

# Presbytery of Boston Bylaws

Adopted January 27, 2003; last amended November 16, 2009

## 1.0 Preamble

### 1.1 Origin

The Presbytery of Boston was constituted a presbytery in the Synod of New England by the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America on January 1, 1959, through the merger of the Presbytery of Boston of the United Presbyterian Church of North America, organized July 11, 1854, and the Presbytery of Boston of The Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., organized October 11, 1870. The Presbytery of Boston has continued through the reunion of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America with the Presbyterian Church in the United States on June 10, 1983, and as a presbytery of the resultant Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church is hereby adopted and made part of the Bylaws of the Presbytery of Boston.

### 1.2 Bounds

The territory for which the presbytery is responsible is that area of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts east of the western boundary of the County of Worcester; south of 42° 35' of latitude; and north of the Connecticut and Rhode Island state lines and the 42° of latitude but including none of Cape Cod; and including the following churches organized in the years indicated:

Beverly, Pilgrim	(2005)
Boston, Church of the Covenant	(1852)
Boston, Fourth	(1870)
Boston, Hyde Park	(1896)
Boston, Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana	(1991)
Boston, Roxbury	(1885)
Brookline, Bethany	(2003)
Brookline, First	(1894)
Brookline, Korean Church of Boston	(1985)
Burlington	(1962)
Cambridge, First United	(1892)
Clinton	(1893)
Easton, Good Shepherd	(1996)
Natick, Hartford Street	(1886)
Needham, Presbyterian Church	(1887)
Needham, Taiwan Presbyterian Church	(1998)
Newton	(1846)
Quincy, First	(1884)
Quincy, Fort Square	(1896)
Quincy, Young Sang	(1989)
Somerville, Clarendon Hill	(1882)
Sudbury	(1961)
Waltham, First	(1893)
Whitinsville, United	(1874)
Worcester, First	(1886)

together with any other churches which may be added to this roll.

## 2.0 Membership

### 2.1 Churches

All churches listed in Bylaw 1.3 are members of the Presbytery of Boston and are represented at its meetings by elders commissioned by their sessions.

2.2 The number of elder commissioners from each church is determined in accordance with G-11.0100 in the *Book of Order*. All ministers who are continued on its active, at-large and inactive rolls are members of the Presbytery of Boston.

### 2.3 Adjustment of Elder/Minister Imbalance

The stated clerk at the first presbytery meeting of each calendar year shall report any imbalance between clergy and elder members. The Presbytery shall redress this imbalance in accordance with G-11.0100 in the *Book of Order*. The exact formula is specified in the Standing Rules.

### 2.4 Corresponding Members

Presbyters (ministers of the Word and Sacrament or elders) in good standing in other governing bodies of this denomination or in any other Christian Church, who are present at any meeting of presbytery, may be invited to sit as corresponding members, with voice but without vote.

### 2.5 Additional Members

Each elder officers of the presbytery, chairperson of a continuing committee and member of the Presbytery Council shall be enrolled as a member for the term of office whether or not commissioned by his/her session, along with any elder serving as exempt administrative staff.

## 3.0 Meetings

### 3.1 Stated meetings

3.1.1 The presbytery shall hold six stated meetings each year, to be held in January, March, May, July, September and November, with the dates to be recommended by the Presbytery Council and approved by the presbytery at the November meeting of the previous year.

3.1.2 At least one stated meeting each year the time for worship shall include the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

### 3.2 Adjourned Meetings

An adjourned meeting may be designated by presbytery action to adjourn from a stated or another adjourned meeting to a fixed time or place.

### 3.3 Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the Church.

### 3.4 Quorum

A quorum of the presbytery shall be any four minister members and the elder members present, provided that at least three congregations are represented by elders.

### 3.5 Rules of Order

Meetings of the presbytery, its Council, commissions and committees, shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, except in those cases where the *Book of Order* provides otherwise. Committees and task forces of the presbytery and its Council shall ordinarily meet in face-to-face sessions but may meet by teleconference or videoconference as needed, provided that full opportunity for simultaneous communication is available to all members and that minutes are duly kept and approved.

- 3.6 Recording Clerk
  - 3.6.1 A recording clerk shall be elected at the appropriate January meeting for a term of three years, and shall be eligible for e-election. The recording clerk may be a minister or an active member of any church of the presbytery and is not an officer of the presbytery.
  - 3.6.2 The recording clerk shall keep and provide to the stated clerk a full and accurate record of all proceedings of the presbytery's meetings.
  
