

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF STOCKBRIDGE SOCIETY BYLAWS –
Voted January 28, 2007

I. Purpose and Founding

The First Presbyterian Church of Stockbridge Society hereinafter referred to as “the church” is called by God.

for the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
for the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
for the maintenance of divine worship;
for the preservation of the truth;
for the promotion of social righteousness;
and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

We are so named in our civil certificate of incorporation and in the minutes of the organizational service of April 25, 1901. By Michigan statute, the active members constitute the corporation for temporal business as well as the congregation for ecclesiastical business.

II. Relationship and Governance

This particular church is a member of the Presbytery of Lake Michigan in the Synod off the Covenant of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

It shall be governed in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Consistent with that “constitution”, these bylaws shall provide specific guidance for the congregational and corporate life of this church. Robert’s Rules of Order shall be used for parliamentary guidance.

III. Meetings of the Church

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the congregation on the last Sunday in January in one of the church buildings designated in the call unless another time is ordered by the Session for cause.....at which the congregation may transact any business properly coming before such a meeting including the receiving of reports of all boards, committees, and organizations for information and the electing of at-large members of the Nominating Committee. The Presbyterian Women shall announce their representative to the Nominating Committee. Figures for the next year’s budget shall be brought for the advice of the congregation and compensation of all called clergy shall be voted.

There shall be a meeting of the congregation the second Sunday of November, again with the places in the church buildings designated in the call. Session may change the date for cause.

At this meeting, the congregation will hear the report of the Nominating Committee proposing names for vacancies on the Session and Board of Deacons, terms of office to begin January first unless installations be deferred by Session for cause. Session shall report the names of the Treasurer, Financial Secretary, and Memorial Fund Secretary. Other business properly coming before such meeting may be transacted.

Meetings of the congregation shall be called by the Bylaws, by the Session, by the Presbytery, or by the Session when requested in writing by one-fourth of the active members.

IV. Notice and Voting

Public notice of the time and purpose, as of the exact place, of the meetings shall be given in the newsletter or other mailing in addition to written notice in the bulletins for worship the two Sundays preceding the actual meeting.

All those on the active roll of the church may vote in such meetings.

Proxy ballots are disallowed.

When more names are in nomination than there are vacancies, the congregation shall vote by secret ballot.

V. Conduct

All meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer.

A quorum shall consist of the Moderator, Secretary, and not fewer than twenty active members.

The Moderated voted Presbytery shall preside unless it be impractical, in which case he or she shall invite, with the concurrence of the Session, another minister of the Presbytery to preside. Under circumstances set out in the Form of Government the Moderator and Session can concur in inviting a member of Session to preside.

The Clerk of Session shall be the Secretary of meetings of the congregation. If the Clerk be unable to serve, congregation shall elect a Secretary.

Session shall read, correct, and approve the minutes at the next stated Session meeting, placing them in the Minute Book of the Session. The Moderator and Secretary shall attest to the minutes.

VI. Organization

There shall be nine elders on Session, divided into three classes of three each, one class being elected each year for a term of three years.

There shall be nine deacons on the Board of Deacons, divided into three classes of three each, one class being elected each year for a term of three years.

No person shall serve on either board for full or partial terms aggregating more than six years, but shall be ineligible for one year after six years.

A Deacon or Session member having three consecutive absences from meetings, without cause, constitutes an automatic resignation.

VII. Nominating Committee

There shall be a representative Nominating Committee to bring one nomination only for each office to be filled.

Nominations of any active member may be made from the floor.

The Nominating Committee shall consist of two elders designated by Session, at least one of which shall currently be on Session and shall preside. One member shall be designated by and from the Board of Deacons. One member shall be designated by the Presbyterian Women. Three shall be elected from the congregation, none of whom may currently be on either board, although they may be members of the Presbyterian Women. Terms shall be for one year. No elected member shall serve more than three years without vote. To insure that the committee be representative, it shall bring nominations for its own at-large members to the Annual Meeting, the Women, Session, and Deacons having designated their representatives.

VII. Adoption and Amendment

These Bylaws, including any amendments as original provisions, shall be in effect as of the Annual Meeting of 2007 upon a vote of two-thirds of those present.

Amendment shall be by two-thirds vote and shall be added, with date of adoption, to the text with appropriate note in the margin at the point of amendment.

These Bylaws, and any subsequent amendments, shall be available in worship and the church office during regular office hours at least two Sundays before the meeting called for adoption.