

BYLAWS OF GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, INC.

All prior bylaws and amendments revoked and the following articles adopted as of --/--/2019 (meeting set for June 16, 2019)

I. Statement of Mission

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church celebrates God's unbounded grace and all-inclusive love. God gathers us in a welcoming community with our curiosity and questions to worship creatively, learn from God's Word, share our gifts, and deepen our faith. With grateful hearts and a spirit of adventure, we go to serve Christ in the world, sharing kindness with everyone and working for justice rooted in God's love.

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

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church is a member church of Heartland Presbytery in the Synod of Mid-America 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 and subject to that *Constitution*, these bylaws shall provide specific guidance for this church. *Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised)* shall be used for parliamentary guidance.

IV. Meetings of the Church

There shall be an annual meeting of the congregation ordinarily held on the last Sunday in January, at which at least the following business shall be presented: annual reports from teams, the board of deacons, and the session (information only); financial report for the preceding year; budget for the current year (information only); changes in the terms of call for the pastor(s); nominating committee report for church officers (G-1.0501); and election of members to serve on the nominating committee.

Special meetings may be called by the session or by the presbytery, and must be called by the session in response to a request by one quarter of the members (G-1.0502). Such calls shall state clearly the purpose of such special meetings, and business shall be restricted to that which is specified in the call. (G-1.0501)

Special meetings may be conducted in segments during regularly scheduled worship services held within the same week provided that (i) the aggregate attendance at all services

forming a single special meeting by members not having voted previously in the same special meeting constitutes a quorum as provided in section IX, (ii) members attending more than one service vote only once, and (iii) the vote at all services conforms to the same result. If the vote at any service differs from that of any other service, the vote of the segmented special meeting shall be declared void by the session and a consolidated special meeting shall be called with specific notice to include an election upon the same matter.

V. Notice of Meetings

Meetings shall be announced by public notice to the congregation at regular services of worship on at least three successive Sundays, the last of which may be the date of the noticed meeting. (G-1.0502)

VI. Moderator

An installed pastor shall moderate meetings. If one is unable to preside he or she shall invite another member of the presbytery to serve. Otherwise, the presbytery shall make provision for a moderator. (G-1.0504)

VII. Secretary

The clerk of session shall serve as secretary at annual and special meetings. If the clerk is not present or is unable to serve, the congregation shall elect a secretary.

VIII. Minutes of the Meeting

The minutes of the meeting recorded by the secretary shall be attested by the moderator and the secretary, approved by session at its next regular meeting, and recorded in the minute book of the session (G-1.0505)

IX. Quorum for the Meeting

The quorum of a meeting of the congregation shall be the moderator, the secretary and no less than one-tenth of the members of the congregation. Consistent with the laws of the state of Kansas, a quorum shall be at least one-tenth of the members on corporate matters. The secretary shall determine that a quorum is present. All members of the congregation present at either annual or special meetings are entitled to vote. (G-1.0501)

X. Incorporation

In accordance with the laws of the state of Kansas, the congregation shall maintain the corporation formed. Consistent with the laws of this state, corporate business will be conducted

at a separate meeting of the congregation. At the annual meeting, the ecclesiastical meeting shall be arrested to conduct the corporate business. After the conclusion of corporate business, the ecclesiastical meeting will resume. Since a pastor or moderator is not a member of the corporation, an officer of the corporation or a member of the session shall be invited to moderate the corporate portion of the meeting. The elders serving on the session shall serve at the same time as trustees of the corporation. (G-1.0503)

For the purpose of complying with state law relating to corporations and for the purpose of executing documents for and on behalf of the corporation, the session shall annually elect at its final stated meeting for the calendar year from among its first- and second-year classes a president of the corporation. The president shall hold office for the next calendar year. The clerk of session shall concurrently serve as secretary of the corporation. The treasurer shall be elected annually at the same meeting.

XI. Nominating Committee

The congregation shall form a nominating committee in the following manner (G-2.0401):

- 1) There shall be six to nine active members on the nominating committee.
- 2) Two of the members shall be ruling elders currently serving on session and appointed by the session. One of the currently serving elders shall moderate the nominating committee and the other will be the vice-moderator. Ordinarily, in the following year, the vice-moderator shall become the moderator and a ruling elder from session will replace the vice-moderator. Current session members may not be a majority of the nominating committee.
- 3) Up to two of the members shall be active deacons appointed by the board of deacons.
- 4) Remaining committee members shall be active members of the congregation, who are elected at a congregational meeting, either the annual one or a special meeting.
- 5) Members of the nominating committee may not serve more than three consecutive terms. Terms are ordinarily from June 1 to May 31.
- 6) A pastor shall be a member *ex officio* and without vote.
- 7) Full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nominations from the floor of the congregational meeting by any member of the congregation, provided the nominee has agreed to the nomination.

XII. Elders

The congregation shall elect between nine and fifteen elders divided into three equal classes, each elected for a three-year term, and one class of each elected each year. No elder shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six consecutive years. An elder having served a total of six consecutive years shall be ineligible for reelection to the session for a period of at least one year. (G-3.02)

In addition, the congregation may elect up to two elders from among the youth members to serve one-year terms.

Terms on the session ordinarily begin after installation with the first meeting following the first day of June.

The session, at its first meeting following the election of a new class of elders, shall elect an elder to serve as clerk, either currently on session or previously ordained. At the same meeting of the session, the session shall form such teams as necessary to carry out its work. A quorum for the session shall be a pastor or other presiding officer and one-third of the elders, except for the business of reception and dismissal of members of the congregation which may be conducted with a pastor or other approved moderator and two active elders. (G-3.0203)

XIII. Deacons

The congregation shall elect between nine and twelve deacons divided into three equal classes, each elected for a three-year term, and one class of each elected each year. No deacon shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six consecutive years. A deacon having served a total of six consecutive years shall be ineligible for reelection to the board of deacons for a period of at least one year. Ordinarily, deacons' terms begin in January.

The board of deacons, at its first meeting following the election of a new class of deacons, shall elect a moderator and a secretary from among its members and shall form such committees as necessary to carry out its work.

A pastor shall be an advisory member of the board of deacons. A quorum for the board of deacons shall be one-third of the members, including the moderator. The board shall present a report to the congregation at the annual meeting.

XIV. Vacancies

Vacancies on the session or the board of deacons may be filled at a special meeting of the congregation or at the annual meeting, as the session may determine.

XV. Amendments

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