

# **Bylaws of the Peace Presbyterian Church**

**Approved at the Congregational Meeting of March 6, 2016**

## **I. Statement of Purpose or Mission**

The Peace Presbyterian Church of Winterville has been called by God and organized to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to minister to the needs of members of the congregation and residents of the community, and to promote peace and justice in the world.

## **II. Relation to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

The Peace Presbyterian Church is a member church of the Presbytery of New Hope in the Synod of Mid-Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

## **III. Governance of the Church**

This church shall be governed in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Consistent with that Constitution, these bylaws shall provide specific guidance for this church. The latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised) shall be used for parliamentary guidance.

## **IV. Meetings of the Congregation**

There shall be an annual meeting of the congregation in the church building during the first six weeks of the calendar year at which at least the following business shall be presented: annual reports from organizations and the session (information only), end-of-year financial report for the preceding year, budget for the current year (information only), and review and changes in the terms of call for the pastor(s).

Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the session, presbytery, or when  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the active members makes the request in writing. Such calls shall state clearly the purpose of such special meetings and business shall be restricted to that which is specified in the call.

## **V. Moderator and Secretary of the Meeting**

The pastor shall moderate meetings of both the session and the congregation. If there are co-pastors, they shall alternately preside at meetings. When the church is without a pastor, the moderator appointed by the presbytery shall preside. If it is impractical for the pastor or the moderator of the session appointed by the presbytery to preside, he or she shall invite, another minister of the presbytery to preside. The clerk of session shall serve as secretary. If the clerk is not present or is unable to serve, the congregation or session shall elect a secretary for that meeting.

## **VI. Notice of Meetings**

Proper notice of meetings of the Congregation shall be given in print in the bulletin, via electronic media, and from the pulpit on two consecutive Sundays prior to the meeting.

## **VII. Minutes of the Meeting**

The minutes of a meeting of the congregation, shall be recorded by the secretary and attested by the moderator and the secretary. These minutes may be approved by the session at its next regular meeting. The minutes are recorded in the minute book of the session. The minutes of a meeting of the session shall be recorded by the clerk of session and approved with any corrections by the session at its next regularly stated meeting.

## **VIII. Quorum for the Meeting**

The quorum of a meeting of the congregation shall be the moderator, the secretary, and 15% of active members. The quorum of a meeting of the Corporation shall be consistent with the laws of the state of North Carolina, and 10% of active members. The secretary shall determine that a quorum is present. Only active members may vote, regardless of age unless restricted by civil law. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

### **IX. Incorporation**

In accordance with the laws of the state of North Carolina, the congregation shall cause a corporation to be formed. Consistent with the laws of this state, both ecclesiastical and corporate business may be conducted at the same meeting of the congregation.

### **X. Nominating Committee of the Congregation**

The purpose of the nominating committee is to nominate individuals for election by the congregation to serve as ruling elders and deacons. Formed by the congregation, the committee shall consist of at least three active members of the congregation not currently serving on the session plus at least one ruling elder currently serving on the session. The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote.

Members of the committee shall be elected annually, and no member shall serve more than three years consecutively. The nominating committee shall bring to the congregation nominations only for the number of positions to be filled as recommended by the session. When elections are held, full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. A majority of all the active members present and voting shall be required to elect.

### **XI. Terms of Service**

Ruling elders and deacons shall be elected to serve terms of no more than three years and may be eligible for reelection according to congregational rule. However, no ruling elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years, and a ruling elder or deacon who has served six consecutive years shall be ineligible for election to the same board for at least one year. Election shall be to classes as nearly equal in number as possible, with the term of only one class ending each year. Vacancies for positions of ordered ministry may be filled at a special meeting of the congregation or at the annual meeting, as the session may determine.

### **XII. The Session**

The session is the council for the congregation made up of at least twelve ruling elders elected by the congregation together with all installed pastors and associate pastors. Meetings of the Session shall occur monthly at a time and schedule convenient to the session. The session, at its first meeting of the year, shall elect an elder to serve as clerk of session for the period of one year and shall form such committees as necessary to carry out its work. At that same meeting of the session, the session shall elect a treasurer to serve for a period of one year. A quorum for a stated meeting of the session shall be the pastor or other presiding officer and 50% of ruling elders currently serving on the session. A quorum for a called meeting of the session shall be the pastor or other presiding officer and 25% of ruling elders currently serving on the session.

### **XIII. Deacons**

The congregation shall elect a sufficient number of deacons, as recommended by the session, to be individually commissioned to serve the needs of the congregation as directed by the session. No deacon shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. A deacon having served a total of six years shall be ineligible for reelection for a period of at least one year.

### **XIV. Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended subject to the Articles of Incorporation, the laws of the state of North Carolina and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by a two-thirds vote of the voters present, providing that the proposed changes in printed and electronic form shall have been distributed at the same time as the call of the meeting at which the changes are voted upon.

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Moderator of Session

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Clerk of Session