committee

C. Membership

1. The Immediate Past Moderator of Presbytery shall serve as Chair. If this individual is unable to serve, the Presbytery shall elect another person to the position.
2. Moderator of the Presbytery
3. Vice Moderator of the Presbytery
4. Stated Clerk of the Presbytery
5. Treasurer of the Presbytery
6. Executive Presbyter
7. Advocate for Ministry Vitality
8. Four other representatives, who must be ministers of the Word and Sacrament or ruling elders, designated by the following entities:
 - a. Commission on Ministry
 - b. Mission and Evangelism Committee
 - c. Faith, Education, and Leadership Development Committee
 - d. Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee

VII. Commissions

A. The Presbytery has three permanent commissions, one judicial and two administrative. Members of these commissions shall be nominated by the Presbytery's Nominating Committee and elected by the Presbytery.

B. Permanent Judicial Commission

1. Mission: to serve as described in the *Rules of Discipline* of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
2. Membership
 - a. The Commission has nine members, all ministers of the Word and Sacrament or ruling elders, in as nearly equal numbers as possible. Ruling elder members must be members of a congregation under jurisdiction of this Presbytery.
 - b. They shall serve in three classes of three.
 - c. They serve six-year terms, elected on alternate years.
 - d. Each serves a single term and may not be re-elected, but all are eligible to be called to service for six years after completing their term (D- 5.0206b).
 - e. No two ruling elder members of the Commission may be from the same congregation.

C. Commission on Ministry

1. Mission and Procedures
 - a. The mission of the Commission on Ministry (COM) is to ensure the fulfillment of the Presbytery's constitutional responsibilities with respect to its minister

members, to assist and support Sessions in obtaining pastoral leadership, to advocate for healthy relationships among sessions, congregations, and pastoral leadership, and other such matters as the Presbytery directs.

b. The Commission shall adopt a manual of operations, consistent with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and these bylaws, to guide its work.

2. Membership

a. The Commission has eighteen members: nine ministers of the Word and Sacrament and nine ruling elders.

b. The membership is divided into three classes of six.

c. Term of service is three years; a member may be reelected once.

Members may fill a partial term of two years or less, and then may be elected in their own right to serve two consecutive terms. Total consecutive service is not to exceed eight years.

3. Officers

a. The Commission shall have a Chair, Vice Chair, and Clerk.

b. The Commission elects these officers annually.

4. Meetings

a. The Commission shall meet at a time and place of its choosing.

b. A quorum of the Commission shall be a majority of its members.

5. The Presbytery delegates to the Commission the following powers; each such action is to be reported to the Presbytery at its next stated meeting.

a. to examine and to receive ministers of the Word and Sacrament into membership

b. to approve the establishment and dissolution of pastoral relationships when all parties are in agreement, and to approve the terms of such relationships

c. to approve the transfer of presbytery membership of ministers of the Word and Sacrament when requested by other presbyteries

d. to grant permission to ministers of the Word and Sacrament to labor within and outside the bounds of this Presbytery

e. to appoint administrative commissions to install or, in consultation with the Commission on Preparation for Ministry, to ordain and install

f. to appoint moderators of session as needed

g. to approve commissions to ruling elders called to specific service, once they are certified by the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

D. Commission on Preparation for Ministry

1. Mission and Procedures

a. The mission of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) is to develop and promote a process to encourage qualified and capable individuals to consider ordained ministry; to enter into covenant relationship with those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament; to assist individuals and supporting congregations as they proceed to Inquiry, Candidacy, and Ordination; to recommend for Presbytery's election minister and ruling elder readers of examinations for candidates for ordination; and to provide for the training, testing and preparation of ruling elders called to be commissioned to specific ministries.

b. The Commission shall adopt a manual of operations, consistent with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and these bylaws, to guide its work.

2. Membership

a. The Commission has six members: three ministers of the Word and Sacrament and three ruling elders. No two ruling elders may be from the same congregation.

b. The membership is divided into three classes of two.

c. Term of service is three years; a member may be reelected once.

