

**BYLAWS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF GLACIER
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

VISION STATEMENT

The Presbytery of Glacier as God's faithful people will serve as
disciples of Christ as empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Thus, the Presbytery of Glacier, as part of the Body of Christ, will
equip, renew and begin congregations for the ministry of the whole
Church by actively promoting:
A Passion for Christ!
A Passion for God's WORD!
A Passion for Youth!
A Passion for People!
A Passion for God's Work!

**ARTICLE 1
Authority of Bylaws**

The Presbytery of Glacier, being a particular presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), recognizes that the Constitution of said Church is, in all its provisions, obligatory upon it and its members.

**ARTICLE 2
Boundaries**

The Presbytery of Glacier is a corporate expression of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), consisting of all the churches and ministers of the Word & Sacrament within the counties of Blaine, Cascade, Chouteau, Flathead, Glacier, Hill, Lake, Lewis and Clark, Lincoln, Liberty, Mineral, Missoula, Pondera, Ravalli, Sanders, Teton, Toole, and that portion of Powell County that lies north of 46 degrees 40 minutes latitude Montana prime meridian, all in the state of Montana.

**ARTICLE 3
Membership**

Membership in the presbytery shall consist of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and elder commissioners, in numbers as equal as possible.

All ordained ministers enrolled by the presbytery as active members or members-at-large shall be voting members.

A commissioned lay pastor may be authorized by presbytery to have a voice and a vote in meetings of the presbytery (such vote to be counted as an elder commissioner for purposes of parity).

Each church in the presbytery shall be represented by at least one elder commissioned by the session to be a voting member, and enrolled by the presbytery at each of its meetings.

Membership is in accordance with *the Book of Order* (G-11.0101).

An elder holding office in the presbytery as moderator shall be a voting member of the presbytery for the duration of the term of such service. The remaining officers of presbytery will be non-voting members if not already a member.

When the number of resident ministers entitled to vote in the presbytery is greater than the number of elders so entitled, it shall redress this imbalance annually by providing for the election, appointment, or selection of additional elders, paying special attention to the concerns of G-9.0104. Presbyteries facing an imbalance due to a large number of resident honorably retired minister members may, by presbytery rule, use active participation of honorably retired members as a criterion in determining balance.

ARTICLE 4

Meetings of the Presbytery

The presbytery shall hold stated meetings not more than four times each year, at a time and place determined by the presbytery at its final stated meeting of the previous year, upon the recommendation of the presbytery Ministry Council.

Special meetings of the presbytery may be called under the terms and the conditions set forth in the Form of Government of the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Special meetings may be held by telephone conference call, or at a particular place, at the discretion of the stated clerk and the moderator; costs for such meetings may be assessed to the persons or congregations for whose benefit the meeting is called.

A quorum of the presbytery shall be any three ministers, and the elder members present, provided that at least three churches are represented by elders.

The first stated meeting of the year shall be the annual meeting. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be observed in the course of that meeting.

Elections to the offices of the presbytery, its council, ministry teams, and commissions shall take place at the final stated meeting of the presbytery with terms of office to begin January 1 of the next year, except as otherwise provided in the bylaws.

ARTICLE 5

Officers

The officers of the presbytery shall be a Moderator, Moderator-Elect (vice-moderator), a Stated Clerk, and a Treasurer.

Moderator

The moderator shall be elected and installed by the presbytery at the last stated meeting of the year and shall assume office January 1 of the new year. The moderator shall continue in office until a successor has been elected and installed. The moderator shall possess the authority and carry out the responsibilities of that office set forth in the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The moderator shall become the moderator of the Ministry Council the following year.

Moderator-Elect

The moderator-elect shall be elected and installed by the presbytery at the last stated meeting of the year and shall assume office January 1 of the new year, and shall serve in that office until a successor has been elected and installed. The moderator-elect shall carry out such duties as may be assigned by the moderator. In the event of the inability of the moderator to carry out required moderator responsibilities, the moderator-elect shall act for the moderator until the presbytery is able to elect a person to exercise the duties and privileges of that office. The moderator-elect shall become the moderator the following year.

Stated Clerk

The stated clerk shall normally be elected by the presbytery at the annual meeting at which the term of the incumbent expires, and shall assume office upon installation at the close of said meeting. The term of office shall be three years with no limit to the number of consecutive terms. The stated clerk shall possess the authority and carry out the responsibilities of that office set forth in the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The presbytery shall provide an assistant to the stated clerk, to be appointed by the stated clerk.

