

Presbytery of Hudson River BYLAWS

Adopted December 2, 2008

Amended March 24, 2009

MISSION

CALLING: As a resurrection people, the Presbytery of Hudson River engages people's passion; builds partnerships; nurtures strong leadership; and creates healthy, vital communities of faith; all to the glory of God.

VALUES: We respond to our calling by embracing the following values: Partnership, Hospitality, Justice, Passion, Curiosity, Honesty, Joy and Generosity.

CHAPTER I: THE PRESBYTERY

Section 1 The Presbytery of Hudson River was organized through the merger of the former Presbyteries of Hudson, North River, and Westchester on January 7, 1961.

Section 2 The present boundaries are as follows: All of WESTCHESTER, PUTNAM, DUTCHESS, ULSTER, ROCKLAND, ORANGE and SULLIVAN COUNTIES (including all cities, townships, villages and hamlets) and Ancramdale in COLUMBIA COUNTY; all in the state of New York.

Section 3 The Presbytery of Hudson River is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the Religious Corporation Laws of the state of New York.

Section 4 The Presbytery is governed by the Bible and by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) comprised of the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order. The Book of Order is comprised of the Form of Government, the Directory for Worship and the Rules of Discipline. The Parliamentary authority for the Presbytery is Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

CHAPTER II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

The members of the Presbytery of Hudson River are:

- a. **MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT** who have been received into the Presbytery according to the provision of the Form of Government.
- b. **COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS** serving in current commissions.
- c. **CHURCHES**, represented by elder commissioners, elected by the Sessions of those churches, according to the provisions of the Form of Government (G-11.0101).
- d. **OFFICERS OF THE PRESBYTERY** duly elected by and currently serving the Presbytery.
- e. **FORMER ELDER MODERATORS OF PRESBYTERY** who continue as active members of churches within the geographic boundaries of the Presbytery.
- f. **ELDERS** currently serving as Chair or Co-Chair of specific entities of the Presbytery, i.e.: Council (five ministry teams); Committee on Ministry; Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Commissioned Lay Pastor Committee, Personnel; Budget, Finance and Property; Faith and Order; Nominations; Presbyterian Women; and Representation.

Section 2

The Presbytery may make provision by rule for **YOUTH ADVISORY DELEGATES** [from age 13 through 20], who shall have privilege of the floor, but not vote, in meetings of the Presbytery, and who may be given both privilege of the floor and vote in meetings of committees, working groups of other entities of the Presbytery.

CHAPTER III MEETINGS

Section 1

The Presbytery shall hold at least four Stated Meetings each year.

Section 2

The Presbytery may hold Special Called Meetings as may be necessary to conduct urgent business, as indicated in the Form of Government (G-11.0201).

Section 3

The Presbytery may make provision for other gatherings, for the purpose of advancing the mission and ministry of its particular churches.

Section 4

A quorum shall be required to be present for a stated or called meeting to proceed. A quorum shall consist of five minister members and five elder commissioners (*elders* representing at least three churches).

CHAPTER IV OFFICERS

Section 1 Officers of the Presbytery elected by the Presbytery shall be the Moderator, the Moderator-Elect, the Stated Clerk, the Temporary Stated Clerk, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, the Journal Clerk, and the Enrollment Clerk.

Section 2 The officers elected by the Presbytery shall have the following duties (other duties may be specified by rule):

