

## Rational for By Law Changes October 2022



### The PCUSA Book of Order regarding the congregational nominating committee:

#### G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons

Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation's membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403).

**Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee *elected by the congregation*, drawn from and representative of its membership.**

Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee. The rule shall meet the following criteria: **(1) the minimum size of the committee as specified in the rule shall be at least three persons; (2) at least one member of the committee shall be an elder currently serving on session; and (3) a majority of those persons on the committee who are eligible to vote shall consist of persons not currently serving on session.**

The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote. When elections are held, full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. A majority of all the active members present and voting shall be required to elect.

### Current Stone Church By-Laws regarding the formation of a nominating committee:

#### ARTICLE IV NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS

- Section 1 To the extent possible given the independence of the organizations from which its members are chosen, the church Nominating Committee shall be representative of the active members of the church, giving fair representation to both men and women, persons of all age groups and of all racial/ethnic groups.
- Section 2 The Nominating Committee shall be *chosen annually* and shall be composed of the following members:
- A. Two members shall be designated by the Session, one of whom shall currently serve on the Session and be Chair.
  - B. One member shall be designated by and from the Board of Deacons for a one-year term.
  - C. Other members, in sufficient number to constitute a majority of the committee, exclusive of the Pastor, shall be chosen in the following manner.
    - i. One member from each standing committee of the Session, excluding the Personnel and Administration Committee, whose charter limits its size and makeup, shall be elected to serve a one-year term.
    - ii. One member each from each of the following organizations shall be elected to serve a one-year term: Presbyterian Women of Stone Church, a youth member under the age of 25, and the Chancel Choir. None of these members may be in active service on the Session or the Board of Deacons.
  - D. The Pastor shall serve ex-officio on the Nominating Committee, without vote.
- Section 3 Persons on the Nominating Committee shall not serve more than three years consecutively. No person shall serve as a representative of more than one organization.
- Section 4 The Nominating Committee shall be constituted to serve a one-year term, which shall run from July first to June thirtieth to coincide with the term of Session and its Committees. The members of the Nominating Committee shall be announced in the "Stone News."

**Suggested changes to the by-laws:**

**(Article IV below would replace the current Article IV as printed above):**

**ARTICLE IV NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF CHURCH OFFICERS**

Section 1 The membership of the church Nominating Committee shall give fair representation of the active members of the church.

Section 2 Members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by the congregation annually to serve two-year terms. The committee shall consist of 7 members divided into two classes, three elected in one year and four in the next. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

A. One elder currently serving on the Session shall be nominated by the Session to be the chair of the committee.

B. One member of the committee shall be nominated by and from the Board of Deacons.

C. The remaining members of the committee shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee with careful consideration of representation of the congregation.

D. The Pastor shall serve ex-officio on the Nominating Committee, without vote.

E. A majority of the persons serving on the committee shall consist of persons not currently serving on the Session.