

Rationale for new By-Laws and changes recommended.

The fundamental purpose of the By-laws committee was to draft new by-laws that are more consistent with the current process CLPC uses for carrying out its ministries. By-laws should be restrictive enough to ensure that significant decisions cannot be concluded without open opportunities to discuss and deliberate their consequences. Yet the By-laws need to allow adequate flexibility for the church to function well and efficiently.

Therefore these by-laws exclude many details which may seem important but may require changes as the church changes whether in size, diversity, or ministry. It is intentionally cumbersome to change the By-laws by requiring a two-thirds majority at a congregational meeting.

The last review of these By-laws at session recommended changes to the provision for:
terms of youth members on the Nominating committee (IV, 4, A&B),
the qualifications for Trustees (IV.2.A),
and inclusion of maintaining copies of contracts in the section on maintenance of records (V.2.).

The By-laws committee recommends Youth members on the Nominating committee still serve one year terms but may be elected to another one year term. Alternative suggestions are fine but the circumstances of most youth are fraught with schedule conflicts (homework, social activities) and ability to serve can be judged year to year. Please note also the Gordon Bellah changed the wording to clarify that at least two members at-large are to be included in the membership of the Nominating committee. The belief is that the session representation should not outweigh the membership representation and if no Board of Deacons existed a membership of three with two session members could be possible. If this is not the desire please have this changed.

We tried to state clearly the desire to have, on the Board of Trustees, members who have some experience not only with service as an Elder on session but also specifically at CLPC.

We recommend not including in the By-laws the same time requirement of records of all contracts since some may be of a minor nature. Instead the length of time retaining contract records can be addressed in policies and procedures documents and allow greater flexibility.

We welcome alternative suggestions but since a congregational meeting time has been set, we desire final wording be concluded at the September session meeting for submission in time for the congregation to review before the congregational meeting if they wish.