

**Proposed Changes to the Bylaws of
Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church (MCPC)
To be Considered and Voted upon during the
Congregation Meeting of
March 29, 2026**

1. These proposed changes have been approved by the Session of MCPC.
2. The proposed changes are color coded, **RED** and struck thru indicating deletion and **BLUE** indicating addition.
3. Where not needed for context of clarification, portions of the Bylaw article have not been included, indicated by "...".
4. Rationale for the proposed change immediately follow each article.
5. Members of Session will be available after worship during coffee hour in March 2026, for any questions or clarifications.

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Summary:

3 changes are to conform to Book of Order changes: 2.2.1; 2.5.2; 2.6.4.1

4 changes are to conform to current MCPC practice: 2.4.5; 2.5.6; 2.6.5.1; 2.7.2.1

4 changes are in recognition of MCPC demographics and size: 2.4.8; 2.5.1; 2.8.1;
2.9.1.1

Article II: OBJECTIVES

2.2.1 A Christian Church in the World

The objectives of this church are: The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of ~~mankind~~ **humankind**; the shelter, nurture, and the ...

RATIONALE:

To conform with the PCUSA Book Of Order, F-1.0304.

Article IV: Meetings of The Congregation
2.4.5 Scheduling of Stated Meetings

There shall be ~~two~~ **one** stated meetings of the congregation each year. The ~~Fall~~ meeting shall be held during the month of ~~October~~ **January** at a convenient time and place specified by the session for the purpose of electing elders and deacons, and to review the proposed budget for the ensuing calendar year. The Annual Meeting ~~shall be held in January at a convenient time and place specified by the session for the purpose of~~ **will include** receiving annual reports ...

RATIONALE:

To conform to current practice of only one congregational meeting held since approximately 2012.

Article IV: Meetings of The Congregation
~~**2.4.8 Proxy Voting**~~

~~Voting by proxy is not authorized.~~

RATIONALE:

Neither the Book Of Order nor the Administrative Manual of the Presbytery of Northern New England prohibit proxy voting. Deleting 2.4.8 in its entirety will bring the MCPC Administrative Manual into agreement with them. The demographics of MCPC motivates some members to travel and might not be able to participate virtually.

Article V: Nomination and Election of Church Officers
2.5.1 Nominating Committee Composition

There shall be a representative nominating committee composed of ~~seven~~ **four** active members of the church. ...

RATIONALE:

There are less and decreasing members from which to recruit both for the nominating committee and for MCPC committees, boards, and teams.

Article V: Nomination and Election of Church Officers
2.5.2 Elders and Deacons on Nominating Committee

~~Two~~ **One** members of this committee shall be **an** elders designated by the session, ~~one of whom shall be~~ currently on the session, and serve as moderator. ...

RATIONALE:

To conform to the PCUSA Book Of Order, G-2.0401.

Article V: Nomination and Election of Church Officers
2.5.6 Elder and Deacon Elections

Elders and deacons shall be elected at the ~~Fall~~ Stated meeting of the congregation. ...

RATIONALE:

To conform to current practice of one Annual Stated meeting of the congregation.

Article VI: Session
2.6.4 Meetings
2.6.4.1 Stated, Special, Directed

... All meetings shall be open to all active ~~and inactive~~ members of the congregation, ...

RATIONALE:

The PCUSA Book Of Order no longer lists “inactive” as a category of membership.

Article VI: Session
2.6.5 Property and Finance
2.6.5.1 Responsibility of Session

... budget, as approved by session, shall be presented to the congregation at its ~~Fall~~ Annual stated meeting for information, ...

RATIONALE:

To conform to current practice of one Annual Stated meeting of the congregation.

Article VII: The Corporation and Trustees
2.7.2 Officers
2.7.2.1 President

~~The chair of the mission and stewardship committee shall be, ex officio, president of the corporation. The duties of the president shall be all those required of the president of the corporation as found in the Articles of Incorporation, or as authorized or required by session, acting as trustees of the corporation, or as required by state law. The president shall be an elder in active service, and shall be elected by session for such term as it may determine.~~

The President of the Board of the Corporation shall be annually elected by Session.

RATIONALE:

The mission and stewardship committee no longer exists. In practice, the President of the Corporation has duties only in the absence of the Clerk of Session.

Article VIII: Board of Deacons

2.8.1 Members

The board of deacons ~~shall~~ should consist of ~~at least six and no more than twelve~~ members. ...

RATIONALE:

To recognize the continuing decline in membership and to allow flexibility in the membership of the Board of Deacons.

Article IX: Amendments

2.9.1.1 Procedures

These bylaws may be amended subject to the Articles of Incorporation, the laws of the State of Maine and the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA)* at any regular or special meeting of the congregation by a ~~two-thirds~~ majority vote of the active members, when a quorum is present, provided that a printed distribution of the proposed changes has been made in connection with the notice of the call of the meeting.

RATIONALE:

To allow for reasonable change to the Bylaws, recognizing the increasing difficulty of getting two-thirds of the active members to attend a Congregational meeting, based on increasingly complex schedules of the members, aging demographics, and declining membership.

End