- 4.0 Officers
  - 4.1 Officers

The officers of this presbytery shall be a moderator, vice-moderator, stated clerk, treasurer and the trustees of the Corporation.
  - 4.2 Moderator
    - 4.2.1 Election and term

The moderator shall be elected at the January stated meeting for one term of one year. The moderator shall assume office immediately upon election.
    - 4.2.2 Incomplete term

If the moderator is unable to complete the term of office, the vice-moderator is to fill the unexpired term.
    - 4.2.3 Role and duties of the moderator

The moderator moderates presbytery meetings and serves as moderator of Presbytery Council. From time to time, the moderator may ask the vice-moderator to preside at a presbytery or Council meeting due to conflict of interest or other exigency. The moderator also presides at ordinations and installations, and is the first official representative of the Presbytery of Boston at other ecclesiastical occasions and at civic functions and gatherings, unless otherwise provided by the Synod of the Northeast. When unable to fulfill these responsibilities, the moderator may request that the vice-moderator or another presbyter respond. The role and duties shall be as defined in the *Book of Order* and specified in *Robert's Rules of Order*, and as assigned by these bylaws, the standing rules and actions of the presbytery and its Council. The moderator is a member ex officio of all committees.
  - 4.3 Vice-Moderator
    - 4.3.1 Election and term of office

The vice-moderator shall be elected at the January stated meeting for one term of one year. The vice-moderator shall assume office immediately upon election.
    - 4.3.2 Incomplete term

If the vice-moderator is unable to complete the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled as soon as possible by presbytery election.
    - 4.3.3 Role and duties of the vice-moderator

The role and duties of the vice-moderator shall be as assigned by these bylaws, the standing rules and actions of the presbytery and its Council, and shall include standing designation as first substitute for the moderator should that officer be unable to fulfill one or more official responsibilities.
  - 4.4 Stated Clerk
    - 4.4.1 Election and term of office

The stated clerk shall be elected at the appropriate January meeting for a term of three years, and shall be eligible for re-election. The stated clerk shall assume office immediately upon election.
    - 4.4.2 Incomplete term

If the stated clerk is unable to complete the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled as soon as possible by presbytery election.

- 4.4.3 Role and duties of the stated clerk  
The role and duties of the stated clerk shall be as defined in the *Book of Order* and specified in *Robert's Rules of Order*, and as assigned by these bylaws, the standing rules and actions of the presbytery and its Council.
- 4.5 Treasurer
- 4.5.1 Election and term of office  
The treasurer shall be elected at the appropriate January meeting for a term of three years, and shall be eligible for re-election. The treasurer shall assume office immediately upon election.
- 4.5.2 Incomplete term  
If the treasurer is unable to complete the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled as soon as possible by presbytery election.
- 4.5.3 Roles and duties of the treasurer  
The treasurer is a member of the Board of Trustees. The role and duties of the treasurer, who shall be bonded at the expense of the presbytery, shall be those assigned by these bylaws, the standing rules and actions of the presbytery and Presbytery Council, to include:
- 4.5.3.1 having custody of all funds and securities of the presbytery;
- 4.5.3.2 receiving and disbursing all presbytery funds as approved by presbytery;
- 4.5.3.3 paying the annual apportionment to the synod and General Assembly;
- 4.5.3.4 presenting a status report at each meeting of the Council;
- 4.5.3.5 presenting a full and accurate account of all funds and securities at the March stated meeting of the presbytery;
- 4.5.3.6 submitting annually all records for full financial review in accordance with the requirements of G-11.0307 in the *Book of Order*.
- 4.5.4 Assistant treasurer  
The Presbytery shall elect an assistant treasurer to serve for a term of three years. The assistant treasurer, who shall be bonded at the expense of the presbytery, shall assist the treasurer as requested and may serve in place of the treasurer, as directed by the trustees, when the treasurer is unable to fulfill his or her duties.
- 4.6 Trustees
- 4.6.1 Election and term of office  
Three elders and three ministers shall be elected trustees at the appropriate January meeting, in three classes of equal numbers, for terms of three years. The treasurer of the presbytery shall be one of the six members of the Trustees and shall serve as the treasurer of the Corporation. The term of office of the treasurer of the Corporation shall coincide with his/her term of office as treasurer of the presbytery. The president of the Trustees shall be elected by the presbytery. The trustees shall assume office immediately upon election, and shall continue in office until successors are elected.
- 4.6.2 Incomplete term  
If a trustee is unable to complete the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled as soon as possible by presbytery election.
- 4.6.3 Duties  
The duties of the trustees shall be those assigned to the presbytery's Board of Trustees by these bylaws and as provided for in the *Book of Order* and by the General Laws and Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to include:
- 4.6.3.1 maintaining the Corporation according to the General Laws and Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, making property decisions based on the historic principles of our Church's government (G-1.0400);
- 4.6.3.2 overseeing all presbytery assets;
- 4.6.3.3 overseeing the financial aspects of church property purchases and sales, mortgage grants and loans in consultation with the presbytery Council and recommending appropriate action to the presbytery;

