

# COUNCIL

(Approved by the Presbytery of Hudson River: Council proposal 5-15-17)

**Purpose:** The purpose of the **Council** is to oversee the mission and ministry of the Presbytery of Hudson River (HRP) in order to focus, align and coordinate its resources toward the presbytery's approved ministry goals.

**Accountability:** The Council shall be accountable to the HRP.

**Authority:** (from the Bylaws of the Presbytery of Hudson River)

The Council may act on behalf of and with the full authority of the Presbytery in between meetings of the Presbytery (G-3.0109) in any and all matters and shall act on recommendations from Budget, Finance and Property Committee, Grants Committee and Personnel Committee.

**Membership:** (from the Bylaws of the Presbytery of Hudson River)

No less than nine (9) and no more than (12) voting members with two ex officio members:

- The Chairperson of or the year-long Chairperson Designee from Budget, Finance and Property Committee, Grants Committee and Personnel Committee.
- The Presbytery's current Moderator, Moderator-Elect and immediate past Moderator.
- At least three (3) and not more than six (6) at-large persons, each serving three year staggered terms nominated by the Committee on Representation and Nominations and elected by the presbytery.
- Two (2) ex officio members with voice but no vote: the General Presbyter, who shall develop the proposed agenda in consultation with the Stated Clerk and presbytery moderator and moderate, and the Stated Clerk, who shall record and distribute the minutes.

Overall composition shall strive to conform to principles of inclusiveness, representation and participation for race and gender, as well as the following principles:

- Voting members shall serve no more than two (2) successive terms or a maximum of six (6) years without at least a one (1) year interval of non-service.
- No at-large member shall serve concurrently on the Budget, Finance and Property Committee, Grants Committee and Personnel Committee.
- No more than one member shall be from or be serving a particular church.
- No two people shall be in the same family.

**Quorum:** (from the Bylaws of the Presbytery of Hudson River)

A quorum of the Council shall consist of majority of its membership and shall be required for business to be conducted.

**Meetings:**

- *Regular Meetings.* Council will ordinarily meet monthly.
- *Special Meetings.* Council shall meet upon the call of its Moderator or any three (3) members with vote. Notice of a special meeting shall be sent to each member not less than three (3) days in advance of such meeting.
- *Reports.* The Budget, Finance and Property Committee, Grants Committee, Personnel Committee and any teams or task forces of the Council will make regular reports, ordinarily a draft of their minutes, to Council.
- *Agenda.* The proposed Council agenda will be developed by the General Presbyter, in consultation with the Stated Clerk and HRP moderator. It may include, in addition to the proposed items, any other business necessary for the work of the presbytery between Stated Meetings of HRP.

**Responsibilities:**

1. Coordinate and evaluate the ministry and mission of HRP by overseeing the following: ongoing visioning and strategic planning that identifies ministry goals; communication strategies both within and beyond the presbytery; and a long range calendar.
2. Oversee, monitor and evaluate the ministry teams as well as any task forces and teams created by the Council.
3. Recognize, support and relate to the partnerships of HRP.
4. Support the Budget, Finance and Property Committee by: providing guidance for, then affirming its recommendation, for the annual budget, the amount of Per Capita and the percentage of Mission Giving for the presbytery, synod and General Assembly; assisting it in its responsibility to ensure that the financial resources are available for the work of the presbytery and aligned with the overall mission and goals of the presbytery; and recommending to presbytery the election of the Treasurer.
5. Support the Grants Committee by: acting on recommendations for grants awarded from Legacy Fund; and ensuring that grants are aligned with the overall mission and goals of the presbytery.
6. Support the Personnel Committee by: approving the overall staff design of the presbytery; and recommending to presbytery the election of the Stated Clerk.
7. Oversee the meetings of HRP, approving the place, time, date, and the general docket of all meetings of Presbytery and the coordination of worship including the authorization and celebrations of the sacraments. (Note: the docket will ordinarily be developed by HRP Moderator, Moderator-elect, Stated Clerk and General Presbyter who may then be tasked by Council to produce a final version.)
8. Nominate for election by HRP the members and moderator of the Committee on Representation and Nominations.
9. Recommend to HRP any needed revisions/amendments to the presbytery's Bylaws and Manual of Operations (G-3.0106). Faith and Order Committee will then evaluate and provide comment to HRP on any changes to the By-Laws as recommended by the Council.
10. Work with the HRP committees and staff, when necessary, to develop and maintain a positive and supportive connection with HRP's congregations and members.
11. Coordinate HRP's relationship with the General Assembly, Synod and other Presbyteries and our ecumenical partnerships.
12. Provide any needed support and counsel to the General Presbyter and Stated Clerk.