Treasurer

The treasurer shall normally be elected by the presbytery at the annual meeting at which the term of the incumbent expires, and shall assume office upon installation at the close of said meeting. The term of office shall be three years with no limit to the number of consecutive terms. The treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds for the presbytery according to the annual budget and such fiscal policies as may from time to time be established by the presbytery. The presbytery may provide an assistant to the treasurer, to be appointed by the treasurer. All persons with authority to receive and/or to disburse the funds of the presbytery shall be bonded in an amount sufficient to protect all the assets of the presbytery, said bond to be provided by the presbytery.

The offices of stated clerk and treasurer may be held by the same person.

ARTICLE 6 Ministry Teams

Ministry Council

The Ministry Council is the catalyst for ministry in the Presbytery of Glacier and functions as the trustees of the presbytery.

Mission: This ministry team is responsible for oversight of the mission and ministry of Presbytery of Glacier. Acting as the trustees, the Ministry Council is responsible for the budgeting process and promotion of mission giving to Presbytery of Glacier, Synod of the Rocky Mountains and Presbyterian Church (USA). The Ministry Council will act as presbytery between presbytery meetings as authorized by presbytery. It will plan and coordinate the regular meetings of presbytery. The personnel committee shall be a sub-committee of the Ministry Council. The personnel committee is composed of the moderator of presbytery, moderator-elect of presbytery and the moderator of Ministry Council.

Accountability: The Ministry Council is accountable to Presbytery of Glacier.

General Mission and Ministry Team

This is a standing ministry team of Presbytery of Glacier and its moderator is a voting member of the Ministry Council.

Mission: This ministry team is charged with coordinating a process of spiritual discovery for the formation of mission and ministry tasks, activities and projects for the congregations and the presbytery.

Accountability: The General Mission and Ministry Team is accountable to Ministry Council and ultimately to Presbytery of Glacier.

Leadership Development Committee

This is a standing ministry committee of Presbytery of Glacier and its moderator is a voting member of the ministry council.

Mission: This ministry team is charged with meeting the leadership needs and leadership development needs of Presbytery of Glacier and its congregations, and with tasks directly related to development and training of leaders in the presbytery. There also will be a separate communications ministry team responsible for serving as the presbytery's information and promotion conduit among its member churches, clergy, and the world beyond the Church.

Accountability: The Leadership Development Committee is accountable to Ministry Council and ultimately to Presbytery of Glacier.

Committee On Ministry

This is a required *Book of Order* Committee. Its moderator is a voting member of the Ministry Council.

Mission: This committee is charged to provide pastoral care, support and oversight of candidates, ministers of Word and Sacrament, commissioned lay pastors, and other church professionals. The functions and powers related to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the Committee on Ministry found in the *Book of Order* will be the responsibility of this committee. It will also provide for the care of congregations relative to their relationship with presbytery and ministers of Word and Sacrament within our connectional system of government. The membership, term limits and quorum shall be in accordance with the Form of Government of the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) G-11.0501b.

Accountability: The Committee on Ministry is accountable to Presbytery of Glacier.

Nominating Committee

This is a required *Book of Order* Committee.

Mission: Each presbytery and synod shall elect a nominating committee broadly representative of the member churches of the presbytery or presbyteries, with a membership of one third ministers of the Word and Sacrament, one third laywomen, and one third laymen. The composition of the committee shall be in accordance with in the Form of Government of the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) G-9.0801a.

The nominating committee, in concert with the Ministry Council and Leadership Development and Communication Ministry Team, shall nominate persons to fill all vacancies on continuing ministry teams (except the nominating committee), councils, boards, and other bodies that require election by the presbytery or synod. Consideration shall be given to the nomination of equal numbers of ministers of the Word and Sacrament, laymen, and laywomen (i.e., one third each), except that women elders and men elders shall be nominated to the committee on ministry to which presbytery functions may be delegated.

The nominating committee shall consult, at least annually, with the committee on representation of its own governing body.

Accountability: The Nominating Committee is accountable to Presbytery of Glacier.

Permanent Judicial Commission

This is a required *Book of Order* Commission.