- 4.6.3.4 reviewing all plans, specifications and funding sources for building projects requiring presbytery approval, in consultation with the presbytery Council, and recommending appropriate action to the presbytery;
- 4.6.3.5 offering assistance, upon request, to congregations on financial facilities and property matters;
- 4.6.3.6 obtaining an annual full financial review of the records of the presbytery;
- 4.6.3.7 overseeing Investment Committee
  - 4.6.3.7a Membership. There shall be 5 voting members of the committee, including 3 members elected by Presbytery, the treasurer and 1 representative from the trustees. The members elected by the presbytery do not need to be elders or ministers but shall be members in good standing of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The members elected by the presbytery shall serve 3-year terms, in 3 classes of 1 member each; no member shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms.
  - 4.6.3.7b Function. This committee shall be a committee of the trustees and shall report and be accountable to the trustees. The chair, vice-chair and clerk shall be elected by the committee from among the three members elected by the presbytery, subject to confirmation by the trustees.

## 5.0 Staff

### 5.1 General Principle

The Presbytery may employ administrative staff in accordance with the provisions of the Form of Government (G-9.0700)

### 5.2 General Presbyter

#### 5.2.1 Duties

5.2.1.1 The responsibilities of the general presbyter will be those contained in the latest approved position description.

5.2.1.2 The general presbyter shall provide staffing to the synod in ecumenical ministry.

5.2.1.3 The general presbyter shall fulfill such other responsibilities as may be agreed upon.

#### 5.2.2 Accountability

The general presbyter shall be accountable to the presbytery for presbytery responsibilities and to the synod for synod responsibilities as outlined in the position description.

#### 5.2.3 Process of calling

5.2.3.1 The position of general presbyter shall be filled in accordance with the principles of participation found in G-9.0104.

5.2.3.2 The position of general presbyter shall be advertised in accordance with the accepted procedures of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

#### 5.2.4 Annual Review

Annual review of the general presbyter shall be conducted by the Personnel Committee of the presbytery within three months prior to the November stated meeting.

#### 5.2.5 Comprehensive Review

A comprehensive review shall be conducted every five years by the Personnel Committee.

#### 5.2.6 Term

The general presbyter shall be elected for a five-year term. The general presbyter may be re-elected for an indefinite number of terms.

#### 5.2.7 Termination

Re-election or termination of the general presbyter shall be subject to the approval of the presbytery and be otherwise in accordance with the applicable procedures of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

### 5.3 Other Administrative Staff

The presbytery may establish one or more full-time or part-time positions which will be filled by the presbytery on recommendation of the general presbyter.

## 6.0 Structure

### 6.1 Permanent Judicial Commission

- 6.1.1 The commission shall be established and shall function in accordance with relevant provisions in the *Book of Order*.
- 6.1.2 The commission shall be composed of not fewer than seven members, the majority of which may be either minister or elders, with not more than one elder from any one church.
- 6.1.3 As needed in instances of preliminary procedure for discipline, the moderator of the presbytery in consultation with the stated clerk shall appoint an investigating committee of three to five persons to fulfill the responsibilities listed in D-10.0201-2 in the Rules of Discipline, reporting to the presbytery at its next stated meeting the names of those appointed.
- 6.1.4 As needed when the presbytery becomes a respondent in a remedial complaint, the moderator of the presbytery shall appoint a committee of counsel of no more than three persons to fulfill the responsibilities listed in D-6.0302 of the Rules of Discipline, reporting to the presbytery at its next stated meeting the names of those appointed.

