

3/3/2023

1988 Bylaws

Article I. Name: Dropped as name is stated in the Constitution.

Article II. Membership: Continued with changes in new Article II Membership.

Article III. Services and Meetings of the Congregation: Split into new Article III. Worship and Article IV. Meetings of the Congregation

Article IV. Organizations of the Congregation: This has been dropped with the four "organizations" moved elsewhere. Nominating Committee is part of Article V. Governance, Senior Pastor Search Committee is part of Article VII. Pastors and Staff, Delegates to KS-OK Conference is part of Article IV. Meetings, and Pastor-Parish is part of Article V. Governance.

Article V. Officers: This has become part of an expanded Article V. Governance.

Article VI. Council: This has become part of an expanded Article V. Governance with significant changes.

Article VII. Salaried Staff: Mostly moved to new policy book with brief language in new Article VII. Pastors and Staff.

Article VIII. Church Boards: Significant changes and now in new Article VI Ministries.

Article IX. Endowment Fund and Planned Giving Committee: Now part of Article V. Governance and its policies.

Article X. Amendment of Bylaws: Now Article VIII.

Article XI. Adoption: Dropped. Not considered part of Bylaws, handled now by signature of Clerk and date of adoption. Amendments will be tracked with each section added, deleted, or changed.

Proposed 2023 Constitution & Bylaws

(See full report for more on these proposed changes.)

Constitution: Clarifies Council as the governing body. Stylistic changes and clarifies Bylaws approval and amendment process.

Article I. Mission: This is new and uses the first line of our Covenant as our mission.

Article II. Membership: Changes are mostly ones of style but:

- Clarifies the creation of membership rolls as this is used for voting purposes.
- Drops use of "Active" and "Associate" as membership categories. You are either a member or you are not. You can be put on inactive status and then lose your right to vote.
- Clarifies process for inactive status and termination of membership.

Article III. Worship: Allows the Senior Pastor to call off worship if found to be "impractical" (e.g., weather). Slightly changed language to have Senior Pastor making decisions "in consultation with" Deacons instead of it being a joint decision.

Article IV. Meetings of the Congregation: Primarily stylistic and layout changes. One substantive change is taking language requiring an annual report of the state of the church from the Annual Meeting to a duty of the Moderator later in the Officers section. This is to allow greater flexibility on the compilation and production of what the annual report has become. There will still be the budget and reports from the Moderator and Pastor, just not "The" annual report.

Article V. Governance: Significant changes here. Council has been reduced from 17 or 18 voting members to 10. Stewardship and Council have been blended into one functioning governing body. Also, the concept of "Policies" is explained and expanded.

Article VI. Ministries: Significant changes here. Boards have been transformed into Ministries more focused on "doing" and less on "meeting." These will be staff directed to reflect actual current practices. Most language is found in accompanying proposed policies to allow flexibility as Plymouth continues to evolve.

Article VII. Pastors and Staff: Language regarding Pastors from various parts of current Bylaws has been brought together in one article. Some substantive changes clarifying the Senior Pastor's role as Chief Executive Officer.

Article VIII. Amendment of Bylaws: Same as before excepting deferring to language in the Constitution to avoid confusion.