

Proposed Standing Rules Revisions: 2008

Version May 13, 2008

- ✍ The attached Standing Rules represent a complete rewriting of the Standing Rules last fully revised in 1997. Due to the extent of the rewrite, “strike and insert” format was not used; a copy of the 1997 (and its revisions) version is available for comparison upon request.
- ☞ This document anticipates the work being done in several committees of the presbytery as well as the work of The Odyssey Group (charged with complete review of the presbytery’s vision, mission, culture, and structures/systems).
- ☞ This document will be consistent with both the present Form of Government of the PCUSA or with the proposed Revised Form of Government.

Major Changes:

- ➔ The section on Committees and Structures has been removed. It has been replaced with some general functions—but leaves the system for accomplishing mission of the presbytery flexible enough to be adjusted as needs, priorities, values, strategies, and visions change. It calls for “...*such program, mission, and administrative groups as the presbytery shall from time to time determine are necessary to carry out its vision for mission.*” In addition, individuals serving the above will not have definite terms of service. [See most especially Section 10]
- ➔ The sections of the existing Standing Rules related to committees and structures will continue at least until the end of 2008.
- ➔ Most **Policies** and **procedures** have been deleted from the Standing Rules and will be included in a Policy Manual. This includes policies related to controversial issues, Board of Pensions, election of GA commissioners, endowment, etc.
- ➔ Where possible, the Form of Government is allowed to articulate the point rather than repeating/quoting it in the Standing Rules.
- ➔ These Standing Rules essentially eliminate “paper/mailling” and move to “**electronic transfer of information**”.
- ➔ The Standing Rules maintain the permitted **delegation of responsibilities & authority** to Council, COM, and CPM.
- ➔ Moderator of Presbytery becomes Moderator of Council following their year as Moderator of Presbytery.
- ➔ Stated Clerk and Executive Presbyter elected for a term of **up to** five years.
- ➔ Specific terms of Executive staff eliminated.

- Committees and other groups may **co-opt members**, not necessarily ordained.
- Council's function will largely be dependent on the vision for mission adopted by presbytery.
- Creates options for Budget preparation process—but moves timing up to parallel congregational budgeting process. Budgets will ideally reflect Vision for Mission as well as give it substance.
- Pivotal to the “ethos” of the document is section preceding 10.1:
“ONLY AFTER DETERMINING WHAT IS MOST NECESSARY FOR BRINGING ITS *VISION FOR MISSION* INTO BEING AND ALLOCATING TO THOSE PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES HUMAN AND OTHER RESOURCES ADEQUATE FOR THE TASK (STRATEGIC PLAN), WILL PRESBYTERY SEEK TO FULFILL MANDATES AND RESPONSIBILITIES ASSIGNED TO IT FROM OTHER SOURCES.”

The emphasis now will be on the “mission of the presbytery” and allocating resources accordingly. Mission will drive structure and budgets rather than organization driving mission. If we don't know why we're doing it, or don't believe it is worth doing, we won't do it.

→ **Diversity and representation** are “relational” rather than “regulatory”. “Consistent with the Constitution, the Nominating Committee and all program, mission, and administrative groups shall seek to reflect the diversity of races, ages, and cultures in this presbytery. All groups shall seek a balance between male and female, minister and elder, and geographical representation.”