Members may fill a partial term of two years or less, and then may be elected in their own right to serve two consecutive terms. Total consecutive service is not to exceed eight years.

3. Officers

a. The Commission shall have a Chair and Clerk.

b. The Commission elects these officers annually.

4. Meetings

a. The Commission shall meet at a time and place of its choosing.

b. A quorum of the Commission shall be a majority of its members.

5. The Presbytery delegates to the Commission the following powers; each such action is to be reported to the Presbytery at its next stated meeting.

a. to receive inquirers and candidates from other presbyteries and, upon the presbyteries' request, to dismiss them to other presbyteries

b. to appoint administrative commissions to ordain

c. to certify ruling elders as ready to be commissioned to particular service

VIII. Committees

A. General provisions of Committees

1. Membership

a. Except for the Nominating Committee itself, members of committees are nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Presbytery.

b. All minister members of Presbytery (permanent and temporary) and members of congregations under jurisdiction of this Presbytery are eligible to serve as members of committees.

c. Members of committees serve three-year terms; members may be re-elected to a second term. When members are elected to fill unexpired terms of two years or less, they may be elected to up to two full terms in their own right, so long as no one serves on the same committee for more than eight consecutive years.

2. Meetings

a. Committees shall meet at times and places of their own choosing.

b. A quorum of a committee meeting is a majority of its members.

3. Officers

a. Each committee shall annually elect a chair, a vice chair, and a clerk.

b. If the chair is a ruling elder, that person has voice and vote at meeting of the Presbytery; if the chair is a church member not ordained as a ruling elder, that chair has voice but not vote at meetings of the Presbytery.

4. Procedures: Each committee shall adopt a manual of operations, consistent with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and these bylaws, to guide its work.

B. Faith Education and Leadership Development

1. Mission

The mission of the Faith Education and Leadership Development Committee is to provide resources and training in the areas of Christian Education and Church Officer Training; assist congregations in their development of Christian Education programs including Educator support and teacher-training opportunities; maintain a relationship with the ministry of Camp Calvin Crest through those serving on the Calvin Crest Camp and Conference Center Board of Directors; carry out the Presbytery's responsibilities identified in *The Book of Order* to provide encouragement, guidance, and resources to its member churches in the areas of faith and leadership development; maintain the Presbytery's media equipment and resources, and to encourage and foster the mission of its working groups.

2. Membership

The Committee has nine members: three ministers of the Word and Sacrament, three ruling elders, and three other persons who may be presbyters or other church members.

3. Youth Ministry Working Group

a. Mission

The mission of Youth Ministry is to assist congregations in their development of meaningful youth ministry programs; develop and provide resources for ministries with youth on the Presbytery level for the congregations; develop Presbytery-wide youth events, which at times may be in cooperation with other Presbyteries in the region; promote and, when necessary, administer opportunities for church wide events – such as Triennium, Camp Calvin Crest, High School, college and seminary events, etc. as well as provide a full report to the Presbytery; and promote opportunities for networking among youth ministry workers, including developing the Presbyterian Youth Workers Association (PYWA) within the Presbytery.

b. Membership

The Working Group has three adult members elected by the Presbytery for three-year terms. These adult members may be presbyters or other church members, with no two church members from the same congregation, and will serve three-year terms. These adult members may co-opt any number of youth members for one-year terms; youth members are to be members of congregations within the jurisdiction of the Presbytery and between the ages of fourteen and eighteen at the time of appoint; they may be reappointed up to two times to serve not more than three consecutive years. No two youth members are to be from the same congregation.

4. Worship and Spirituality Working Group

a. Mission

The mission of Worship and Spirituality is to cooperate with Presbytery leadership and Staff to develop appropriate and engaging worship services for the Presbytery; oversee the receipt and counting of offerings at Presbytery worship services for which it is responsible and ensures that the offerings are delivered to those responsible for the appropriate deposit of funds on behalf of the Presbytery; engage in partnerships with other entities and congregations to address ongoing needs related to spiritual growth and worship; provide and promote events that will develop and further the spiritual growth of individuals and congregations; assist in the communication of appropriate denominational resources related to spirituality and worship; and encourage theological discussion within the Presbytery, including speakers and/or discussion at Presbytery meetings and at other events and times.

b. Membership

The Working Group has six members: two ministers of the Word and Sacrament, two ruling elders, and two other presbyters or other church members.

