

MISSION PRESBYTERY BY- LAWS: STANDING RULES AND MANUAL OF OPERATIONS

STANDING RULES – (SR) General Preamble

Mission Presbytery affirms the following:

1. God calls people of various ages, talents, heritages, languages, and conditions into one body, the Church of Jesus Christ. The church comes together to:

RECALL the story of God’s actions in human history;
CELEBRATE God’s grace that incorporates us into that story;
EQUIP ourselves for ministry in the name of Jesus Christ;
SERVE by sharing God’s love, acceptance, and peace; and
WITNESS to the sovereign Power and Glory of God.

2. Mission Presbytery participates as a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and relates with other communities of faith.
3. Mission Presbytery offers a corporate witness of faith, justice, and compassion to persons, communities, and the world.
4. Mission Presbytery joins together persons and churches for spiritual growth, fellowship, and mission.
5. Mission Presbytery serves its churches through pastoral care and oversight of its congregations and church professionals, and by providing resources for congregational life and mission:

God’s grace, love, and justice for the Church.
God’s grace, love, and justice we proclaim to the world.

ARTICLE 1: ORGANIZATION

SR-A1.01: GENERAL PROVISIONS

01.1 Name

The name of this section of the Body of Christ shall be “Mission Presbytery, Inc.”

01.2 Denominational Membership and Bounds

Mission Presbytery shall be a member Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and consist of all the churches and ministers within its boundaries. Its boundaries shall be determined by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Synod of the Sun, within whose boundaries Mission Presbytery exists. The geographic boundaries of this Presbytery are the following: The Gulf of Mexico north from the junction with the Rio Grande River (Cameron County) to the west side of the Colorado River in Matagorda County; west and north along the Rio Grande River and including Val Verde County; and along a line at the western, northern or eastern extremities of these counties: Val Verde, Edwards, Kimble, Menard, McCullough, San Saba, Lampasas, Coryell (only Copperas Cove), Burnet, Williamson, Lee, Fayette, Lavaca, and Wharton and Matagorda Counties west of the Colorado River.

01.3 Incorporation

Mission Presbytery shall be incorporated under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act.

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01.4 Constitutional Basis

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall regulate the proceedings of this Presbytery. No rule shall violate the provisions of this Constitution.

01.5 Deed of Trust Provision

Churches are urged to include the following language in deed when purchasing real property: “The premises herein conveyed shall be used, kept, and maintained by the grantee for divine worship and other purposes of its ministry as a particular church belonging to Mission Presbytery or its legal successors, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or its legal successors.

SR-A1.02: OFFICERS

02.1 Classification

The officers of Mission Presbytery shall include (1) Moderator, (2) Moderator-Elect, (3) Chair of General Council, (4) Stated Clerk, (5) Temporary Clerks, (6) Treasurer, (7) Assistant Treasurer, and (8) Trustees.

02.2 Moderator

The Moderator will be elected at the annual stated meeting and will serve for one year or until succeeded. The Moderator assumes office on January 1 following election by Presbytery. In the absence of the Moderator, the Moderator present who was last in office shall be the Moderator of that meeting.

02.3 Moderator-Elect

The Moderator-Elect will be elected at the annual stated meeting one year in advance of installation to the office of Moderator. The Moderator-Elect is a member of General Council the first year, moderates Presbytery the next year, and then chairs General Council the third year as outlined in the Manual of Operations. In the absence of a Moderator-Elect to be nominated for the office of Moderator, the Nominations Committee will place a candidate in nomination.

02.4 Chair of General Council

The Chair of General Council will have served as moderator of Mission Presbytery the year prior to chairing General Council.

02.5 Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk is elected to a five-year term at the annual stated meeting where there is a vacancy. The Stated Clerk may succeed self. The duties are outlined in the Manual of Operations.

02.6 Temporary Clerks

Temporary Clerks shall be elected at the first session of each meeting of Presbytery upon nominations by the Stated Clerk. They will assist the Stated Clerk throughout the meeting of Presbytery.

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02.7 Treasurers

The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer shall be elected at each annual stated meeting of Presbytery for a term of one year. The Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer may succeed themselves. Their duties are outlined in the Manual of Operations.

02.8 Trustees

The Trustees shall be composed of 10 members, each one elected for a five-year term. No trustee may succeed self. The duties of the Trustees are outlined in the Manual of Operations.

SR-A1.03: ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

The Administrative Units of Presbytery are outlined in the Manual of Operations which establishes the rules for the internal organization, operating procedures, and interrelationship of the various office, agencies, divisions, and units of Presbytery between meetings and while in session.

ARTICLE 2: PROCEDURES

SR-A2.01: RULES OF ORDER AND PROCEDURES

01.1 Suspension of Standing Rules

Any Standing Rule of Presbytery, except that providing for the amendment of the Standing Rules, may be suspended for a particular meeting, or until the next stated meeting, by consent of two-thirds of the members present.

01.2 The conduct of Presbytery meetings shall conform to the requirements of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Standing Rules of Presbytery. When these do not apply or there is a contradiction, parliamentary procedure shall be guided by "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised."

01.3 New business may be introduced to Presbytery at any time, but items of a substantive nature, as determined by the Moderator, shall be referred without debate to the appropriate permanent unit of Presbytery for study and recommendation. Consideration of the business item shall take place at a subsequent stated meeting of Presbytery or as Presbytery shall otherwise direct.

01.4 When it becomes necessary for Mission Presbytery to appoint a Committee of Counsel (D-6.0302) or an Investigating Committee (D-10.0103 & D-10.0201), the Executive Presbyter, Moderator of Presbytery and Stated Clerk shall be authorized to appoint such committees.

SR-A2.02: MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY

02.1 **Three** Stated Meetings of Presbytery shall be held each year. The annual meeting begins ordinarily on the fourth Friday of October. Ordinarily the other two meetings begin on the first weekend in March and in the third week of June. Special meetings may be held as provided for in the Book of Order, G-11.0201, and in conformity with the Manual of Operations.

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02.2 Representation and Attendance

The Manual of Operations (MO) outlines the representation at meetings of presbytery to be:

Ministers – MO-A1.3000.3.1

Churches - MO-A1.3000.3.2

New Church Development - MO-A1.3000.3.3

Corresponding members - MO-A1.3000.3.4

Members of Presbytery Agencies and Program **Committees** - MO-A1.3000.3.5

Elder elected Moderator or Moderator-Elect of Presbytery - MO-A1.3000.3.6

Commissioned Lay Pastors - MO-A1.3000.3.7

Certified Christian Educators - MO-A1.3000.3.8

Youth Delegates - MO-A1.3000.3.9

Executive Presbyter, **and Associate Presbyter(s)**– MO-A1.3000.3.10

Every minister, unless honorably retired, Commissioned Lay Pastor and Certified Christian Educator along with Elders commissioned by Sessions of Presbytery congregations shall be required to attend every stated meeting of Presbytery.

02.3 Business Docket

The General Council as specified in the Manual of Operations will propose the business docket for each meeting of Presbytery.

SR-A2.03: AMENDMENTS

03.1 Standing Rules

The Standing Rules may be amended by a majority vote at each of any two successive stated meetings.

03.2 Manual of Operations

The Manual of Operations may be amended by a majority vote at any stated meeting.

03.3 Procedure for Amendment

Every proposed amendment, either to the Standing Rules or to the Manual of Operations, shall first be submitted to the General Council, which shall report to Presbytery its recommendation regarding the proposed change, together with a statement as to what specific provisions of the Standing Rules or of the Manual of Operations are involved and what effect the proposed change will have upon the previously approved policies of Presbytery.