### 6.2 Continuing Committees

The continuing committees shall consist of lay church members and ministers as provided in the *Book of Order*, with at least half the membership being church members, and shall have responsibility for the ongoing concerns and functions of the presbytery as provided in these bylaws. Committee members are elected to a three-year term and are eligible for re-election to a second three-year term; after two terms, full or partial, one year must elapse before re-election to that committee. The chairperson and vice-chairperson of each committee shall be elected by the presbytery. The presbytery moderator, general presbyter and the stated clerk shall serve as ex-officio members of all committees, without vote.

#### 6.2.1 Committee on Representation

##### 6.2.1.1 Membership

The Committee on Representation shall have six members, and shall meet the membership requirements of G-9.0105a in the *Book of Order*.

##### 6.2.1.2 Function

The function of the Committee on Representation is to advise the presbytery concerning its implementation of the principles of participation and inclusiveness to ensure fair and effective representation in the decision making of the presbytery (-4.0403), consulting with the Nominating Committee of the presbytery and serving as an advocate in accordance with G-9.0105c.

#### 6.2.2 Nominating Committee

##### 6.2.2.1 Membership

The Nominating Committee shall have six members, and shall meet the membership requirements of G-9.0801a in the *Book of Order*.

##### 6.2.2.2 Function

The function of the Nominating Committee is to nominate persons to fill all presbytery offices and commissioner and delegate vacancies, and all vacancies on continuing committees (except itself), the Council and its task forces, the permanent judicial commission and other entities of the presbytery.

#### 6.2.3 Committee on Preparation for Ministry

##### 6.2.3.1 Membership

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry shall have a membership of nine, the majority of which may be either ministers or elders.

##### 6.2.3.2 Function

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry is to function according to the process and provisions of G-14.0300 in the *Book of Order* to enable the presbytery to fully

and pastorally participate in its covenanted responsibilities with inquirers and candidates who are preparing for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament.

6.2.4 Committee on Ministry

6.2.4.1 Membership

The Committee on Ministry shall function according to the relevant provisions of the *Book of Order*, especially in G-11.0502 in the Form of Government. A quorum shall be a majority of its members.

6.3 Program Committees

6.3.1 Committee on Congregation Support and Development

6.3.1.1 Membership

There shall be 9 voting members of the committee. At least 3 of the members shall be ministers, and at least 3 shall be lay members. The members shall serve 3-year terms, in 3 classes of 3 members each; no member shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms, full or partial. The general presbyter, stated clerk and moderator shall be continuing members with voice but without vote. The committee shall appoint at least 3 of its members to serve as the Subcommittee on New Church Development.

6.3.1.2 Function of the committee is described in the Standing Rules.

6.3.1.3 Responsibilities

- a. Conduct a regular survey of the congregations of the Presbytery, asking them to identify their strengths and needs.
- b. Based on the reported strengths and needs of the congregations, identify resources and provide training to support the work of local congregations, including the areas of worship, Christian education, mission, evangelism and outreach, nurture, administration, strategic planning, stewardship and leadership development.
- c. Encourage congregations who report similar strengths or needs to work in partnership with each other in their ministry and mission to build on their strengths or meet their needs.
- d. Assist and encourage congregations undertaking redevelopment, and encourage all congregations to use the resources of the Churchwide Redevelopment Network;
- e. In consultation with the Committee on Ministry, support and guide congregations considering merger or closing.

6.3.1.4 Responsibilities of the Subcommittee on New Church Development

- a. Review and recommend necessary changes to the presbytery's New Church Development Guidelines.
- b. As described in the presbytery's New Church Development Guidelines, recommend to Presbytery specific goals for presbytery-initiated new church development and provide leadership to establish presbytery-initiated new church developments;
- c. Encourage, support, and establish a liaison with independent groups wishing to establish Presbyterian congregations. The liaison would have primary responsibility to guide the group through the process of becoming a congregation of the presbytery. The liaison is accountable to the committee but not necessarily a member of the committee;
- d. Other tasks as described in the New Church Development Guidelines.

6.3.2 Committee on Education for Mission

6.3.2.1 Membership

There shall be 10 voting members of the committee, including 9 members elected by the Presbytery and 1 representative from Presbyterian Women. Of the members elected by the Presbytery, at least 3 shall be ministers, and at least 3 shall be lay members. The members shall serve 3-year terms, in 3 classes of 3 members each;

no member shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms. The General Presbyter, Stated Clerk and Moderator shall be continuing members, with voice but without vote.

