

BYLAWS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN NEW YORK
CHAPTER I
GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Mission Statement

The mission of the Presbytery of Northern New York is to witness, with love, to Jesus Christ in word and deed. The Presbytery is called to inspire and support the growth of leaders and congregations in their ministry and mission for Christ. The mission of the Presbytery is informed by the mission of its congregations.

Defined

The Presbytery of Northern New York, organized on January 16, 1965, is the organizational unit and the seat of original authority in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), hereafter known as PC (USA), realized by the convocation of all the ministers, and elders representing churches and ministries within the counties of St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Jefferson, and Essex within the State of New York.

Government

The Presbytery is governed primarily by applicable portions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, and secondarily by the Standing Rules as most recently amended.

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Presbytery are specified in Book of Order G-11.0103

CHAPTER II
MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Membership

The Presbytery is a corporate expression of the church consisting of all the churches and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within its bounds. Membership is defined by the Book of Order (G-11.0101). An elder who is a principal officer, chair of a standing committee, or member of Presbytery Council shall be enrolled as a member of Presbytery for the term of office, whether or not commissioned by her or his session. CLPs actively serving churches in the presbytery shall be members of the presbytery (G-14.0801a-c)

Meetings

Stated meetings of the Presbytery shall be held in accordance with the Standing Rules, and in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Order (G-11.020). The annual meeting shall be the first meeting of the calendar year.

Notices

Notice of all meetings, other than adjourned meetings, shall be communicated to all members not less than 10 days before the meetings, and shall specify the place and time.

Changes

Necessary changes in the date or time of stated meetings may be made by the Presbytery at a preceding meeting or by the Presbytery Council, providing notification of such intention is communicated to all members at least ten days prior to the earlier date.

Worship Each stated meeting shall include worship and celebration of the Lord's Supper. At the annual meeting, worship shall include a Memorial Service for deceased ministers and elders.

Expenses The Presbytery shall pay the legitimate expenses of those attending meetings of its committees, councils, or other bodies by granting the mileage and per diem allowances based on specific recommendations by the Presbytery Council and approved by the Presbytery.

Minutes Minutes of each stated meeting shall be recorded by the Stated Clerk and communicated to the members of the Presbytery with the call to the next meeting, with formal approval given at that meeting.

CHAPTER III ORGANIZATION

Composition In order to discharge its functions in the work of the Church, the Presbytery is organized with the following components: particular congregations, a Presbytery Council, standing committees, working groups, commissioners, the Corporation, and other organizations.

Fiscal/Program Year The fiscal year of the Presbytery shall be the calendar year. The program year shall be April to April.

CHAPTER IV THE CORPORATION

Formation The Presbytery is incorporated as the Presbytery of Northern New York as of January 16 1965. The Articles of Incorporation are filed in the Office of the County Clerk of St. Lawrence County and are recorded in Liber #4, page 49, #2895, under the provisions of Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York.

Authority The proceedings of the Corporation of the Presbytery of Northern New York are governed by the ecclesiastical authority of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and by the civil authority of the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York. Voting members of the Corporation shall be the current voting members of Presbytery who are 18 years of age or older.

Officers The officers of the corporation shall be the President, the Vice President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Chair of the Board of Trustees shall be the President. The Vice-chair of the Board of Trustees shall be the Vice President. The Vice President shall serve as acting President of the Corporation in the event that the President is deemed by the Moderator to be unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery shall be the Secretary of the Corporation. The Treasurer of the Presbytery shall be the Treasurer of the Corporation.

CHAPTER V
AMENDMENTS

Notification

All proposed amendments to the By-laws shall be presented to Presbytery Council for review prior to presentation to Presbytery for action.

Approval

Amendments to these By-laws shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any stated meeting provided that written notice of the proposed change shall have been presented at a previous stated meeting.