

BYLAWS OF UPPER OHIO VALLEY PRESBYTERY
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Adopted on January 24, 2009

(Note: citations in the format of "G-1.0000" refer to the *Book of Order*)

ARTICLE I: NAME

This presbytery shall be known as: Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery.

ARTICLE II: MEETINGS

- A. The presbytery shall ordinarily meet on the fourth Saturday of January at 9:30 a.m. which shall be the Annual Meeting of presbytery and at which the Lord's Supper shall be celebrated, on the fourth Tuesday of April at 6:15 p.m., on the fourth Tuesday of June at 6:15 p.m. (this meeting to be held either in an outdoor setting or an air-conditioned church), on the fourth Tuesday of September at 6:15 p.m. (this meeting to be held either in an outdoor setting or an air-conditioned church), and the third Tuesday of November at 6:15 p.m., except when the November meeting would be the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, then the November meeting shall be on the fourth Tuesday. Each church shall be represented by at least one elder commissioned by its session as prescribed in G-11.0101.
- B. Stated meetings shall be held in locations set by the presbytery, giving preference to centrally located churches. The Presbytery Council may decide the meeting place, if necessary.
- C. Special meetings may be called in accordance with G-11.0201.
- D. The stated clerk shall notify by mail and/or email each minister member of presbytery and each clerk of session of all congregations in the presbytery regarding the date and time of regular or special presbytery meetings, no fewer than ten days prior to the meeting.
- E. The committee on arrangements for presbytery meetings shall generally include the pastor of and an elder from the host congregation together with the moderator and the stated clerk of the presbytery. Others who may be invited to attend are the journal clerk, vice-moderator, and other representatives from the host congregation. If the meeting is not held at a church, the host institution shall be represented by one or two of its officers or leaders.
- F. Meetings of presbytery shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.
- G. Worship at stated and special meetings of presbytery shall ordinarily be under the direction of the Presbytery Council, which may assign it to a Worship Committee.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

The officers of the presbytery shall be moderator, vice-moderator, stated clerk, treasurer, journal clerk, enrollment clerk, and general presbyter. The stated clerk, treasurer, journal clerk, and general presbyter shall be paid the amount to be determined by the presbytery. Any elder duly elected as moderator of presbytery or to another office shall be enrolled as a member of the presbytery for the duration of his or her term of office. Elders elected as vice-moderator, chairs of standing committees, or members of the Presbytery Council shall be enrolled as members of presbytery for the duration of their terms.

A. MODERATOR:

1. The moderator shall have the duties as prescribed in G-9.0202a.
2. The moderator shall be elected annually by a majority vote at the November stated meeting. He or she shall be installed as moderator by the retiring moderator during the worship service at the annual meeting (refer to G-9.0202b, G-11.0101c).
3. The moderator shall not, during his or her term of office, be the chairperson of a committee or a task force of presbytery.
4. The retiring moderator shall serve as chair of Council for the year following his or her service as moderator of presbytery, starting with the January meeting. Following the one-year term as chair of

Council, he or she shall then serve as a member-at-large of Council for an additional term of one year.

B. VICE-MODERATOR:

1. The vice-moderator shall be elected annually by a majority vote at the November stated meeting (refer to G-9.0202b, G-11.0101c).
2. The duties of the vice moderator shall be those prescribed by the moderator, or in case of the absence or incapacity of the moderator, those designated by *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised*.
3. The vice-moderator shall be installed by the newly-installed moderator during the worship service at the annual meeting of presbytery.