6.3.2.2 Functioning of the committee is described in the Standing Rules.

6.3.2.3 Responsibilities

- a. Invite proposals for mission grants and submit these proposals with the Committee's and Presbytery Council's recommendations to Presbytery for action.
- b. Make recommendations for additional ways to allocate the mission funds of the presbytery.
- c. Take a leading role in establishing and organizing presbytery-wide Mission Fairs.
- d. Share mission-related communications from the General Assembly, Synod and other denominations and bodies with the Presbytery.
- e. Provide leadership and support for ministries in Education, Peace and Justice, and Youth Programs.
  - 1) A presbytery-wide Christian Education program (including an annual Christian Education event)
  - 2) Christian Educators and Christian Education resources for churches
  - 3) A liaison with campus ministries and related organizations in the presbytery
  - 4) A presbytery-wide peace program
  - 5) Presbytery witness on social justice issues
  - 6) Regional ministry, outreach and mission projects
  - 7) Presbytery participation in national PC(USA)-related youth events
  - 8) A Presbytery youth program

#### 6.4 Presbytery Council

The Presbytery Council is to provide servant leadership by guiding and challenging the presbytery with respect to the presbytery's vision and mission, to strengthen congregations, and to foster partnerships to accomplish the presbytery's mission goals. The Presbytery Council is elected by and accountable to the presbytery.

##### 6.4.1 Voting members

The members of the Presbytery Council, with vote shall be the moderator, the vice-moderator, the immediate past moderator of the presbytery, the President of the Board of Trustees, the chairs or their designees of the Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Committee on Congregation Support, Committee on Education for Mission, Personnel Committee, Nominating Committee, Committee on Stewardship and Budget and the Moderator or her designee of Presbyterian Women.

6.4.2 Continuing members with voice but no vote are the presbytery's general presbyter, stated clerk, treasurer and one current commissioner to the Synod of the Northeast as designated by the serving commissioners.

##### 6.4.3 Quorum

The quorum of the Presbytery Council shall be a majority of the voting members.

##### 6.4.4 Responsibilities

6.4.4.1 Develop and maintain a long-range plan for the Presbytery;

6.4.4.2 Coordinate and evaluate the work of all Presbytery committees and task forces;

6.4.4.3 Coordinate the planning of the Presbytery's work by proposing annual goals for the Presbytery. The proposed goals shall include what will be done, what committee or task force will do it, and what resources are required;

6.4.4.4 Maintain relationships with the Synod and General Assembly to interpret mission and policy;

6.4.4.5 Propose to Presbytery an annual budget for Presbytery action'

6.4.4.6 Oversee the Presbytery's personnel functions

6.4.4.7 Nominate members of the Nominating Committee for Presbytery election.

#### 6.4.5 Meetings

The Presbytery Council shall meet at least 6 times per year. The Moderator of the Presbytery shall serve as the Moderator of the Council, and the Immediate Past Moderator of the Presbytery shall serve as the clerk of the Council, taking minutes of Council and distributing them to the members of the Council. The Stated Clerk shall distribute the minutes to the members of the presbytery.

### 6.5 Presbytery Council Committees

#### 6.5.1 Personnel Committee

##### 6.5.1.1 Membership

The Personnel Committee shall have a membership of five, each shall serve one 5-year term, in 5 classes of 1 member each. A committee member may fill an uncompleted term, and may be elected for a full, five-year term in her/his own right, provided (s)he will serve no more than seven consecutive years. A member is eligible for re-election after one year.

##### 6.5.1.2 Function

This committee shall be a committee of the Presbytery Council, and shall report and be accountable to the Council. It shall function according to the presbytery's Personnel Policies and Procedures, in keeping with other actions taken by the Presbytery, participate in the search, employment, and termination process for staff. The chair of the committee shall rotate using a process as follows: members will function respectively in their second, third, and fourth years on the committee as clerk, vice chair, and chair, and in the fifth year as past chair, assisting the chair as needed. The clerk of the committee shall record and distribute minutes of its meetings to the members of the committee.

##### 6.5.1.3 Responsibilities

- a. It shall provide an annual performance review of all staff, including the General Presbyter, Stated Clerk and Treasurer, based upon predetermined, mutually agreed-upon goals. It shall provide an annual compensation review of all staff and other compensated Presbytery personnel. The annual performance review and the annual compensation review shall be conducted separately.
- b. It shall meet at least quarterly with the General Presbyter.
- c. It shall work with the Committee on Stewardship and Budget to recommend to Presbytery adequate compensation of staff, and to secure necessary resources for the successful completion of staff responsibilities.
- d. It shall review the personnel operating procedures annually and recommend any necessary changes to the Council for action.

