

BYLAWS OF NEW HOPE CHURCH OF MICHIGAN SOUTHFIELD, MICHIGAN

PREAMBLE

The Book of Order, a component of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), establishes the parameters under which the particular church carries out its ministry and sets forth the basic principles of government. The following sections are worthy of consideration in their entirety:

G-1.0101 The Mission of the Congregation

The congregation is the church engaged in the mission of God in its particular context. The triune God gives to the congregation all the gifts of the gospel necessary to being the Church. The congregation is the basic form of the church, but it is not of itself a sufficient form of the church. Thus congregations are bound together in communion with one another, united in relationships of accountability and responsibility, contributing their strengths to the benefit of the whole, and are called, collectively, the church.

Through the congregation God's people carry out the ministries of proclamation, sharing the Sacraments, and living in covenant life with God and each other. In the life of the congregation, individual believers are equipped for the ministry of witness to the love and grace of God in and for the world. The congregation reaches out to people, communities, and the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to gather for worship, to offer care and nurture to God's children, to speak for social justice and righteousness, to bear witness to the truth and to the reign of God that is coming into the world.

G-1.0102 The Fellowship of the Congregation

The polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presupposes the fellowship of women, men and children united in covenant relationship with one another and with God, through Jesus Christ. The organization rests on the fellowship and is not designed to work without trust and love.

G-1.0103 Governed by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A "congregation," as used in this Form of Government, refers to a formally organized community chartered and recognized by a presbytery as provided in this Constitution. Each congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be governed by this Constitution. The members of a congregation put themselves under the leadership of the session and the higher councils (presbytery, synod, and General Assembly). The session is responsible to guide and govern the life of the congregation. The session leads the congregation in fulfilling its responsibilities for the service of all people, for the up-building of the whole church, and for the glory of God. (G-1.0103)

Other forms of corporate witness established by the presbytery shall also be governed by this Constitution and shall be subject to the authority of the presbytery.

MEMBERSHIP DEFINITIONS

Membership Rolls: The Book of Order states that there shall be rolls of baptized, active, and affiliate members. (G-1.04)

Active Member: An active member is a person who has made a profession of faith in Christ, has been baptized, has been received into membership of New Hope Church of Michigan, has voluntarily submitted to the government of this church, and participates in the church's work and worship. In addition, active members participate in the governance of the church and may be elected to ordered ministry (see G-1.0402). Session shall delete names from the roll upon the member's death, admission to membership in another congregation or presbytery, or renunciation of jurisdiction. The session may also delete names from the roll of the congregation when a member so requests, or has moved or otherwise ceased to participate actively in the work and worship of the congregation for a period of two years. Session shall

seek to restore member's active participation and written notice shall be provided before deleting names due to member inactivity (G-3.0204a).

Affiliate Member: An affiliate member is a member of another congregation to this denomination or of another denomination or Christian body, who has temporarily moved from the community where the congregation of membership is situated. An affiliate member may participate in the life of the congregation in the same manner as an active member except that an affiliate member may not vote in congregational meetings or be elected to ordered ministry or other office in the congregation (G-1.0403).

Corporation: The Corporation of New Hope Church of Michigan is the entity known and legally existing as New Hope Church of Michigan.

Session: The session is the council for the congregation. It shall be composed of those persons elected by the congregation to active service as ruling elders, together with all installed pastors and associate pastors. All members of the session are entitled to vote (G-3.0201).

BYLAWS

The session shall have the authority over all the affairs and activities of this church, both spiritual and corporate, except in such matters as specified by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and by these bylaws as being specifically accorded to the pastor, to the congregation, or higher governing bodies (or councils). The general procedures of the session will be governed by the laws of the most recent edition of *The Book of Order* of the PC(USA), and all its meetings will be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised*.