C. STATED CLERK:

1. The stated clerk shall be elected at the November stated meeting for a term of five years beginning the following January 1st and shall be eligible for re-election.
2. In case of the resignation, death, or incapacity of the stated clerk, an interim clerk may be appointed by the moderator in consultation with the chairperson of the Nominating Committee and General Presbyter. The interim clerk shall serve until the stated clerk is able to resume office, or a successor is duly elected.
3. The stated clerk shall be accountable to presbytery through Presbytery Council.
4. Duties of the stated clerk shall be to:
 - a) give proper notice of the time and place of each meeting of the presbytery;
 - b) keep the permanent records of the presbytery;
 - c) handle all official correspondence and communication;
 - d) notify members of their appointment to presbytery responsibility;
 - e) make the required reports to the Synod and to the General Assembly;
 - f) have available for reference at each meeting of the presbytery the up-to-date constitutional and parliamentary guides;
 - g) edit and provide such reports and records as presbytery shall direct;
 - h) serve as secretary of the presbytery and the Presbytery Council;
 - i) serve as necrologist of the presbytery;
 - j) serve as resource person to the Committee on Ministry;
 - k) serve as resource person to the Stewardship Committee;
 - l) with the assistance of a working group, review annually the records of sessions.
 - m) in case of the resignation, death, or incapacity of the treasurer, the stated clerk shall serve as the interim treasurer.
 - n) with the moderator, appoint a substitute if the journal clerk is unable to serve.
 - o) serve as the corporation secretary for the presbytery.
5. The stated clerk shall annually appoint an enrollment clerk.

D. TREASURER:

1. The treasurer shall be elected at the November stated meeting for a term of five years beginning the following January 1st and shall be eligible for re-election.
2. In case of the resignation, death, or incapacity of the treasurer, the stated clerk shall serve as the interim treasurer. The interim treasurer shall serve until the treasurer is able to resume office, or a successor is duly elected.
3. The treasurer shall be accountable to presbytery through Presbytery Council.
4. Duties of the treasurer shall include those outlined in the current treasurer's position description in the presbytery's manual.

E. JOURNAL CLERK:

1. The journal clerk shall be elected annually at the November meeting of presbytery, installed by the

newly-installed moderator during the worship service at the annual meeting of presbytery, and shall be eligible for re-election.

2. The journal clerk shall:
 - a) keep a full and accurate record of each meeting of presbytery, and shall deliver a typed copy to the stated clerk as promptly as possible;
 - b) assist the stated clerk;
3. Should the journal clerk be unable to serve at any particular meeting, the moderator and the stated clerk shall appoint a substitute.

F. GENERAL PRESBYTER

1. The general presbyter shall, upon nomination by a General Presbyter Nominating Committee especially elected by the presbytery for that purpose, be elected for an indefinite term.
2. In case of the resignation or death of the general presbyter, an interim general presbyter may be employed by the Council upon the recommendation of an Interim General Presbyter Nominating Committee especially elected by the Council for that purpose. The interim general presbyter shall serve according to the terms of the interim contract.
3. The general presbyter shall be accountable to presbytery through Presbytery Council.
4. The general presbyter shall provide counsel and direction to all committees of the presbytery and its Council, and serve to help hold presbytery accountable to its mission and goals.
5. The qualifications for the general presbyter shall be as provided in the position description portion of the Presbytery Manual.
6. Responsibilities of the general presbyter shall be those necessary to accomplish the mission of the presbytery as expressed in the presbytery's mission statement. More specifically, the general presbyter shall:
 - a) Supervise all presbytery staff except the stated clerk, and participate in an annual evaluation process for all staff;
 - b) Serve as an ex officio member of Council (without vote);
 - c) Provide staff services to the Committee on Ministry;
 - d) Provide staff services to all presbytery committees as requested and as time permits;
 - e) Work to foster effective communication within the presbytery;
 - f) Be sensitive to the pastoral needs of church professionals and their families; providing pastoral care and counsel where appropriate, encouraging personal and professional health and development;
 - g) Be a resource to congregations for the nurture of effective ministry and mission;
 - h) Represent the presbytery through regular participation in the work of the Synod of the Trinity and regular attendance at General Assembly meetings;
 - i) Interpret to the presbytery the policies, programs, and decisions of the General Assembly and Synod;
 - j) Interpret the work of the presbytery to local churches and the general public;
 - k) Be available to worship and/or preach in local churches twice each month;
 - l) Shall serve as a board member of the West Virginia Council of Churches (see ARTICLE X A).

G. ENROLLMENT CLERK

The enrollment clerk shall be appointed annually by the stated clerk. The enrollment clerk shall prepare the attendance roll at each stated meeting of presbytery.

ARTICLE IV: PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

A. The voting members of the Presbytery Council shall be:

1. The moderator of presbytery.
2. The chair of Council, who shall be the retiring moderator from the previous year (ARTICLE III A 4). The chair of Council shall not serve concurrently as chair of a standing committee. If the chair of Council cannot serve for one or more meetings, the Council shall elect a chair from among its

members, with first preference going to at-large members.

