

BYLAWS
PRESBYTERY OF TWIN CITIES AREA
Revised May 10, 2016

ARTICLE I
NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The name of the organization is The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area.

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE OF THE PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery is the corporate expression of the church consisting of all PC(U.S.A.) churches and teaching elders and is an entity of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies and The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The boundaries of The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area (hereafter referred to as “The presbytery”) includes the following counties in Minnesota and Wisconsin: Pierce, Polk, and St. Croix in the State of Wisconsin, and the counties of Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Dodge, Freeborn, Goodhue, Hennepin, Isanti, Mower, Olmsted, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, Steele, Wabasha, Waseca, Washington, and Wright in the State of Minnesota, and those parts of McLeod, Pine and LeSueur Counties in the State of Minnesota described as follows: The townships of Pine City, Pokegama, Royalton, and Chengwatana in Pine County, and that part of Le Sueur County described as the North one-half of LeSueur County above a line drawn from the Town of Ottawa running due East along State Highway #112, and the Township of Winsted in McLeod County, and such additional or diminished territory as may be determined from time to time by the Synod of Lakes and Prairies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or its successors.

The Presbytery is composed of entities mandated by the Book of Order, Form of Government, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These entities carry out the work as prescribed by the body meeting in assembly.

The Presbytery is the Trustee of all property held by or for a particular church, since all such property is held in trust for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), {Form of Government G-4.0203.} The rules in effect for the sale, encumbering, leasing, or purchase of real property apply equally to particular church corporations and any subsidiary corporations of the member churches.

ARTICLE III
MEMBERS

The members of The Presbytery include ruling elder commissioners elected by the sessions of the churches within the boundaries of The Presbytery; all teaching elder members of The Presbytery, whether active, inactive, or honorably retired; and those elders elected to serve as particular officers or chairs of standing committees of presbytery during their terms. The stated clerk shall determine the number of elder commissioner members for each particular church,

based on the membership reported to the Office of the General Assembly each December. The new membership entitlement will be presented as near to January 1 of the next year as is possible. Book of Order form of Government G-3.0301.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS AND STAFF

The Presbytery shall elect the following officers: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer. The term of office of the Moderator and Vice Moderator shall be one year. The term of the stated clerk and Treasurer shall be three years, with the opportunity for reelection. All persons elected to office must be eligible for membership in the Presbytery; ordained as a ruling elder, currently a member of a particular church of the Presbytery, or a teaching elder, currently a member of the Presbytery. The Moderator and Vice Moderator shall be elected and installed at the Annual Meeting, shall assume office upon installation, and serve until a successor has been elected and installed. The Stated Clerk and the Treasurer shall be elected and installed at the Annual Meeting at which the term of the incumbent expires, and shall assume office upon installation and serve until a successor has been elected and installed.

All candidates for office shall be proposed by the Nominating Committee. Nomination of the Stated Clerk shall be made in consultation with the Personnel Committee.

The Presbytery may elect and install an executive presbyter, to serve as chief administrative officer of the Presbytery. The Presbytery may provide for such other elected administrative or program staff and support staff as is deemed appropriate.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS

The Presbytery shall meet at least twice and normally hold up to six meetings per year, in January, March, May, July, September and November. The May meeting shall be the Annual Meeting.

Special meetings may be called by the moderator, at the request, or with the concurrence, of two teaching elders and two ruling elders, the ruling elders being of different churches. Should the moderator be unable to act, the stated clerk shall, under the same conditions, issue the call. If both moderator and stated clerk are unable to act, any three teaching elders and three ruling elders, the ruling elders being of different churches, may call a special meeting. The synod may direct the presbytery to convene a special meeting for the transaction of designated business. Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than ten days in advance to each teaching elder and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting, and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted.

A quorum of The Presbytery shall be any three teaching elder members and the ruling elder members present, provided at least three churches are represented by ruling elders.

ARTICLE VI
PRESBYTERY LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Presbytery Leadership Team shall provide the general supervision of the presbytery between its meetings including oversight of personnel and review of proposed budgets. It is responsible for identifying and ensuring that the presbytery addresses emerging issues or opportunities. It shall design in consultation with the chairs of the Presbytery's committees and commissions the stated meetings and other gatherings of the Presbytery to address emerging issues and for considering the business originating from its various entities.