5. Nicaragua International Partnership

a. Mission

The Nicaragua International Partnership of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, is part of an international partnership between the Interdenominational Council of Evangelical Pastors of La Concepcion, Nicaragua, and Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, USA. We are united with our partners through love and faith in Christ, in response to God's call to build God's kingdom, working actively, modeling the ministry of Jesus Christ to extend his love, justice, joy, hope, empowerment, and message within our communities. Consistent with our jointly-developed partnership Mission Statement and the PCUSA relationship-based mission model, we strive to act with a commitment to world mission, a love for humankind, and a trust in each other which continually deepens objectives.

1. Communicate frequently, sharing with each other the needs and joys of our communities.
2. Promote exchanges between the partnership communities.
3. Work together in partnership on programs and projects, while being good stewards of God's gifts.

C. Mission and Evangelism

1. Mission

The mission of the Mission and Evangelism Committee is to serve as a catalyst for connecting individuals and congregations with opportunities for mission education, mission interpretation, and active participation in mission programs offered by local congregations, Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly; assist the congregations of the Presbytery in their own interpretive tasks of mission programs of higher councils of the denomination; provide oversight responsibility for the mission involvement of the Presbytery; develop and administer a system of administration for the granting of regular and special mission funds and other mission-designated funds entrusted to the Committee by Presbytery; encourage, promote, and carry out opportunities that will further the efforts of congregations in the areas of evangelism; identify and communicate the resources and opportunities that might further evangelism in congregations and the Presbytery; assist in creating opportunities for fellowship within the Presbytery; and implement the Presbytery's actions regarding organizing new churches, receiving and uniting churches in consultation with their members, and locating new churches and churches desiring to move.

2. Membership

The Committee has nine members: three ministers of the Word and Sacrament, three ruling elders, and three other members who may be presbyters or other church members.

3. Sudanese Ministry Working Group

a. Mission

The mission of the Sudanese Ministry Working Group is to assist the Presbytery in fulfilling its commitment to Sudanese Ministry; support the Sudanese American Fellowship as it seeks to adjust to life and ministry in a new culture; facilitate leadership development and support the leadership of the Sudanese American Fellowship; assist

in the development of budget, funding, and facilities management; and interpret to congregations of the Presbytery the mission of the Sudanese American Fellowship.

b. Membership

The Working Group has nine members, presbyters and other church members, who represent different congregations within the Presbytery and who possess specific gifts and abilities to support and further the ministry of the Sudanese Fellowship.

4. Hispanic/Latino Ministry Working Group

a. Mission

The mission of the Hispanic/Latino Ministry Working Group is to assist the Presbytery in fulfilling its commitment to Hispanic/Latino Ministry; support the Hispanic/Latino Ministry as it seeks to develop programs of outreach to the community; facilitate leadership recruitment and development of those interested in Hispanic/Latino Ministry; assist in the development of budget, funding, and financial oversight for programs that will further Hispanic/Latino ministry; and interpret to congregations of the Presbytery the mission of the Hispanic/Latino Ministry.

b. Membership

The Working Group has up to nine (9) individuals consisting of presbyters and laity who represent different congregations within the Presbytery and who possess specific gifts, abilities, and language skills to support and further the mission and ministry of the Hispanic/ Latino Ministry.

5. Nicaragua International Partnership

a. Mission

The Nicaragua International Partnership of the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, is part of an international partnership between the Interdenominational Council of Evangelical Pastors of La Concepcion, Nicaragua, and Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, USA. We are united with our partners through love and faith in Christ, in response to God's call to build God's kingdom, working actively, modeling the ministry of Jesus Christ to extend his love, justice, joy, hope, empowerment, and message within our communities. Consistent with our jointly-developed partnership Mission Statement and the PCUSA relationship-based mission model, we strive to act with a commitment to world mission, a love for humankind, and a trust in each other which continually deepens objectives.

