

Presbytery of Monmouth Bylaws

Adopted September 27, 2005

Amended November 28, 2006

Amended February 2016

PREAMBLE: Mission and Vision Statement (January 22, 2002)

The purpose of the Presbytery of Monmouth is equipping ministers and congregations to strengthen God's people for ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ.

Affirming the tenets of the Reformed faith, and governed by the polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Presbytery of Monmouth holds these core values:

- We follow Jesus Christ as disciples.
- We seek unity amidst our diversity.
- We facilitate the proclamation of the Gospel through our mission.

We understand a disciple to be one who gives generously, who serves faithfully, who reaches out to include others in the faith, and who regularly seeks spiritual growth through study, participation in small groups, private and corporate worship.

CHAPTER I. THE PRESBYTERY

Section 1. The Presbytery of Monmouth was organized January 11, 1860, at the Tennent Church by the Synod of New Jersey, Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. The Synod of New Jersey was merged into the Synod of the Northeast by the General Assembly in May 1973.

Section 2. The present boundaries, as defined by the Synod of New Jersey, June 1, 1964, are as follows: All of OCEAN COUNTY and MONMOUTH COUNTY; in MIDDLESEX COUNTY the townships of Madison (renamed Old Bridge Township, 1975), East Brunswick and Monroe, the cities, boroughs and towns of Cranbury, Jamesburg, Helmetta, Spotswood, South River, Sayreville, and South Amboy; in MERCER COUNTY the townships of East Windsor and Washington, the city of Hightstown, and that portion of Hamilton Township lying south of the Camden and Amboy Railroad Company; and in BURLINGTON COUNTY, the townships of Bordentown, Chesterfield, Mansfield, North Hanover, Springfield, Eastampton, Mount Holly, New Hanover, Pemberton, Southampton, Woodland, Tabernacle, Shamong, Washington, and Bass River, and the cities, boroughs and towns of Pemberton, Wrightstown, Roebling, Fieldsboro, and Bordentown – all in the state of New Jersey.

Section 3. The Presbytery is a New Jersey Corporation not for profit (Title 15), incorporated August 14, 1979, under the name Presbytery of Monmouth.

Section 4. The Presbytery is governed 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 Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, 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 Monmouth are:

- a) **TEACHING ELDERS (MINISTERS OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT)** who have been received into membership of the Presbytery according to the provisions of the *Form of Government*.
- b) **CHURCHES** that have been constituted by the Presbytery, represented by elder commissioners elected by their Sessions according to the provisions of the *Form of Government*.

- c) **RULING ELDERS** who are serving as officers of the Presbytery, as members of the Mission Council, or as members of the Presbytery's Board of Trustees, for the duration of their term of office, according to the provisions of the *Form of Government* (G-11.0101). **(9/26/06)**

Section 2. The Presbytery may make provision in its Standing Rules for YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATES, 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 divisions, committees, working groups or other entities of the Presbytery.

CHAPTER III. MEETINGS

Section 1. The Presbytery shall hold at least four Stated Meetings each year, ordinarily in the months of February, May, September and November.

Section 2. The Presbytery may hold Special 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.

CHAPTER IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers elected by the Presbytery shall be the Moderator, the Vice Moderator, the Stated Clerk, the Treasurer and the President of the Board of Trustees.

Section 2. The officers elected by the Presbytery shall include but not be limited to the following duties

- 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 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 shall have authority to appoint teaching and ruling elders to serve on Investigating Committees (D-10.0200), Committees of Counsel (D-6.0302) and other working groups necessary to advancing the case, reporting such appointments to the next meeting of the Presbytery.
- b) The Vice Moderator 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 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.
- e) The President of the Board of Trustees, or in that person's absence a Trustee designated by the President, shall preside at meetings of the Board, and shall fulfill all corporate responsibilities on behalf of the Presbytery, in accordance with New Jersey law.

f) When a person is elected to serve the Presbytery as a member of the Mission Council, a member of the Board of Trustees, a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, a member of an Administrative Commission or Investigating Committee, or as an officer of the Presbytery and that person acts on behalf of the Presbytery in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbytery Church (U.S.A.) and the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Presbytery of Monmouth, that person shall be indemnified against personal financial loss, defended and held harmless for actions or omissions during their term of office or service. **(11/28/06)**

Section 3. The officers elected by the Presbytery shall have the following terms of office:

- a) The Moderator and the Vice Moderator shall each serve terms of one year or until a successor is elected, and shall not ordinarily be elected to a second term in succession.
- b) The Stated Clerk and Treasurer shall each serve a term of three years or until a successor is elected. The incumbents are eligible for re-election.
- c) The President of the Board of Trustees shall serve a term of one year or until a successor is elected. The incumbent shall be eligible for re-election.

Section 4. The officers of the Presbytery shall be elected in the following manner:

- a) The Moderator, the Vice Moderator, the Stated Clerk and the President of the Board of Trustees shall ordinarily be elected at the May meeting of Presbytery, and their respective terms commence at that time.
- b) The Treasurer shall ordinarily be elected at the November meeting of the Presbytery, and his or her term shall ordinarily begin on January 1 of the following year.

CHAPTER V. AMENDMENTS

- a) **Section 1.** All amendments to the Bylaws of the Presbytery shall be presented in writing, referred for study and revision to the Bills and Overtures 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.
- b) **Section 2.** Amendments to the Administrative Manual of the Presbytery shall be approved by a majority vote of the members present at the Presbytery's meeting provided written notice has been given in the call to the meeting, or by a two-thirds majority if prior notice has not been given.
- c) **Section 3.** The Administrative Manual of the Presbytery may be suspended at any meeting of the Presbytery for that particular meeting only, by a majority vote of the members present.