WHEREAS, it is the desire, purpose and intention of said church and said corporation to operate and be governed as one body as provided in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) under one set of bylaws;

THEREFORE, the following bylaws for the said church and corporation are hereby adopted:

Article I NAME AND RELATIONSHIP

1. The name of this church shall be New Hope Church of Michigan (hereinafter sometimes referred to as "NHC"). NHC is located in Southfield, MI. NHC was chartered on _____, by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.
2. The bylaws of NHC as a corporation shall be subject to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) ("Constitution") and to the laws of the State of Michigan.
3. NHC subjects itself to the Constitution through Detroit Presbytery and the Synod of the Covenant

Article II CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS AND MEMBERSHIP

1. All congregational meetings may deal with both "corporate" and "ecclesiastical" affairs.
2. Active members shall be entitled to vote upon all matters that come before the congregation. Affiliate members are not entitled to vote or be elected (G1.0403).
3. Congregational meetings shall be held each year to include the following:
 - a) annual report and budget;
 - b) electing nominating committee;
 - c) electing officers;
 - d) any other business as referenced in G-1.0503.
4. Special meetings may be called by the session or the Presbytery. Such calls shall state clearly the limited purpose of such special meeting, and no other matter save that specified in the call may be considered (G-1.0502).
5. Public notice of the time, place and purpose of all meetings of the congregation and corporation shall be given in all Sunday services of worship at least two Sundays including the day of the meeting.

6. The senior pastor or interim senior pastor, acting as moderator of the meeting, shall preside. If the church is without a senior pastor or interim senior pastor, the moderator of the session appointed by the presbytery shall preside. If the pastor and elders agree that the subject to be discussed requires it, or if the pastor is ill or is otherwise unable to be present, the pastor, in consultation with the rest of the session, shall invite a minister of the Presbytery to preside (G-1.0504). The pastor shall excuse him(her)self at the congregational meeting approving the terms of call of the pastoral staff and appoint an elder to preside over the meeting for the excused period.
7. The clerk of session shall serve as secretary for all meetings of the congregation and corporation. If the clerk of the session is unable to serve, the congregation shall elect a secretary for that meeting (G-1.0505).
8. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
9. A quorum, as determined by the presiding moderator, at a congregational meeting shall consist of one-tenth of the total active membership. A simple majority of votes cast shall decide the question.
10. Called and installed pastors, not being a member of the congregation, do not vote in a meeting of the congregation. In the event of a tie vote, the question shall be presented a second time. If the vote is still a tie, the motion fails.
11. The minutes of congregational meetings shall be referred to the session for approval at its next session meeting, and upon approval shall be incorporated in session records.

Article III NOMINATING COMMITTEE (See G-2.0401)

Nominating Committee (NC) serves to assist the congregation by bringing before it nominees for the offices of elder and deacon and; when needed, a Pastor Nominating Committee, in a manner authorized by the *Book of Order*. The NC is answerable to the congregation, not to the session. The NC reports to the congregation, but may give status updates and previews to the session as may be requested. The members of the NC are approved by a simple majority vote of the congregation at a duly called meeting of the congregation. The congregation of New Hope Church shall form a NC in the following manner:

1. The Nominating Committee (NC) shall be chosen annually.
2. Persons on the NC shall have been members of this church for at least one year.
3. Persons on the NC shall be constituted at the annual congregational meeting to serve until the next NC is elected.
4. There shall be five active members on the NC.
5. One of the members on the NC shall be ruling elders who are currently serving on the session and selected by session.
6. One member on the NC shall be an active deacon selected by the Board of Deacons.
7. The pastor shall be a member *ex officio* and without vote.
8. NC members other than the one elder and one deacon must not be in active service on the session or in active service on the board of deacons (member-at-large).
9. The NC should be representative of the active members of the church, and endeavor to include both women and men, giving fair representation to persons of all age groups and of all racial ethnic members and of persons with disabilities who are members of that congregation.
10. Full opportunity shall be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. Any floor nominee must be present or give prior written consent.
11. No member of the NC shall serve more than two years consecutively.
12. In the event that the church needs to call a pastor, the session shall call a congregational meeting to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) with a same election/selection process as the NC. Members of PNC and NC shall not be mutually exclusive. The PNC's duty shall be to nominate a qualified pastor for election by the congregation (G-2.0802).

Article IV NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION OF CHURCH ELDERS

1. The election of church officers shall take place at a congregational meeting called for that purpose by the session.

2. The NC shall present the name of at least one active member for each office to be filled. Public notice of the names of the nominees for deacon and elder shall be given at least two Sundays including the Sunday of election. Full opportunity shall be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. Any floor nominee must be present or give prior written consent.
3. There shall always be three classes of ruling elders as nearly equal in number as possible, one class only of which shall expire each year. Terms shall be for three years, except when it is necessary to elect some for shorter terms in order to equalize the numbers in the classes or to fill vacancies.
4. No elder shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. An elder having served a total of six, consecutive years shall be ineligible for re-election to the session for a period of at least one year.
5. Election may be by voice vote if there be but one candidate for each office. If there be two or more candidates, election shall be by secret written ballot.
6. Elected elders shall be installed, ordained if required, in a regular Sunday morning church service as set by the session before assuming office. Retiring elders shall remain in office until newly elected officers have been installed.