1. Communicate frequently, sharing with each other the needs and joys of our communities.

2. Promote exchanges between the partnership communities.

3. Work together in partnership on programs and projects, while being good stewards of God's gifts.

D. Nominating Committee

1. Mission

The mission of the Nominating Committee is to encourage participation in the ministry, mission, and work of the Presbytery by qualified persons from throughout its congregations; secure from congregational leadership names of individuals who have particular gifts and abilities that would further the vision of the Presbytery; and nominate persons to fill vacancies when there is a resignation or death.

2. Membership

The Committee has nine members: three ministers of the Word and Sacrament, three male church members, and three female church members, with no two church members from the same congregation, divided into three equal classes. These persons are nominated by the Leadership Team and elected by the Presbytery.

E. Personnel Committee

1. Mission

The mission of the Personnel Committee is to provide counsel, guidance, care, and advocacy support for the Presbytery Staff as defined in the Presbytery Personnel Policies and Procedures; provide or see that provision is made for annual review of Presbytery Staff; and to advise and support the Presbytery's Head of Staff in his/her responsibility to employ, direct and, if necessary, terminate staff members as well as open or close any staff position.

2. Membership

The Committee has four members.

F. Representation

1. Mission

The mission of the Committee on Representation is to advise the Presbytery regarding the implementation of principles of unity and diversity; advocate for diversity in leadership; and consult with the Presbytery on the employment of personnel (G-3.0103).

2. Membership

a. Moderator of the Presbytery

b. Vice Moderator of the Presbytery

c. Stated Clerk of the Presbytery

d. Executive Presbyter

d. One representative each from the following communities, elected by the Presbytery and each serving three-year terms:

1. Sudanese

2. African American

3. Hispanic/Latino

4. Korean/Asian

5. Arabic

G. Social Justice and Peacemaking Committee

1. Mission

The mission of Social Justice and Peacemaking is to assist the Presbytery in its education and advocacy of issues related to social justice and peacemaking emerging from higher councils of the denomination; assist the Presbytery in the development of programs and activities related to issues regarding social justice and peacemaking; work with other committees and relevant groups in the proper administration of special funds related to social justice, hunger, peacemaking, etc.; and be responsible for education, action, and advocacy on social ministry/public policy issues on which the General Assembly, Synod or this Presbytery has officially spoken; and on political/legislative matters of concern to the Church.

2. Membership

The Committee has up to six individuals (presbyters and other church members) who represent different congregations within the Presbytery and who possess specific gifts and abilities to support and further the ministry described above.

H. The Presbytery's Disaster Assistance Committee

1. Mission

The mission of the Presbytery's Disaster Assistance Committee is:

- a. To assist congregations within the presbytery in becoming more prepared for natural or man-made disasters.
- b. To have equipment and personnel who will provide first response to a disaster within the presbytery.
- c. To maintain information about each church facility to aid PDA and other disaster responders in setting up centers critical to disaster relief.
- d. To facilitate the presbytery and congregations in their participation in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance mission opportunities.

2. Membership

The committee is comprised of those individuals who are called to work in disaster relief in any capacity.

I. Stewardship of Resources Committee

1. Mission

The mission of the Stewardship of Resources Committee is to be responsible for stewardship, special offerings, funds development, and regular receipt of funds and gifts to the Presbytery; provide for the financial oversight, management, accounting, and annual financial review (G-3.0113) for all Presbytery funds; encourage congregations to promote and receive Special Offerings approved by the General Assembly and guide congregations in their interpretation of these offerings; recommend to the Leadership Team any proposal for Presbytery Special Offerings, including requests from other organizations and institutions to raise funds among the congregations of this Presbytery and provide guidance for congregations for responding to such appeals; make recommendations to the Presbytery concerning requests of congregations to buy, sell, or encumber church property, following review and consultation with appropriate parties; and assure the Fiscal Accountability Policies of the Presbytery are carried out.

2. Membership

The Committee has six members.