#### 6.5.2 Committee on Stewardship and Budget

##### 6.5.2.1 Membership

There shall be 6 voting members of the committee, at least 2 ministers and 2 lay members. The members shall serve 3-year terms, in 3 classes of 2 members each; no member shall serve more than 2 consecutive terms. The General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Treasurer, President of the Board of Trustees, and Moderator shall be continuing members, with voice but without vote.

##### 6.5.2.2 Function

This committee shall be a committee of the Presbytery Council, and shall report to and be accountable to the Council. Its functioning is described in the Standing Rules.

##### 6.5.2.3 Responsibilities

- a. Develop long-range financial planning for the Presbytery
- b. Receive and recommend for Presbytery action funding proposals to be sent to the Synod or General Assembly

- c. In consultation with the committees and congregations of the Presbytery, recommend an annual budget to the Presbytery Council for Presbytery action based on the Presbytery's mission goals, mission proposals, and administrative needs.
- d. Develop a plan for stewardship within the Presbytery.
- e. Take a leading role in establishing and organizing Presbytery-wide Mission Fairs.
- f. Act as a resource for congregations on stewardship programs.
- g. Provide information for Presbytery and its churches about mission funding sources available in Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly and how to apply.

## 7.0 Commissioners and Advisory Delegates to General Assembly and Synod

### 7.1 Time of election

Nomination and election of commissioners and advisory delegates to synod and General Assembly shall be at the January stated meeting of the presbytery.

### 7.2 Eligibility

7.2.1 Any minister who is on the active or at-large roll of the presbytery and any elder who is on the active roll of a church within this presbytery is eligible for election as a commissioner.

7.2.1 Any member on the active roll of a church of the presbytery who will be between the ages of 17 and 23 on the day the assembly convenes, is eligible for election as a youth advisory delegate (YAD).

7.2.3 Any inquirer or candidate under care of this presbytery who has been nominated by a theological institution to represent it as a theological student advisory delegate (TSAD) or alternate will be presented for election by the Nominating Committee.

### 7.3 Nomination

#### 7.3.1 Selection process by the Nominating Committee

The presbytery shall devise and include in its standing rules a process for the orderly selection of nominees for commissioners, advisory delegates and alternates. Selection of nominees for synod shall include consideration of synod's needs for carrying out specific responsibilities and for diversity.

#### 7.3.2 Report of the Nominating Committee

The report of the Nominating Committee shall include the names of churches represented by the elder and youth nominees, and a sufficient number of alternates listed in order of priority.

#### 7.3.3 Nominations from the floor

Nominations from the floor may be made of any person meeting the eligibility requirements of Bylaw 7.2, prior acceptance of the nominee having been secured.

### 7.4 Election

Whenever nominations from the floor are made or its it moved to change the order of alternates, the vote shall be by ballot.

### 7.5 Responsibilities

#### 7.5.1 Presbytery attendance

Commissioners and advisory delegates to General Assembly and synod will be expected to attend presbytery meetings from their election until one presbytery meeting after their terms of service ends.

#### 7.5.2 Preparation, participation and report

If any person elected as commissioner or advisory delegate is unable to serve, she/he shall immediately notify the stated clerk of the presbytery. Commissioners and delegates shall prepare themselves, be diligent in attendance and actively participate in the assembly. General Assembly commissioners and delegates shall report to the presbytery at its next

stated meeting. Commissioners and delegates to synod shall report after each meeting of the synod assembly, at the next stated meeting of the presbytery.

7.6 Terms

The term for commissioners and advisory delegates to General Assembly shall conform to the General Assembly schedule. The term for commissioners and advisory delegates to synod shall conform to the synod's bylaws.

8.0 Amendments and Suspension of the Bylaws

8.1 Suspension

These bylaws, excepting Bylaw 8.2, may be suspended at any stated meeting of the presbytery by a three-fourths majority of the members present and voting.

8.2 Amendment

Proposed amendment(s) of these bylaws, except this Bylaw 8.2 shall be referred to the Presbytery Council for its recommendation. A copy of the proposed amendment and any recommended revision of it from the Council shall be sent to all minister members and sessions at least ten days prior to the next stated meeting of the presbytery. Proposed amendments require for approval a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting designated for consideration of the bylaws change(s).

NOTE: These Bylaws of the Presbytery of Boston were approved January 27, 2003, to become effective March, 2003. They were last amended November 16, 2009.