

**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 teaching elders 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 be as listed in the Manual of Operations.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **Meetings of the Presbytery**

The presbytery shall hold stated meetings not less than three 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 Ministry Cabinet.

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 for any meeting of presbytery shall be nine teaching elders and nine ruling elders. Nine different congregations must be represented.

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.

Election to the offices of presbytery, its cabinet, committees, boards and commissions shall take place at the final stated meeting of the presbytery with terms of office to begin immediately after that meeting.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **Officers**

The officers of the presbytery shall be a Moderator, a 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 at the end of that meeting. 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 Cabinet the following year.

#### **Vice Moderator**

The vice moderator shall be elected and installed by the presbytery at the last stated meeting of the year and shall assume office at the end of that meeting, and shall serve in that office until a successor has been elected and installed. The vice moderator 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. Normally the vice moderator makes provisions for all worship services at presbytery meetings.

### **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 stated clerk will make sure that all electronic files are backed up and stored at a separate location from the clerk's office. The stated clerk will send presbytery minutes to the Presbyterian Historical Society at the end of each term of office. The presbytery may 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 Committee Structure of Presbytery**

All special/appointed committees, commissions, task forces, teams of presbytery are accountable to the Ministry Cabinet and ultimately to Presbytery of Glacier except when the presbytery directs differently.

### **Ministry Cabinet**

The Ministry Cabinet 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 Cabinet 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 Cabinet 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 Cabinet. The personnel committee is composed of three individuals

approved by presbytery which will exercise responsibility for the oversight of persons employed by the presbytery, including its officers, through the development of appropriate personnel policies, position descriptions, criteria for satisfactory performance, regular review and evaluation of performance, and recommendation to the presbytery requisite salary and allowances.

Ministry teams, task-forces, commissions or committees may be established by the Cabinet, to perform tasks consonant with the Presbytery's mission and program.

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

### **Committee On Ministry**

Its moderator is a voting member of the Ministry Cabinet.

Mission: The committee on ministry shall serve as pastor and counselor to teaching elders enrolled in the presbytery, commissioned ruling elders, and Certified Christian Educators; shall facilitate the relations between congregations, teaching elders, commissioned ruling elders, Certified Christian Educators and the presbytery; and shall settle difficulties in those relationships on behalf of the presbytery when possible and expedient. The specific responsibilities of the Committee on Ministry are those fully set forth in G-3.0307 of *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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

### **Nominating Committee**

Its moderator is a voting member of the Ministry Cabinet.

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 teaching elders, one third female ruling elders, and one third male ruling elders. 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-3.0111

The nominating committee shall nominate persons to fill all vacancies on standing committees (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 teaching elders and ruling elders.

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-5.0000.

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

## **Presbyterian Women**

Its moderator is a voting member of the Ministry Cabinet. If the moderator is a ruling elder, she is a voting member of presbytery.

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, regional areas, 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 with recommendations for any needed corrective action.

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-3.0103.

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

## **Glacier Presbyterian Center (GPC) Board**

Its moderator is a voting member of the Ministry Cabinet.

Mission: In a natural sanctuary we nurture Christian growth and hospitality.

The GPC Board shall act as overseers in areas of care of the Glacier Presbyterian Center to include operating within an approved budget, program development, and promotion of the camp, in concert with the camp staff.

Accountability: The GPC Board is accountable to the Presbytery of Glacier.

## **Electronic Meetings**

All ministry teams under Article 6 of these Bylaws may conduct meetings electronically when *Robert's Rules of Order* is applied whereby "the meetings provide, at a minimum, conditions of

opportunity for simultaneous aural communication among all participating members equivalent to those of meeting held in one room or area.” RONR (11<sup>th</sup> ed. p 97, 1 24-27

## **ARTICLE 7**

### **Indemnification**

Each person who acts as an officer, employee, cabinet, board, commission, committee or task force 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, cabinet, board, commission, committee or task force 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, cabinet, board, commission, committee or task force 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 Cabinet, 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 Cabinet which is unaffected by self- interest and

willing to act is not obtainable, the Ministry Cabinet may appoint from among the members of the presbytery a committee of three persons who are not members of the Ministry Cabinet 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 included in the presbytery packet for that particular meeting.

These bylaws may be temporarily suspended at any stated meeting of the presbytery by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the presbytery present and voting except for amending the bylaws.

*Approved by Presbytery*  
*Revised and Approved by Presbytery*  
*Revised and Approved by Presbytery*  
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*21 June 2003*  
*6 February 2010*  
*11 February 2011*  
*12 November 2011*