3. Investment Working Group

a. The mission of the Investment Working Group is to recommend for Presbytery's approval an Investment Policy Statement that will guide the Stewardship of Resources Committee; to exercise fiduciary responsibility in providing for the investment of the funds of the Presbytery according to the Investment Policy Statement; and to oversee the appropriate disbursement of returns on investment according to the terms of the Investment Policy Statement.

b. The Investment Working Group is composed of three persons who possess the knowledge and skills needed for the role, one of whom is elected each year by the Presbytery, in rotating classes, each for three years. Members of this group cannot handle Presbytery investments or work for or represent any company handling Presbytery investments.

I. The Presbytery's Disaster Assistance Committee

1. Mission

The mission of the Presbytery's Disaster Assistance Committee is:

- a. To assist congregations within the presbytery in becoming more prepared for natural or man-made disasters.
- b. To have equipment and personnel who will provide first response to a disaster within the presbytery.
- c. To maintain information about each church facility to aid PDA and other disaster responders in setting up centers critical to disaster relief.
- d. To facilitate the presbytery and congregations in their participation in Presbyterian Disaster Assistance mission opportunities.

2. Membership

The committee is comprised of those individuals who are called to work in disaster relief in any capacity.

IX. Amendment

These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of presbyters present and voting at a meeting of the Presbytery, provided that notice has been given of proposed amendments. This notice shall be either publication of the proposed amendment at the previous meeting of Presbytery or distribution of the proposed amendment to all members and sessions of the Presbytery not less than two weeks before the meeting.

Standing Rules of the Presbytery

I. Rules Governing Meetings

A. Docket

1. The docket of a stated meeting of the Presbytery shall be drafted by a design team consisting of the Moderator, Vice Moderator and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, the Executive Presbyter, a member of the Faith Education and Leadership Development Committee, and the pastor and/or other representative(s) of the host congregation.

2. The draft docket is presented to the Leadership Team for approval not less than two weeks before the meeting.

3. The docket shall include worship, which should ordinarily include the celebration of the Lord's Supper, and should give priority to learning, building of relationships, and taking action, rather than reporting past activities.

B. Parliamentary procedure

1. The parliamentary authority is that specified by the Book of Order or, if none specified, the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.

2. The Moderator of the Presbytery rules on questions of procedure.

3. The Stated Clerk serves as the Presbytery's parliamentarian.

4. Unless the Presbytery provides otherwise, speeches addressing a question in debate shall be limited to three minutes.

C. Redress of Imbalance (G-3.0301)

1. Annually, as soon as possible after Sessions have submitted their membership reports, the Stated Clerk shall ascertain the parity of minister and ruling elder members and commissioners. The Clerk shall consider all ministers of the Word and Sacrament in active service, as well as those who are retired and serving congregations and who are retired and continue to attend meetings of the Presbytery; and one ruling elder commissioner per session as well as those ruling elders entitled to voice and vote at meetings (Bylaws, III.B.).

2. If the number of ruling elders equals or exceeds the number of ministers of the Word and Sacrament, there is no imbalance and no action is needed.

3. If the number of ministers of the Word and Sacrament exceeds the number of ruling elders, then the Stated Clerk shall propose a means to redress the imbalance by asking Sessions to elect additional commissioners. The Clerk shall give priority to those congregations with more than 350 members; those congregations with more than one minister of the Word and Sacrament installed to permanent service; those congregations who regularly participate in the mission of the Presbytery; and those congregations whose membership may help create diverse representation within the life of the Presbytery. The Clerk may consult with the Committee on Representation for guidance, as needed.

II. Rules Governing Subordinate Entities of the Presbytery

A. Representation

1. As the Nominating Committee is seeking members to nominate for election, they should consult with the Committee on Representation for guidance.

2. Before presenting candidates for election to the Presbytery, the Nominating Committee shall inform the Committee on Representation, who shall ascertain if the Nominating Committee was diligent in its attempt to seek diversity in candidates.