- a. The Moderator shall fulfill such duties prescribed for that office in the Form of Government (especially G-9.0202), including convening, adjourning and presiding at Presbytery meetings, presiding at ordinations and installations, and appointing members to special committees and working groups when called upon to do so by the Presbytery. When an action is brought according to the Rules of Discipline, the Moderator may, as needed and appropriate, consult with the Stated Clerk and General Presbyter regarding recommendations for appointment of ministers and elders to serve on Investigating Committees (D-10.0200). (S)he shall serve as Convener of the Coordinating Cabinet.
- b. The Moderator-elect shall perform the duties of the Moderator in his or her absence, or when requested by the Moderator to do so.
- c. The Stated Clerk shall perform those duties set forth in the Form of Government (especially G-9.0203), together with such other tasks as may be prescribed by the Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly.
- d. The Temporary Stated Clerk shall perform the duties of the Stated Clerk in his/her absence or at the request of the Stated Clerk.
- e. The Treasurer shall oversee the finances of the Presbytery, having such authority as may be necessary to receive, invest, transfer and disburse funds on behalf of the Presbytery, always subject to the Presbytery's rules, policies and oversight.
- f. The Assistant Treasurer shall perform such duties on behalf of the Presbytery as deemed appropriate by the Treasurer, always subject to the Presbytery's rules, policies and oversight.
- g. The Journal Clerk shall record the actions of the Presbytery at stated and special meetings of the Presbytery and shall prepare draft minutes for submission to the Stated Clerk for editing.
- h. The Enrollment Clerk shall record the attendance of Ministers, Elder Commissioners, Officers and other members of the Presbytery at stated and special meetings of the Presbytery and shall report same to the Presbytery and submit the information to the Stated Clerk for inclusion in the minutes of the meeting.

- Section 3 The officers elected by the Presbytery shall have the following terms of office:
- a. The Moderator and the Moderator-Elect shall serve terms of one year or until a successor is installed.
 - b. The Stated Clerk, Temporary Stated Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Journal Clerk and Enrollment Clerk shall each serve a term of three years. The incumbents shall be eligible for re-election.

- Section 4 The officers of the Presbytery shall be elected in the following manner:
- a. The Moderator shall be elected as Moderator-Elect in the year preceding his or her term as Moderator.
 - b. The Moderator-Elect shall be elected at the stated meeting immediately occurring before the May stated meeting/installation.
 - c. The Stated Clerk, Temporary Stated Clerk, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Journal Clerk and Enrollment Clerk shall ordinarily be elected at the final stated meeting of the calendar year in the third year of the officer's term, and his or her term shall begin on January 1 of the following year.

CHAPTER V ORGANIZATION

- Section 1 The Presbytery shall be organized around Presbytery Council consisting of five ministry teams: Vision Ministries; Transformation Ministries; Congregational and Mission Ministries; Vocation Ministries; and Stewardship Ministries. It shall function under the umbrella of the Coordinating Cabinet consisting of the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, the conveners of the five ministry teams, and the chairs of the Committees on Ministry; Personnel; Nominations; Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Budget, Finance and Property; and Representation.

There will be nine members on each of the five ministry teams of the Council, serving in classes consistent with the model for the standing committees.

- Section 2 The Presbytery shall have the following working groups:
- a. The Board of Trustees (G-8.0202), the Committee on Ministry (G-11.0500), the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (G-14.0300), the Committee on Representation (G-9.0105), the Nominations Committee (G-9.0800), the Permanent Judicial Commission (D-5.0000), the Personnel Committee, the Budget, Finance and Property Committee, the Faith and Order Committee, the Self-Development of People Committee, the Commissioned Lay Pastor Committee, and

- Presbyterian Women. The location of these working groups in the Presbytery's ministry teams shall be established by the Presbytery.
- b. The Presbytery may also establish such other working groups as may be useful and necessary.

CHAPTER VI TRUSTEES

- Section 1 The Stewardship Ministry Team of the Council shall comprise the Trustees.
- Section 2 The Chair of the Budget, Finance and Property Committee shall serve as President of the Trustees.
- Section 3 The Stated Clerk shall serve as Secretary of the Trustees, and the Treasurer shall serve as Treasurer of the Trustees.**
- Section 4 All members of the Trustees shall be entitled to voice and vote on matters coming before that board.

CHAPTER VII AMENDMENTS

- Section 1 All proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the Presbytery shall be presented in writing, referred for study and revision to the Faith and Order Committee or such other working group as the Presbytery may determine, and consideration of the same postponed until the next stated meeting of Presbytery. A two-thirds majority of the members present shall be required to effect the change.
- Section 2 Rules of the Presbytery may be suspended at any stated meeting of the Presbytery for that particular meeting only by a majority vote of the members present.

12/2/2008
3/24/2009