3. The chair or co-chairs of the Committee on Ministry (or another member of the Committee on Ministry named by the committee chair(s) to represent him or her at any particular meeting), Congregational Nurture Committee, Stewardship Committee, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Mission Outreach Committee, Bills and Overtures Committee, Nominating Committee, and Training and Development Committee, and other persons as deemed necessary by the Council. Co-chairs shall share one vote at any particular meeting.
 4. The moderator or appointed representative of the Presbyterian Women of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery and the President of Presbyterian Men of the presbytery.
 5. The immediate past chair of Council shall serve an additional one-year term as a member-at-large. Two other ministers or elders shall be elected at-large for terms of three years. Nominations for members-at-large shall be made to keep balanced representation on Presbytery Council.
- B. The non-voting members of Presbytery Council shall be the stated clerk, treasurer, vice-moderator, Christian educator, and the general presbyter.
- C. Meetings: Council shall establish a schedule of stated meetings. The chair of Council shall call special meetings as needed, or at the request of two voting members of Council. If the chair is unavailable or unable to act, and the need for a special meeting of Council is brought to the attention of the moderator of presbytery or the stated clerk, that person shall call a special meeting. If the chair is not present at that meeting, the moderator of presbytery, the stated clerk, or one of the members calling a special meeting shall convene the meeting for the purpose of electing a temporary chair as provided in Article IV, Section A 2 of these Bylaws.
- D. The Presbytery Council shall nominate the chair and the next class of members of the presbytery Nominating Committee at the November meeting of presbytery;
- E. The Presbytery Council shall have the following responsibilities between meetings of the presbytery, reporting its actions at the next stated meeting of presbytery:
1. To fill, on a temporary basis, vacancies that occur on committees of presbytery, until those persons are confirmed at the next presbytery meeting;
 2. To approve the sale, mortgage, lease, or other encumbrance of real property of any congregation upon congregational approval and the recommendation of the session of that congregation, the approval of the Stewardship Committee and the Congregational Nurture Committee, and in the case of a sale of a manse, of the Committee on Ministry;
 3. Coordinate presbytery planning and functioning;
 4. Act for presbytery as necessary, and conduct business referred to it by the presbytery;
 5. Consider appeals for money;
 6. Correspond with Councils of presbyteries, Synod, and General Assembly;
- F. The Council shall be responsible for recommending places for meetings of presbytery.
- G. The Council shall appoint two of its members to serve on the Stewardship Committee's Budget sub-committee.

ARTICLE V: PRESBYTERY COMMITTEES

The permanent Committees and Commissions, etc., of Presbytery are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| A. Bills and Overtures Committee | H. Permanent Judicial Commission |
| B. Committee of Counsel | I. Committee on Preparation for Ministry |
| C. Evangelism Committee | J. Committee on Representation |
| D. Congregational Nurture Committee | K. Sexual Misconduct Response Team |
| E. Committee on Ministry | L. Investigating Committee |
| F. Mission Outreach Committee | M. Stewardship Committee |
| G. Nominating Committee | N. Training and Development Committee |

A. BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE

1. This committee shall have six members in two equal classes, equally divided between ministers and elders of the presbytery. Committee members shall be elected for a four-year term, and may be elected for one additional term. A member may not serve continuously for more than eight years.
2. It shall review overtures received from the General Assembly. It shall bring its recommendations to the presbytery at its January meeting.
3. It shall review overtures presented to presbytery and report on them at the meeting following their presentation. This will include overtures to the presbytery, synod, or general assembly.
4. It shall consider and present to the presbytery for action any proposed changes in these bylaws.

B. COMMITTEE OF COUNSEL

1. When informed by the stated clerk that the presbytery may be a respondent in a remedial case, this committee shall be appointed by the moderator and the chair of Council in consultation with the general presbyter and the stated clerk. This committee shall be composed of not more than three members in accord with the Rules of Discipline, D-6.0302. Should the presbytery be a complainant, the same method shall be used to select counsel. The presbytery shall be informed of the names of the committee members at the next regular or special meeting of presbytery.
2. A new Committee of Counsel shall be convened and oriented by the stated clerk and shall have authority to elect its own chair and secretary. The term of a Committee of Counsel shall be until its job is completed as specified in the *Book of Order*.

C. EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

1. This committee shall have nine members in three classes, including ministers and elders or lay persons, in as equal numbers as possible.
2. The responsibilities of this committee are described in the manual of the presbytery.

D. CONGREGATIONAL NURTURE COMMITTEE

1. This committee shall have no fewer than 12 members, of whom the majority shall be ministers and elders of the presbytery. The chairperson or co-chairpersons shall be a ministers or elder. Active church members who are not elders may serve on this committee.
2. The responsibilities of this committee are described in the manual of the presbytery.

E. COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

1. This committee shall have no fewer than 18 members, one half ministers and one half elders including the chairperson or co-chairpersons.
2. It shall have the specific responsibilities enumerated in G-11.0500.
3. It shall have the following authority as granted by the presbytery (G-11.0502h), and report its actions at the next stated meeting of presbytery:
 - a) to dissolve pastoral relationships in cases where the congregation and pastor concur,
 - b) to grant permission to labor within or outside the bounds of presbytery
 - c) to dismiss ministers to other presbyteries.

F. MISSION OUTREACH COMMITTEE

1. This committee shall have no fewer than 12 members, of whom the majority shall be ministers and elders of the presbytery. The chairperson or co-chairpersons shall be minister or elders. Active church members who are not elders may serve on this committee.
2. The responsibilities of this committee are described in the manual of the presbytery.

G. NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

1. This committee shall consist of nine members including the chairperson: three ministers of the Word and Sacrament, three lay women and three laymen in three classes, each class serving one

three-year term before becoming ineligible for reelection for one year. Members of the committee, in accordance with G-9.0800, shall be elected by the presbytery.

2. Nominations for members of this committee and its chairperson shall be presented to the presbytery by the Presbytery Council at the November meeting of presbytery and when a vacancy occurs.

H. PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The commission shall consist of nine members, ministers and elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible, with no more than one member of the commission from each congregation. It shall function according to the Rules of Discipline, Chapter IV, Section 1, (D-4.0100 - 4.0500).

I. COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY:

1. This committee shall have no fewer than six members including the chairperson or co-chairpersons. Membership shall be limited to ministers and elders of the presbytery, with at least half being elders.
2. This committee shall have the specific responsibilities enumerated in G-14.0400;
3. It shall have the following authority as granted by the presbytery (G-11.0103 I and G-14.0463), and report its actions at the next stated meeting of presbytery:
 - a) to enroll inquirers and candidates,
 - b) to dismiss inquirers and candidates,
 - c) to certify candidates ready for ordination.

J. COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION:

This committee shall consist of six members including the chairperson or co-chairpersons who shall be elected by presbytery in accordance with and shall fulfill the duties outlined in G-9.0105 and G-9.0106.

K. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RESPONSE TEAM

1. The Nominating Committee shall nominate eight persons who have agreed to serve as members of a Response Team. On notification by the stated clerk, the moderator of presbytery in consultation with the general presbyter and/or stated clerk, will be empowered to appoint a Response Team.
2. The duties and responsibilities of this committee are in the presbytery's Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedure Statement.

L. INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

1. This committee shall have at least nine members balanced between men and women and ministers and elders, with one or more members being an attorney with courtroom experience. On notification by the stated clerk, the moderator of presbytery in consultation with the general presbyter and/or the stated clerk, shall appoint at least three of the members to become an Active Investigating Committee in accord with D-10.0200, with the majority to be women or men as advised by the stated clerk.
2. A new Active Investigating Committee shall be convened by the stated clerk and shall have authority to elect its own chair and secretary. The term of an active Investigating Committee shall be until its job is completed as specified in the *Book of Order*.
3. Upon appointment of an Active Investigating Committee, the Nominating Committee shall prepare a new list of nominations to fill the vacancies created on the Investigating Committee. At the conclusion of their service on an Active Investigating Committee, the members shall be returned to the Investigating Committee if their terms have not yet expired.
4. After members of the Investigating Committee finish their terms, they shall be listed on the Standby Investigating Committee. The members of this committee can be called upon to serve in an investigation if there is a shortage of members on the Investigating Committee.

M. STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

1. This committee shall have no fewer than six members, including the chairperson or co-chairpersons. Membership shall be limited to ministers and elders of the presbytery, at least half of

whom shall be elders.

2. It shall be responsible for:
 - a) performing duties and responsibilities of the trustees of presbytery;
 - b) the general oversight over all financial matters of the presbytery and the financial review of the treasurer's records;
 - c) the oversight of the presbytery's loan funds and the investment of the funds thereof;
 - d) developing and monitoring resources and budget;
 - e) addressing personnel concerns of presbytery, including:
 - (1) oversight of all salaried staff;
 - (2) annual salary review for presbytery personnel;
 - (3) review of job performance and objectives of individual presbytery staff members;
 - (4) assist as mediator and counselor in the event of any personnel problems or conflict;
 - f) mission interpretation, stewardship education and endowment fund development in churches.
3. This committee, in concurrence with the Congregational Nurture Committee and in the case of the sale of a manse, with the Committee on Ministry, shall consider requests from congregations regarding the buying, mortgaging, or selling of property (G-8.0500) and shall recommend same to presbytery.
4. The stated clerk of the presbytery, treasurer, and general presbyter shall be ex-officio members without vote of the Stewardship Committee in addition to those elected by classes. The stated clerk shall be the corporate secretary of the presbytery.

N. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. This committee shall have no fewer than 18 members, of whom the majority shall be ministers and elders of the presbytery. The chairperson or co-chairpersons shall be ministers. Active church members who are not elders may serve on this committee.
2. The responsibilities of this committee are described in the manual of the presbytery.

ARTICLE VI: TASK FORCES

Task Forces with particular responsibilities may be established by the presbytery from time to time on recommendation of the Presbytery Council or of the appropriate committee.

ARTICLE VII: GENERAL MATTERS

- A. The chairperson or co-chairpersons of each committee shall be elected for a one-year term at the November meeting of presbytery and shall begin the term on the following January 1st, and shall be eligible for re-election as long as he or she is a member of the committee.
- B. If a member-at-large of Council or a committee shall have three consecutive absences, the Council or committee may declare the office vacant and request the Nominating Committee to propose a nominee to fill the unexpired term.
- C. Members of the presbytery committees shall be elected in three classes except as indicated below, the full term being three years with the eligibility for re-election to one succeeding three-year term. For the Nominating Committee, the three classes are elected for only one three-year term (see Article V. F. 1.). For the Bills and Overtures Committee, there are two classes of four years each, with eligibility for reelection to one additional term. The terms of all officers (except the general presbyter), Council members and committee members shall begin on January 1st. The term of the general presbyter shall begin at a time specified at his or her election to that office. The retiring moderator shall preside at the annual meeting until the new moderator is installed.
- D. Any committee member who is not a minister or elder has the right of the floor without vote at any regular or special meeting of presbytery.
- E. In addition to the responsibilities enumerated in these bylaws, all committees shall also have the responsibilities enumerated in the manual of the presbytery.
- F. Commissioned Lay Pastors shall have the privilege of the floor and vote (counted as elders) at all regular and special presbytery meetings.

ARTICLE VIII: QUORUMS

Quorums for the respective bodies shall be as follows:

- A. Presbytery: not fewer than three ministers and the elders present, provided that at least three churches are represented by the elders.
- B. Presbytery Council: a majority of its members, except that when dealing with ecclesiastical matters delegated by presbytery under the *Book of Order* the quorum is a majority of its minister and elder members.
- C. Committee on Ministry: a majority of its members.
- D. Permanent Judicial Commission: the number required by the *Book of Order*.
- E. Administrative Commissions of the presbytery: the number required by the *Book of Order*.
- F. All the other committees: one third of the members.