B. Electronic Decision-making

1. Recognizing there are times when the various entities of the Presbytery need to make decisions between scheduled or stated meetings as well as to act swiftly in other occasions, the Leadership Team, Committees, Commissions, and other Presbytery groups (in lieu of calling a special meeting) may choose to use electronic forms of communication.

2. Chairpersons shall make a good faith effort to contact all members through e-mail, telephone, text, fax, and/or other electronic means.

3. When at least a majority of the members respond in the affirmative (or the negative) then that decision will be considered the action of the body.

4. Such action shall be reported to the next meeting of the body and recorded in its minutes.

C. Intentional and Implied Resignation

1. There are times when those elected are unable to continue in their service to the Presbytery. These individuals should communicate their resignation to the Stated Clerk.

2. If during a calendar year an individual is *absent without notice* from three meetings, this may be interpreted by the Chair as an implied resignation, recorded in the minutes, and reported to the Stated Clerk. The Stated Clerk then notifies the Presbytery of the vacancy and refers the matter to the Nominating Committee.

III. Rules Governing Records

A. Records of Sessions

1. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery shall coordinate the general administrative review of records of sessions (G-3.0108a).

2. The Commission on Ministry or the Presbytery itself may require special administrative review (G-3.0108b).

3. Only the Presbytery by majority vote at a meeting, the Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission, or an administrative commission specifically charged with that purpose and power may direct a Session to take particular action (G-3.0108c).

B. Presbytery's temporary records

1. The Presbytery keeps files of papers related to minister of the Word and Sacrament members, inquirers, candidates, and sessions at its office. These files may be retained in perpetuity. Those under jurisdiction of the Presbytery have the right to view their files; such right is surrendered when transferring to another jurisdiction or renouncing jurisdiction.

2. When an investigating committee of the Presbytery determines not to file charges and its decision is not overturned (D-10.0303), it shall surrender its records to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, who shall retain them for three years, after which they shall be destroyed.

C. Members of Dissolved Congregations

1. When the Presbytery receives members who were on the roll of active members when a congregation is dissolved, according to G-3.0301c, the Presbytery shall keep their names on its roll of "miscellaneous members." The stated clerk shall be authorized to issue letters of transfer of these members upon request, and report that fact to the Presbytery at its next stated meeting. After a period of two years from the dissolution of the congregation, the stated clerk shall attempt to contact any persons whose names remain on that roll, using the address provided at the time of dissolution of the church. This contact shall encourage the members to find a congregational home and shall provide a date, no later than three years from the time of the

dissolution of the congregation, when the members' names shall be deleted from the Presbytery's roll of miscellaneous members.

2. If the stated clerk receives no response or is unable to contact these members, their names shall automatically be removed from that roll on the third anniversary of the dissolution of the church.

IV. Rules Governing Communications with Other Councils

A. All formal communications between the Presbytery and other Councils is through the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery. Formal communications are such things as requests for waivers from constitutional requirements; transfers of membership; notifications in judicial process; requests for official presbytery action; and other similar matters.

B. When a Session or an entity of the Presbytery wishes the Presbytery to overture the Synod or the General Assembly to take some action, the proposal shall be presented through the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall provide advice on format, deadlines, and procedures, without bias as to the merit or advisability of the request.

C. When another Presbytery requests the concurrence of this Presbytery on an overture to the Synod or the General Assembly, the Stated Clerk shall inform the Presbytery through some appropriate means within a reasonable time, so that Sessions or entities of the Presbytery may initiate action for concurrence.

D. When the Presbytery receives proposed amendments to the Constitution, the Stated Clerk shall advertise the nature of those proposed amendments and invite interested persons to provide information on their merit. The Stated Clerk may further invite the cooperation of the Faith Education and Leadership Development Committee to create events to disseminate relevant information and discuss theological concerns before the meeting at which the Presbytery votes on these proposals.

V. Commissioners to Other Councils

This section intentionally left blank.

VI. Amendment

A. These standing rules may be amended at any meeting of the Presbytery by a majority vote of those presbyters present and voting.

B. The Presbytery may, by two-thirds vote, determine at any time to suspend the Standing Rules.