Mission: This commission would be given those items assigned it in the Form of Government of the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The composition of the commission shall be in accordance with the Form of Government of the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) D-5.0100.

Accountability: The permanent judicial commission is accountable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Presbyterian Women

Its moderator is a voting member of the Ministry Council.

Mission: Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves: to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community for women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Accountability: The Presbyterian Women is accountable to Presbytery of Glacier.

Committee on Representation

This is a required *Book of Order* Committee.

Mission: This committee's main function shall be to advise the governing bodies with respect to their membership and to that of their committees, boards, agencies, and other units in implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness to ensure fair and effective representation in the decision making of the church.

The committee on representation shall serve both as an advocate for the representation of racial ethnic members, women, different age groups, and persons with disabilities, and as a continuing resource to the particular governing body in these areas. The committee on representation shall review the performance of its own governing body in these matters and shall report annually to it and to the next higher governing body with recommendations for any needed corrective action. The committee on representation shall consult with the nominating committee of its own governing body.

The composition of the committee shall be in accordance with the Form of Government of the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) G-9.0105.

Accountability: The committee on representation is accountable to Presbytery of Glacier.

Glacier Camp & Conference Center Ministry Board

Mission: (To be developed.) Its moderator is a voting member of the Ministry Council.

Accountability: The Glacier Camp & Conference Center Ministry Board is accountable to the Ministry Council.

All special/appointed committees (teams) of presbytery are accountable to the Ministry Council and ultimately to Presbytery of Glacier except when the presbytery directs differently.

ARTICLE 7 Indemnification

Each person who acts as an officer, employee, council or ministry team member, or as a trustee of the corporation of the presbytery, or as a member of an administrative commission, or as a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, whether elected by the presbytery or appointed by an officer of the

presbytery, shall be indemnified by the presbytery corporation for all sums which said person or persons may become obligated to pay, including fees of counsel, expense and court costs actually and necessarily incurred by said person or persons in connection with any action, suit, or proceeding in which said person or persons are made a party by reason of election or of appointment to any of the offices set forth above, except in relation to matters as to which said person or persons shall be adjudged in action, suit, or proceeding to be liable for bad faith or misconduct in the performance of duties as such officer, employee, member or trustee, in settlement of an action, suit, or proceeding based upon bad faith or misconduct in the performance of duties related to said election, employment, or appointment.

The right of indemnification provided herein shall be insured to each officer, employee, council or committee member, or as a trustee of the corporation, or as a member of an administrative commission, or as a member of the permanent judicial commission, whether elected by the presbytery or appointed by an officer of the presbytery, notwithstanding that said person or persons may be such an officer, employee, member, or trustee at the time said person or persons shall become obligated to pay such sums, and whether or not the claim asserted against said person or persons is based on matters which antedate the adoption of this article.

In the event of the death of persons or persons subject to the rights of indemnification set forth herein; said rights of indemnification shall be insured to said person or persons heirs, assigns, or legal representatives.

Each person who shall act as an officer, employee, council or ministry team member, or as a trustee of the corporation of the presbytery, or as a member of an administrative commission, or as a member of the permanent judicial commission, whether elected by the presbytery or appointed by an officer of the presbytery, 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 or persons may be entitled, under any bylaw, standing rule, agreement, vote of representatives, or otherwise.

The Ministry Council, acting as the trustees of the corporation of the presbytery 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 the reasonableness of any indemnity claimed under this article, and such determination shall be final and conclusive. If, however, a majority of the quorum of the Ministry Council which is unaffected by self-interest and willing to act is not obtainable, the Ministry Council may appoint from among the members of the presbytery a committee of three persons who are not members of the Ministry Council to consider and determine any such question; and the determination of said special committee shall be final and conclusive.

ARTICLE 8

Parliamentary Authority

All assemblies of the presbytery shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, except in those cases where the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church

(U.S.A.) provides otherwise. Nothing in these bylaws shall be construed to permit the presbytery to abrogate or waive any requirements of the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or the laws of the state of Montana.

ARTICLE 9
Amendments and Suspension

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the presbytery present and voting at any stated meeting of the presbytery, providing that notice in writing has been given at the preceding stated meeting.

These bylaws may be temporarily suspended at any stated meeting of the presbytery by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of the members of the presbytery present and voting except for amending the bylaws.

Approved by Presbytery
Revised and Approved by Presbytery

21 June 2003
6 February 2010