ARTICLE IX:

SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS AND YOUNG ADULT ADVISORY DELEGATES

A. COMMISSIONERS TO THE SYNOD AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

1. The number of commissioners shall be set by the formula adopted by the Synod and the General Assembly. Commissioners shall serve for two years beginning with the convening of the General Assembly meeting to which they were elected commissioner, or until the subsequent stated General Assembly convenes. The number of alternate commissioners elected by the presbytery shall be at least equal to the number of commissioners elected.
2. The election of synod commissioners shall be by presbytery at the November meeting as needed. They shall be elected for a three-year term and are eligible to succeed themselves for a second term. The election of General Assembly commissioners shall take place at the first November meeting of presbytery following a stated meeting of the General Assembly. The Nominating Committee, upon determination that all criteria have been met, shall place the ministers in nomination.
3. The Nominating Committee shall present the nominees as required. Nominations may be made from the floor. Election in case of a contest shall be by ballot and shall require a plurality vote.
4. Minister Commissioners to General Assembly: (two positions available)
 - a) A minister member of presbytery shall be nominated by either the session she/he moderates, any session if the minister member does not moderate a session, or by any standing committee of presbytery, and shall complete the form provided by the Nominating Committee of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery, and return the form to the presbytery office by September 1 following a stated meeting of the General Assembly.
 - b) In addition to the submitted information, the following factors shall be taken into consideration by the Nominating Committee.
 - i. The minister shall have been a member of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery for at least 24 months prior to election.
 - ii. The minister shall not have served as a General Assembly commissioner during the previous term of the General Assembly.
 - iii. The minister shall have attended seven out of ten of the stated meetings of presbytery over the previous two years prior to election.
 - c) The list of "five major issues facing the Church today," brief biography and brief statement of faith as completed by each candidate shall be published in the packet for the presbytery meeting at which the election takes place.
 - d) Nominations may be made from the floor if the candidate has agreed to serve if elected, is in compliance with these bylaws, and has copies of her/his brief biography and brief statement of

- faith and answers to the questions on the application form available to be distributed to the assembled commissioners.
- e) Voting shall be by ballot.
 - f) The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be the commissioners. The candidates receiving the third and fourth highest number of votes shall be the first and second alternate commissioners, respectively.
5. Elder commissioners to Synod:
- a) Elder nominees shall be those whose knowledge and skills will best fit the responsibilities of office.
 - b) Any elder whose session has failed, without accepted excuse, to be represented by an elder for more than one stated meeting of presbytery in the preceding 12 months ordinarily will not be eligible for nomination.
6. Elder Commissioners to General Assembly (two positions available)
- a) An elder shall be nominated by the session of the congregation of which she/he is a member and shall complete the form provided by the Nominating Committee of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery, and return the form to the presbytery office by September 1 following a stated meeting of the General Assembly.
 - b) In addition to the submitted information, the following factors shall be taken into consideration by the Nominating Committee.
 - i. The elder shall have served on a committee of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery.
 - ii. The elder shall have been active in the life of his/her congregation.
 - iii. The elder shall have attended four stated meetings of Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery in the previous two years prior to election.
 - iv. The congregation of membership of the elder shall not have had a General Assembly commissioner during the previous term of General Assembly.
 - c) The list of "five major issues facing the Church today," brief biography and brief statement of faith as completed by each candidate shall be published in the packet for the presbytery meeting at which the election takes place.
 - d) Nominations may be made from the floor if the candidate has agreed to serve if elected and is in compliance with these bylaws, and has copies of her/his brief biography and brief statement of faith and answers to the questions on the application form available to be distributed to the assembled commissioners.
 - e) Voting shall be by ballot.
 - f) The two candidates receiving the largest number of votes shall be the commissioners. The candidates receiving the third and fourth highest number of votes shall be the first and second alternate commissioners, respectively.
7. Questions and Answers during Election Process.
- a) All Nominees shall have the privilege of addressing the presbytery and the responsibility of responding to appropriate* questions from commissioners of the presbytery prior to the election.
 - b) Presbytery Commissioners shall have the privilege of asking appropriate* questions of the nominees prior to the election.
- *Appropriate questions are those which DO NOT seek (to discern) or determine the candidate's future position or vote.

B. ADVISORY DELEGATES TO THE SYNOD AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Advisory delegates as requested by the Synod or the General Assembly shall be elected by

presbytery at the November meeting.

2. Nominations shall be made by the Nominating Committee in consultation with the Training and Development Committee.

ARTICLE X: OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

A. WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The presbytery shall elect ministers and elders as nearly equal in number as possible to serve as its representatives to the West Virginia Council of Churches in the number and manner specified by the West Virginia Council of Churches' by-laws.

B. PRESBYTERIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The presbytery shall elect a minister or elder according to the plan of rotation for a term set by the plan to serve on the board of the Presbyterian Scholarship Fund. This person may be elected to a second term.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

- A. Any changes in the above rules made necessary by action of the General Assembly shall be made known to the presbytery by the stated clerk, and shall require the Bills and Overtures Committee to present to the next stated meeting of this presbytery amendments to the presbytery bylaws consistent with such General Assembly action.
- B. Any other proposal to amend these bylaws shall be presented in writing to a stated meeting of the presbytery for a first reading. Without debate, such a proposal shall be automatically referred to the Bills and Overtures Committee, which shall study the proposal and present it for action at the next stated meeting of presbytery and if adopted, it shall be effective at once, unless the amendment contains a provision delaying implementation to a later specific time.

ARTICLE XII: SUSPENSION OF RULES

Any rule of presbytery, unless it is also a part of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (*Book of Order*), may be suspended at any stated meeting by a three-fourths vote of members present and voting.

REVISED AND AMENDED:

November 19, 1985

January 25, 1986

June 24, 1986

April 28, 1987

January 12, 1988

June 27, 1989

June 25, 1991 (General revision - included name change)

November 19, 1991 (June meeting to be on Saturday)

January 25, 1992 (Non-minister non-elder chairs, certain committees; rights of same to floor)

April 27, 1993 (Christian Camping Committee replaced Joint Camp Committee)

June 26, 1993 (Permanent Judicial Commission changed from seven to nine members)

November 16, 1993 (Change in Council: MACC representative replaced by Presbytery's Convenor of Commissioners to Synod; change in electing synod commissioners to chose ministers and elders whose knowledge and skills best fit the responsibilities of office)

September 27, 1994 (effective January 1, 1995) (Reorganization of presbytery: most committees merged into units, change in the way of nominating and electing commissioners to General Assembly)

November 14, 1994 (Standby Special Disciplinary Committee added, Journal Clerk and Treasurer items edited)

June 24, 1995 (Changed Council's Budget Time-line to a single year plan)

January 27, 1996 (Added a procedure for appointing a Committee of Counsel)

June 22, 1996 (Added floor privilege for Commissioned Lay Preachers; also - effective July 5, 1996, changed Special Disciplinary Committee to Investigating Committee)

November 19, 1996 (Changed name, split Ministry Unit and Human Resources Unit into their respective committees, reduced certain unit sizes, changed Commissioned Lay Preacher to Commissioned Lay Pastor, replaced Administrative Committee with Stewardship Unit where not previously changed)

June 28, 1997 (Moved from Training and Development Unit to Council the responsibility for presbytery worship and to Committee on Ministry the responsibility for ordination and installation services)

September 23, 1997 (Added chair of Committee on Preparation for Ministry to membership on Council)

November 18, 1997 (Granted commissioned lay pastors the vote - counted as elders)

January 24, 1998 (Deleted requirement that General Assembly and synod elder commissioners be from churches that paid full per capita and supported denominational mission causes)

June 27, 1998 (Gave Council responsibility for considering requests for presbytery funds not already budgeted)

June 27, 1998 (Created Self Development of People Committee)

January 23, 1999 (Changed minimum number of members on Congregational Nurture Unit from 18 to 12)

September 28, 1999 (Confirmed current practice that the stated clerk is the corporate secretary of the presbytery)

September 26, 2000 (Removed committee job descriptions)

January 27, 2001 (Amended Council duties and meetings, Committee on Preparation for Ministry responsibilities)

June 23, 2001 (Presbytery Council responsibilities)

January 26, 2002 (Schedule of presbytery meeting dates)

November, 2004 (changed units to committees, clarified list of officers, revised process regarding Council chairperson, added treasurer and general presbyter, added Bills and Overture Committee, and other revisions)

September 22, 2007 (clarified role of Bills and Overtures Committee, clarified process of "first" and "second" readings for bylaws changes)

April 22, 2008 (changed day and time of September presbytery meeting, other changes to improve clarity of wording)

June 17, 2008 (added Evangelism Committee)

January 24, 2009 (changed Article IX on election of commissioners to General Assembly)