

Bylaws of Cherokee Presbyterian Church

Approved January 23, 2012 by the Session of Cherokee Presbyterian Church

I. Statement of Purpose or Mission

The Cherokee Presbyterian Church 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 Cherokee Presbyterian Church is a member church of the Trinity Presbytery in the Synod of South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

III. Governance of the Church

This church shall be governed in accordance with the Bible first, and foremost. The Presbyterian Book of Confessions and the Presbyterian Book of order are subordinate standards. These bylaws shall provide specific guidance for this church. *Roberts 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 on the Second Sunday in January or February, at which at least the following business shall be presented: annual reports from organizations 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), electing members to serve on the nominating committee. A majority of 51% of those present will be required to pass items presented.

Special meetings may be called by the session. 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. Notice of Meetings

Adequate public notice of all congregational meetings shall be given, including notice given at regular services of worship prior to the meeting, at least two weeks prior to the congregational meeting.

VI. Moderator

The pastor shall moderate the meetings. 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, with the concurrence of the session, another minister of the presbytery to preside. When this is not expedient, and when both the pastor, and the moderator concur, a member of the session may be invited to preside. (G-1.0504)

VII. Secretary

The clerk of session shall serve as secretary. 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, 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 twenty-five members, but under no circumstances shall it be fewer than ten percent of the active members of the congregation. Consistent with the laws of the state of South Carolina, a quorum shall be one tenth of the active members on corporate matters. The secretary shall determine that a quorum is present. All active members of the congregation present at either annual or special meetings are entitled to vote consistent with the laws of the state of South Carolina. Voting is restricted to active members age eighteen or above. Voting by proxy is not allowed. All votes will be consistent with the laws of the state of South Carolina.

X. Incorporation

In accordance with the laws of the state of South Carolina, the congregation has caused a corporation to be formed. – As on file - 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).

Five serving, or past elders will serve as the Trustees. The serving elder for facilities shall always be one of the Trustees. Other than the elder for facilities, a Trustee will serve for ten years, unless they would resign, or otherwise no longer be able to serve. If

this occurs, the nominating committee, with the advice and consent of the remaining Trustees, will nominate another Trustee to be elected by the congregation.

XI. Nominating Committee (See G-2.0401)

The congregation shall form a nominating committee from the list of candidates provided by the Session.

XI. Ordered Ministries

To those called to exercise special functions in the church, deacons, elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament, God gives suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, natural and acquired, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the Church and in the World. They must have the approval of God's people and the concurring judgment of a governing body of the church.

Those who are called to office in the church are led to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as leaders, officers, deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

1. There shall be five active members on the nominating committee.
2. One of the members shall be a ruling elder who is currently serving on the session. (G-14.0223, Two Elders will be on the committee, one as moderator of the committee. Other members will be chosen by the congregation, and if the Church has deacons, then they will designate one member of the committee.
3. All nominees shall have been an active member of the congregation for at least three years.
4. The pastor shall be a member ex officio and without vote.
5. Full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member that has been an active member for a minimum of three years.
6. A majority of all active members present and voting shall be required to elect.

XI. Elders

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

The session, at its first meeting following the annual meeting, shall elect a clerk and shall form such committees as necessary to carry out its work. At that same meeting of the session, the session shall annually elect a treasurer. A quorum for the session shall be the pastor or other presiding officer and one third of the elders.

XII. Deacons

The congregation may chose elect five deacons divided into three equal classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at the annual meeting for a three-year term. 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 to the board of deacons for a period of at least one year.

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

The 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.

XIII. 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.

XIV. Amendments

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