Article V NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHURCH DEACONS; BOARD of DEACONS

1. The Board of Deacons of NHC shall serve as caregivers for the congregation.
2. No deacon shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. A deacon having served a total of six, consecutive years shall be ineligible for re-election to the session for a period of at least one year
3. There shall always be three classes of deacons as nearly equal in number as possible, one class only of which shall expire each year. Terms shall be for three years, except when it is necessary to elect some for shorter terms in order to equalize the numbers in the classes or to fill vacancies.
4. The Board of Deacons, at its first meeting, shall elect a moderator, vice-moderator and a secretary from among its members and shall form such committees as necessary to carry out its work.
5. A pastor appointed by the session 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.

Article VI SESSION

1. The session shall have the duties and powers, and be subject to the limitations and exceptions set forth in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and these bylaws.
2. The session shall be composed of NHC's called and installed pastors, and up to six elders. The senior pastor, or interim senior pastor, is moderator of session. Presbytery *via* the Committee on Ministry (COM) approves by name the moderator for each church, whether it be someone installed, designated, or interim. In the absence of the moderator for a meeting of session or the congregation, the moderator may invite either a teaching elder in the presbytery to moderate in his/her absence or a person presbytery authorizes or appoints (G-3.0104).
3. All members of the session, including the pastor and associate pastor(s), are entitled to vote (G-3.0201).
4. The clerk of the session shall be a ruling elder elected by the session for such term as it may determine (G-3.0104). In the absence of the clerk of session, session may elect an elder to serve as clerk for the said meeting.
5. The session shall elect a treasurer (finance elder) who shall act as the treasurer of the church and of the corporation for such term as it may determine. A treasurer having served a total of six, consecutive years shall be ineligible for re-election for a period of at least one year.
6. The session shall form such committees and task forces as necessary to carry out its work.
7. A quorum for session meetings shall be the moderator and one-half of the ruling elders elected.
8. The session shall hold stated meetings at least quarterly. The moderator shall call a special meeting when he or she deems necessary or when requested in writing by any two members of the session. The business to be transacted at special meetings shall be limited to items

specifically listed in the call for the meeting. There shall be reasonable notice given of all special meetings. The session shall also meet when directed by presbytery.

Article VII INCORPORATION

1. In accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan, the congregation shall cause a corporation to be formed and legally existing at all times. Consistent with the laws of this state, both ecclesiastical and corporate business may be conducted at the same meeting of the congregation. (G-1.0503).
2. The session of NHC shall assume the responsibilities as the board of directors of the corporation of this church.
3. The duties of the session as a board of directors shall be only those delegated to them by the laws of the State of Michigan, the Constitution of the church and the corporation.
4. Subject to the congregation's prior approval, the session as a board of directors has the power and authority to buy, sell and mortgage real property of the church. In addition, the session as a board of directors has the power and authority to accept and execute deeds, to hold and defend titles to the same, and to manage any permanent special funds entrusted to them for the furtherance of the purposes of NHC. In buying, selling and mortgaging real property, the session as a board of directors shall act solely under the authority of the corporation, granted in a duly-constituted meeting of the congregation.

Article VIII AMENDMENTS

1. These bylaws, subject to the laws of the State of Michigan and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), may be amended at any duly noticed meeting of the congregation by a majority vote of session.
2. These bylaws are adopted to ensure that the government of Covenant Presbyterian Church is in conformity with the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the laws of the state of Michigan.

Article IX DEFAULT

Except as expressly provided in these Bylaws and where not in conflict with the provisions of the current Book of Order: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part II, these Amended and Restated Bylaws are intended to conform to the principles of governance described in the Book of Order: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part II, 2009/2011. To the extent that any provision of the Bylaws relates to topics not covered by or included in the Book of Order, such provision shall be interpreted by the policies and procedures contained in the 2013/2015 Book of Order. Further, these Amended and Restated Bylaws shall be interpreted in accordance with, and in such a manner as to give full effect to all interpretations of past practices of the Church, except to the extent expressly modified.