

BYLAWS OF BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

I. Statement of Purpose or Mission

The Bath Presbyterian Church of Dayton, Ohio has been called by God and organized to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to minister to the needs of members of the congregation and residents of the community, and to promote peace and justice in the world.

II. Relation to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Bath Presbyterian Church is a member church of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley in the Synod of the Covenant of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

III. Governance of the Church

This church shall be governed in accordance with the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*. Consistent with that *Constitution*, these bylaws shall provide specific guidance for this church. *Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised)* shall be used for parliamentary guidance.

IV. Incorporation

In accordance with the laws of the state of Ohio, the congregation shall cause a corporation to be formed. Consistent with the laws of this state, both ecclesiastical and corporate business may be conducted at the same meeting of the congregation. (G-1.0503) Any active session member above the age of 18 shall be considered a Trustee.

V. Meetings of the Church

There shall be an annual meeting of the congregation in the church building in January, at which at least the following business shall be presented: annual reports from organizations and the session (information only), financial report for the preceding year, budget for the current year (information only), changes in the terms of call for the pastor(s), nominating committee report for church officers (G-1.0501) and electing members to serve on the nominating committee. Special meetings may be called by session. Such calls shall state clearly the purpose of such special meetings, and business shall be restricted to that which is specified in the call. (G-1.0501)

VI. Notice of Meetings

Public notice of the meetings shall be given in printed and verbal form on at least two successive Sundays prior to the meeting. Members will be notified by Email, postal service, church bulletin and from the pulpit.

VII. Moderator

The pastor shall moderate the meetings. If there are co-pastors, they shall alternately preside at meetings. When the church is without a pastor, the moderator appointed by the presbytery shall preside. If it is impractical for the pastor or the moderator of the session appointed by the presbytery to preside, he or she shall invite, with the concurrence of the session, another minister of the presbytery to preside. When this is not expedient, and when both the pastor or the moderator concur, a member of the session may be invited to preside. (G-1.0504)

VIII. Secretary

The clerk of session shall serve as secretary for the meeting. If the clerk is not present or is unable to serve, the congregation shall elect a secretary.

IX. Minutes of the Meeting

The minutes of the meeting recorded by the secretary shall be attested by the moderator and the secretary, recorded in the minute book of the session. (G-1.0505) It can then be posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

X. Quorum for the Meeting

The quorum of a meeting of the congregation shall be the moderator, the secretary, and one tenth of the active members, but under no circumstances shall it be fewer than one tenth of the active member of the congregation. The secretary shall determine that a quorum is present. Only active members may vote (G-1.0501), regardless of age. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

XI. Nominating Committee (G-2.0401)

The congregation shall form a nominating committee to identify candidate congregation members to become serving elders in the following manner:

- (1) There shall be at least five members on the nominating committee from the membership.
- (2) Two of the members shall be elders designated by the session, one of whom shall be currently serving on session and shall serve as moderator of the committee.

- (3) Three of the members, not persons currently serving on the session shall be nominated and elected at the annual meeting of the congregation.
- (4) Members of the committee shall be elected annually, and no member shall serve more than three years consecutively.
- (5) The pastor shall be a member ex officio and without vote.
- (6) The nominating committee shall bring to the congregation nominations only for the number of positions to be filled.
- (7) The floor shall be open for nominations at the annual meeting.

XII. Elders

The congregation shall elect six elders divided into three equal classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at the annual meeting for a three-year term. No elder shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. An elder having served a total of six years shall be ineligible for reelection to the session for a period of at least one year.

The session, at its first meeting following the annual meeting, shall elect an elder (serving or non-serving) to serve as clerk and shall form such committees as necessary to carry out its work. At that same meeting of the session, the session shall annually elect a treasurer. A quorum for the session shall be the pastor or other presiding officer and one third of the elders.

XIII. Vacancies

Vacancies on the session may be filled at a special meeting of the congregation or at the annual meeting, as the session may determine.

XIV. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended subject to the Articles of Incorporation, the laws of the state of Ohio and the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* by a two-thirds vote of the voters present, providing that the proposed changes in printed form shall have been distributed at the same time as the call of the meeting at which the changes are voted upon.