Membership of the Presbytery Leadership Team shall be nominated by the Nominating committee and elected by the Presbytery at its Annual Meeting or as terms expire. The Presbytery Leadership Team shall be comprised of the following:

Most Immediate Past Moderator available, who shall serve as chair

Moderator

Vice Moderator

Treasurer

Stated Clerk, who shall serve as secretary

Up to six (6) persons chosen from current committee or commission members or at large for their expertise in areas identified by the chair of the Presbytery Leadership Team, Officers, and Executive Presbyter, and to provide diversity in Team membership. At-large terms are one year, and persons may be elected for up to three (3) consecutive terms.

Executive Presbyter (without vote)

Task forces and ad hoc committees established by the Presbytery unrelated to existing committees or commissions shall report through the Presbytery Leadership Team.

A quorum for the Presbytery Leadership Team shall be one half of the membership eligible to vote.

ARTICLE VII
COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES/BOARDS and SUB-COMMITTEES

Presbytery Leadership Team, Nominating Committee, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Committee on Representation, Permanent Judicial Commission. The Presbytery may also elect the following committees: Bills and Overtures, Board of Trustees, Committee on Church Vitality, Self Development of People, and other committees and ad hoc mission teams as are deemed necessary.

The Presbytery shall elect a Nominating Committee, which shall be composed of 9 to 15 teaching elders and members of congregations, in numbers as nearly equal as possible, drawn from different congregations and representing the diversity within the presbytery (geography, gender, age, race, ethnicity, disability, different theological positions consistent with the Reformed tradition) (F-1.0403, G-3.0111), divided into three classes elected for three-year

terms. The chairperson shall be elected each year for a one-year term. Members shall not serve consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. The Presbytery Leadership Team shall propose names for election to the Nominating Committee, which shall propose candidates for all other positions, including Commissioners to General Assembly and Synod of Lakes and Prairies and Young Adult/Youth Advisory Delegates to each higher council.

The Manual of Operations contains the duties, powers and responsibilities of the entities, along with the membership numbers, the required quorum for each, and term descriptions.

ARTICLE VIII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

These bylaws govern under the authority of the Constitution of the PC(U.S.A.), the Robert's Rules of Order, most recent edition, and in no way are intended to be counteractive to laws of the state(s) and federal governments.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS AND SUSPENSIONS

These Bylaws can be amended at any regular stated meeting, or special meeting called for that purpose, of The Presbytery, by a two-thirds vote of those present, provided that the Amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting. Bylaws cannot be suspended.

The Bylaws of The Presbytery have been amended on the following dates:

Revised 11-12-1985 – from Standing Rules to By Laws
Revised 11-12-1985 – Article VIII, Section 3 and 4
Revised 11-12-1985 – Article X, Section 3
Revised 11-12-1985 – Article V, Section 2, 3 and 4
Revised 09-09-1986 – Article X, Section 2, 3, 4 and 5
Revised 09-09-1986 – Article XI, Section 2
Revised 02-10-1987 – Article I, Section 1
Revised 02-10-1987 – Article X
Revised 02-10-1987 – Article XI, Section 2 and 4
Revised 10-13-1987 – Article VII, Section 1 and 2
Revised 10-13-1987 – Article XI, Section 2
Revised 10-13-1987 – “Incorporated” dropped from name
Revised 10-13-1987 – Committee on Candidates changed to Committee on Preparation for
Ministry
Revised 06-28-1988 – Article XIII, Section 1 and 2
Revised 03-14-1989 – Article I, Section 1
Revised 09-12-1989 – Article XIII, Section 1
Revised 10-08-1991 – Article V, Section 3
Revised 10-13-1992 – Article IV, Section 1 and 2; Article VIII, Section 1, 4 and 5; Article IX,
Section 1, 5 & 6
Restated 11-14-1995
Revised 06-11-1996 – Article XI, Section 1

Revised 02-11-1997 – Article VI, Paragraph 1, Article VIII, Paragraph 1, Article IX, Paragraph 1, Article XI, Paragraph 1, Article XIII, Paragraph 1 and Article XIV, Paragraph 1

Revised 05-12-1998 – Interim By Laws for Jubilee

Revised 01-09-1999 – Altered to implement the Mission Design

Revised 05-08-2001 – Article VI, Paragraph 1 suspended for one year

Revised 01-12-2002 – Article VIII, Paragraph 6 and Article X, Paragraph 3

Revised 11-12-2002 – Article VII, Section 3

Revised 05-13-2003 – Article XI added – CLP Committee –Renumbered Remaining items

