

Proposed bylaw change:

Suspend for six months the articles that deal with details of Boards and committees (Articles VII to XVII) and approve the following temporary substitute Article:

Church Council

Section A. Responsibility

1. The Church Council shall be responsible to the Church membership as a whole and shall meet regularly at stated times, but not less than once a month, summer excluded as desired.

Section B. Composition

1. The officers of this Church shall constitute the Church Council and shall, excluding the Pastor, be elected at the annual meeting of the Church and hold office until their successors have been elected.

- Pastor
- Chair
- Vice-Chair
- Clerk
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer
- The Chairs of the Ministries.

2. Term of Office

- The Chair, Vice-Chair, Clerk, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer shall be elected for a two year term.
- The Chairs of the Ministries shall be elected for a one year term.

3. Delineated Official Duties of Certain Unpaid Officers

- a) The Chair shall conduct all meetings of the Church and Church Council, work closely with the Pastor and other officers for the efficient and relevant operation of the total life of the Church, and represent the Church as its principal lay officer in all matters pertaining to the Church.
- b) The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair and become the Chair at the end of a two year term. The Vice-Chair shall focus on long range plans and opportunities to develop New Ministries.

- c) The Clerk shall have responsibility of all the record books of the Church, keeping accurate records of them; maintain a complete up-to-date record of the membership of the Church; call meetings of the Church as prescribed herein; issue letters of dismissal when requested and perform those other duties which belong appropriately to the office.

- d) The treasurer shall receive, hold and disburse all funds of the Church. This person shall be a member of the Finance Ministry, keep the accounts of the Church in suitable books, shall have custody of the seal of the Church and shall discharge all other duties properly pertaining to the office. All checks drawn shall be in the name of the Church.
 - The Treasurer shall make an annual written report of all financial church transactions.

 - In the absence or illness of the Treasurer, the chairperson of the Financial Ministry is authorized to sign checks and have access to the Safe Deposit Box.

- e) The Assistant Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer and fulfill duties of the Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer.

Section C. General Functions

1. It shall be the general function of the Church Council to consider the entire task of the Church, to correlate the work of the Ministries and to share with the Pastor responsibility for the overall well-being and direction of the Church.

2. The Church Council shall be the executive body of the Church between Annual, Quarterly, and Special Church Meetings, and shall act for the Church in all matters not specifically delegated to another Board or Committee except the following which shall require action by the congregation.
 - a. The call and dismissal of the Pastor.
 - b. The determination and change of salaries of paid staff.
 - c. The purchase, sale or transfer of any church property.
 - d. The final settlement of any questions pertaining to action by the Church Council.

Section D. Specific Functions

1. The Church Council shall receive all program recommendations, including the church budget. These program and budget recommendations shall be approved and

coordinated by the Church Council, and planned and administered by the respective Ministry, except as the Church Council may otherwise decide.

2. The Church Council shall present an annual budget to the congregation at its September Meeting for final approval.
4. The Church Council shall be responsible for the periodic review of the Church's by-laws and make recommendations thereto.
5. The Church Council shall assume responsibility for the Pastor's annual review.

Ministries

1. The Church shall have Ministries which focus on particular programs and functions of the Church.
2. These Ministries will have no less than three members who will meet as needed to perform their functions.
3. The following Ministries will be established. Names and specific functions will be more defined as the Ministries are developed:
 - a) Ministry of Spiritual Formation [formerly Religious Education]
 - Sunday School
 - Youth Programs
 - Young Adults
 - Adult Education
 - Mentoring Youth
 - b) Ministry of Fellowship [formerly Ways and Means]
 - Fellowship events
 - New fellowship Opportunities
 - c) Ministry of Caregiving [new Ministry]
 - Involvement
 - Prayer chain
 - Home visitation
 - Home visits
 - Specific Interest Programs
 - Guild
 - Membership
 - Hospitality

d) Ministry of Finance [formerly Trustees]

- Investments
- Budget development
- Financial Reports
- Fund Raising
 - Annual Appeal
 - Planned Giving

e) Ministry of Property [formerly Trustees]

- Buildings and grounds
- Green Initiatives

f) Ministry of Communications [new Ministry]

- Growth – Attract Outsiders
- Public Relations
- Internal Communications
 - Website
 - Spire
 - Blog

g) Mission Ministry [formerly Outreach]

- Community Service
- Worldwide Missions
- Interchurch Council
- Old Colony Council
- Mass. UCC

h) Worship Ministry [formerly Deacons]

- Music
- Liturgy
- Flowers
- Ushers/greeters
- Sacraments / Rites
- Special Services

i) Nursery School Ministry [new Ministry]

j) Staff Relations [new Ministry]

- Human resources
- Nominating