

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BYLAWS IN COMPARISON WITH CURRENT BYLAWS

July, 2007

Organization of the Documents

Current Bylaws	Proposed Bylaws
Article I. Name and Affiliations	Article I. Identity
Article II. Purpose, Aims, and Functions	Article II. Mission and Purpose
Article III. Membership	Article III. Membership
	Article IV. Covenantal Relationships
Article IV. Meetings of the Membership	Article V. Meetings of the Members
Article V. Conference Officers	Article VI. Officers
Article VI. Board of Directors	Article VII. Conference Council
Article VII. Conference Minister	Article VIII. Conference Minister
Article VIII. Conference Commissions	Article IX. Conference Organization for Mission and Ministry
Article IX. Committees of the Conference	
Article X. Finances and Notices	
Article XI. Parliamentary Authority	
	Article X. Dissolution of the Corporation
Article XII. Amendments and Revision	Article XI. Amendments of these Bylaws

Things that are new in the Proposed Bylaws

- Conference Covenant (Article IV)
- President's authority to refer Special Meeting items directly to Annual Meeting if within 120 days of Annual Meeting (Article V. Section 2)
- To responsibilities of Conference Council: (Article VII. Section 2)
 - lead the Conference periodically in developing a vision for future ministry directions
 - strategize, plan, and set goals for the Conference to achieve its vision
 - hold the ministerial standing of Authorized Ministers in the Conference
- Indemnification (Article VII, Section 8)
- Ministry Networks (Article IX, Section 6)
- Dissolution of the Corporation (Article X)

Changes in the Organization of the Conference

Annual Meeting affirms (rather than elects) leaders

Board of Directors renamed to *Conference Council*

The organization of the Conference becomes more agile with only three groups named explicitly in the Bylaws (*Committee on the Ministry, Committee for Recruitment of Conference Leaders, and Audit Committee*). The Conference Council is charged with establishing committees, boards, and project teams as necessary “to remain faithful to its responsibilities while organizing for action, focusing its energies, and continually developing the Conference’s sense of vocation while making effective use of the gifts of all the members of the Conference for the good of all.”

Things that will be moved from current Bylaws to “Standing Rules of the Annual Meeting”

- Adjourned Meetings (Article IV. Section 1. D)
- One vote per delegate; delegate must be present to vote (Article IV. Section 2)
- All elected take office at close of Annual Meeting (Article IV. Section 4. A. 2. d)
- Voice without vote for program staff, chairpersons (Article IV. Section 5. A)
- All members of Local Churches have privilege of the floor; guests and visitors may be granted privilege of the floor (Article IV. Section 5)
- Duties of Moderator and Vice-Moderator (Article V. Section 2)
- Conference Council determines location, time, and registration fee for meetings (Article VI. Section 3)
- Person may hold only one appointed position (excluding General Synod delegate) at a time and except for Conference Minister may not be employee (Article VIII. Section 4. B. 3)
- Election process (Article VIII. Section 4. B. 4.)

Things that will be moved from current Bylaws to “Standing Rules of the Conference Council”

- Procedure for removal of member of Conference Council (Article IV. Section 2. C.)
- Secretary to record and convey policies; maintain permanent policy manual (Article V. Section 4. D. 4)
- Secretary to send notice of meetings of Board, executive committee, and groups (Article V. Section 4. D. 5)
- Establish and maintain rules for Conference Council, Officers, and groups (Article VI. Section 3. B. 4)
- Duties of President, Vice-President, Treasurer (Article VI. Section 4. D.)
- Conference Council meetings to be held at least quarterly with ten day reminder (Article VI. Section 6. A)

- President, et. al., may call special meetings of the Conference Council (Article VI. Section 6. B)
- Quorum for meetings of the Conference Council (Article VI. Section 6. C)
- Voting by mail or phone (Note: need to add electronic voting) (Article VI. Section 6. D)
- Courtesy seats on the Conference Council (Article VI. Section 6. E)
- Rules for Executive Committee (Article VI. Section 7)
- Establish standing committees of the Conference Council (Article VI. Section 8)
- Fiscal Year (Article X. Section 5)

Things from the current Bylaws that have been omitted

- Fall Meeting (Article IV. Section 1. B. & Section 4. B)
- Fifty percent of delegates must be lay delegates (Article IV. Section 3. 2)
- Communion at Annual Gathering (Article IV. Section 4. A. 3)
- Moderator chairs Annual Meeting Planning Committee (Article V. Section 4. A. 3)
- Vice-Moderator is a member of Personnel Committee (Article V. Section 4. B. 6)
- Effect of reducing size of Conference Council (Article VI. Section 2. B)
- Authorize officers or agents to act on behalf of Corporation (Article VI. Section 3. B. 3)
- Select a depository for Corporation funds (Article VI. Section 3. B. 6)
- Ecumenical representatives (Article VI. Section 3. B. 12)
- Conference Council acts as Association where none exists (Article VI. Section 3. B. 16)
- Conference Council performs all other duties of Bylaws and ensure others perform respective responsibilities (Article VI. Section 3. B. 17)
- Associate members will regularly attend Conference Council meetings (Article VI. Section 5. E)
- Internal organization and workings of Board of Directors (Article VI. Sections 7 & 8)
- Conference Minister provides coordination, staff support, and services to the Conference Council and Committees (Article VII. B)
- Conference Minister enables fulfillment of Conference objectives (Article VII. B)
- Committee Membership must include 25% who are age 25 or younger when appointed (Article VIII. Section 2. C)
- Committees are accountable to the Conference Council (Article VIII. Section 3 & Article IX. Section 3)
- Details about organization of the Conference (Articles VIII and IX)
- Bonding of employees and others selected by Conference Council (Article X. Section 2)
- Fellowship Dues (Article X. Section 4)
- Validity of mailed notices (Article X. Section 6)

Reconceptualizing the Ministries

Nominating Commission changed to *Committee for Recruitment of Conference Leaders*, which is named in the Proposed Bylaws

Church and Mission Commission continues through *Overview Board for Justice and Witness* established by *Conference Council*

Parish Life and Work Commission continues through *Overview Board for Faith Enhancement and Leadership Development* established by *Conference Council*

Stewardship and Interpretation Commission continues through the work of the *Associate Conference Minister for Stewardship and Finance* and the *Communications and Constituencies Working Group* of the *Conference Council*

Youth and Young Adult Commission continues as the *Outdoors Ministries Committee* established by *Conference Council* as well as through the *Youth Leaders Ministry Network*

Administration and Finance Committee continues through the *Asset Management and Development Working Group* of the *Conference Council*

Conference Meeting Planning Committee continues as a committee established by the *Conference Council*

Committee on the Ministry continues in the Proposed Bylaws

Ecumenical Concerns Committee may continue as *Ecumenical and Interfaith Concerns Ministry Network*

History Committee continues as a committee established by the *Conference Council*

New Church Development Committee continues through *Committee on the Ministry Section C* as well as the *Church Formation and Transformation* sustaining ministry