Revised 03-13-2004 – Article VIII, Section 1, Subdivision iv Council Membership

Revised 07-13-2004 – Article XIV, Bills and Overtures

Revised 11-09-2004 – Article I, Section 1 – Change in meetings – to 6/year

Revised 11-09-2004 – Article V, Section 1 – Redress – 2 elders from each church

Revised 01-08-2005 – Article XIII, Section 2 – Bills and Overtures

Revised 03-12-2005 – Article XI, Section 1 – CPM Membership

Revised 05-10-2005 – Article VIII, Section 1.c.iv Council Membership extended another year

Revised 07-12-2005 – Article IX, Section 1 BOT Membership increase

Revised 07-12-2005 – Article V, Section 3 and 4 Redress of Imbalance

Revised 05-12-2006 – Article XII, Section 6 & 7 – CLP Membership and Responsibilities

Revised 01-12-2008 – All Articles revised – moved to Manual of Operations

Revised 03-13-2010 – Article IV, Paragraph 3 added – Officers meeting before Presbytery

Revised 07-12-2011 – Article VII, Paragraph 2 – change in NOM membership makeup

Revised 09-13-2011 – Article IV, Paragraph 5 – Staff Making Changes to Bylaws

Revised 11-08-2011 – Article V, Paragraph 2 – Special Meetings

Revised 01-11-2014 – Change Presbytery Council to Presbytery Leadership Team

Revised 03-14-2015 – Church Development Team changed to Committee on Church Vitality

Revised 05-10-2016 – Article V and VII

APPENDIX
INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES,
AND CERTAIN VOLUNTEERS

1. **Right to Indemnification:** Each person who acts as an officer, employee, Presbytery Leadership Team member, permanent committee member, trustee, task force member, or commissioner or Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly or the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, or member of an administrative commission, or member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, shall be indemnified by the corporation for all sums which he or she becomes obligated to pay, including counsel fees, expense and court costs actually and necessarily incurred by him or her in connection with any action, suit or proceeding in which he or she is made a party by reason of his or her being, or having been, an officer, employee, Presbytery Leadership Team member, permanent committee member, task force member, or commissioner or Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly or the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, or member of an administrative commission, or member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, except in relation to matters as to which he or she shall be adjudged in action, suit or proceeding to be liable for bad faith or misconduct in the performance of his or her duties as such officer, employee, Presbytery Leadership Team member, permanent committee member, Work Group member, task force member, or commissioner or Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly or the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, or member of an administrative commission, or member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, in settlement of an action, suit or proceeding based upon bad faith or misconduct in the performance of his or her duties.

2. **Purpose of Indemnification:** The right of indemnification provided shall insure to each officer, employee, Presbytery Leadership Team member, permanent committee member, trustee, task force member, or commissioner or Youth Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly or the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, or a member of an administrative commission, or a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, whether or not he or she is such officer, employee, Presbytery Leadership Team member, permanent committee member, task force member, or commissioner or Youth Advisory Delegate to General Assembly or the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, or member of an administrative commission, or member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, at the time he or she shall be obligated to pay such sums, and whether or not the claim asserted against him or her is based on matters which antedate the adoption of this article; and in the event of his or her death shall extend to his or her legal representatives. Each person who shall act as an officer, employee, Presbytery Leadership Team member, permanent committee member, Work Group member, task force member, or commissioner or Youth Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly or the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, or member of an administrative commission, or member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, shall be deemed to be doing so in reliance upon such right of indemnification; and such right shall not be deemed exclusive of any other right to which any person may be entitled, under any by-law, agreement, vote of representatives, or otherwise.

3. Procedure: The Presbytery Leadership Team of the corporation, acting at a meeting at which a majority of the quorum is unaffected by self-interest, notwithstanding that other members of the quorum present but not voting may be so affected, shall determine the propriety and reasonableness of any indemnity claimed under this article, and such determination shall be final and conclusive. If, however, a majority of a quorum of the Presbytery Leadership Team which is unaffected by self-interest and willing to act is not obtainable, the Presbytery Leadership Team may appoint from among the members of the Presbytery (teaching elders and ruling elder commissioners to Presbytery from sessions, who are not members of the Presbytery Leadership Team,) a special committee of three or more persons, who are unaffected by self-interest, to consider and determine any such question, and the determination of such special committee shall be final and conclusive.