

ATTACHMENT B – BYLAW CHANGES EXPLANATION

Summary of Proposed Changes to the Bylaws of the Presbytery of Lake Huron

The mission of the Presbytery of Lake Huron is to partner with congregations, helping people to know, grow, share and serve as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Rationale for changes

The adoption of a new mission statement and Bylaws in 2002 was a step in changing the way the presbytery functions. Paraphrased, our mission statement means: the purpose of the Presbytery is to support congregations in doing “what it takes” to help people discover their discipleship and serve as disciples of Jesus Christ. The intent of changes to the existing bylaws is to help the presbytery adapt to its current environment through structuring that allows flexibility as a community of mutual support, empowerment, mission and accountability. These bylaws shift the approach to our work toward local initiation and management of ministry and mission. They provide for additional flexibility and the capability to adapt to changing local church and presbytery needs while sharply reducing the number of committee positions that need to be filled under the existing rules. The proposed structure provides better representation from across the presbytery and allows committees to call upon people with specialized skills as needed. The bylaws continue to encourage empowerment accompanied by accountability from all.

Changes in a nutshell

- A new Coordinating Team is established that is responsible for the management of the operating units, finances, and personnel of the presbytery. The team shall also serve as the presbytery’s compass through the development of priorities and administer scholarship and grant programs not including those of the Committee on Ministry.
- The presbytery is divided into five regions each of which will provide one member to this new Coordinating Team, and one person for the Nominating Committee with the same person serving on the Committee on Representation. Each region is also represented on the Committee on Ministry approximately according to the number of church members in the region(s).
- The Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Nominating Committee, and Committee on Representation continue as mandated by the Constitution.
- All other mission teams are eliminated reducing committee members required from 90 to 45
- Additional necessary functions may be accomplished through taskforces of interested people.
- All committees may co-opt members to fulfill special tasks without limits of time of service.

Benefits to the Presbytery

- The changes in the bylaws allow the presbytery to focus on ministry through partnering with churches as stated in the mission statement instead of concentrating on adapting to standing rules and filling vacant committee slots.
- The structure ensures representation from all segments of the presbytery in decision making and direction through the Coordinating Team
- The implementation of regions facilitates a more effective nominating and representation process.
- Regions encourage more cooperation and teamwork among neighboring churches.
- The structure allows for more flexibility in attracting people for specialized tasks.
- Communication and processes with churches are streamlined through more consistency among presbytery groups.
- The new Coordinating Team streamlines the process of reviewing requests and recommending actions to implement presbytery priorities while ensuring effective organizational management, resource utilization and communication within the presbytery.

ATTACHMENT B – BYLAW CHANGES EXPLANATION (Continued)

Evaluating the Proposed Bylaw Changes

Attached is the full text of the proposed by laws printed along side of the current bylaws. As you read the summary of changes as well as the attached full text of the changes to the bylaws it is suggested that you use the following questions for evaluation.

How do the proposed bylaws serve to support the mission statement of the Presbytery of Lake Huron?

How do the proposed bylaws provide for the performance of the functions that are necessary from the Presbytery?

What are my concerns with the proposed bylaws?

What questions do I need to have answered?

What do I see as improvements in these bylaws versus the current ones?

How do I see these changes helping me and my church?