

BYLAWS

OF

PRESBYTERY DE CRISTO

- 1 Certified Approved
- 2 Stated Clerk
- 3 Presbytery Meeting – 4/24/2021

PRESBYTERY DE CRISTO

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BYLAWS

PRESBYTERY DE CRISTO

Adopted January 30, 2016
Amended October 21, 2017 and April 24, 2021

ARTICLE I

NAME, AFFILIATION, AND BOUNDARIES

1.01 Presbytery de Cristo is a council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and part of the Synod of the Southwest.

1.02 This Presbytery is constituted under the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and in all matters of government the said Constitution is the highest authority.

1.02.1 Boundaries: Grant County, Luna County, and Hidalgo County in the State of New Mexico; Cochise County, Santa Cruz County, Graham County, Greenlee County, Pima County, that part of Yuma County south of the 33rd parallel, that part of Maricopa County south of the 33rd parallel, that part of Gila County south of Salt and Black Rivers, that part of Pinal County south of the Salt River Base Line except the Gila River Indian Reservation, all in the State of Arizona.

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ARTICLE II

~~RELATIONSHIPS AND MEMBERSHIP~~ AND MANAGEMENT

1.01 The Presbytery will consist of all teaching elders and an equal number of ruling elders in conformity to the Manual of Operations.

1.01.1 Ruling elders who are members of the Leadership Team, as defined in 5.05, for the tenure of their office shall be enrolled as members of Presbytery for the tenure of their office.

1.01.2 All ruling elder chairpersons of Presbytery standing commissions and committees shall be enrolled as members of Presbytery for the tenure of their office.

1.01.3 All Commissioned Ruling Elders, and all Certified Christian Educators who are Ruling Elders from congregations within the presbytery, shall have voice and vote at Presbytery gatherings and be counted as Ruling Elders for purpose of the teaching/ruling elder balancing formula.

1.01.4 Whenever the Presbytery Pastor serving the Grand Canyon and de Cristo Presbyteries is a member of de Cristo Presbytery by virtue of residence, the Presbytery Pastor shall also be an *ex officio* member of Grand Canyon Presbytery, with voice and vote.

1.01.1 Whenever the Associate Presbytery Pastor/Stated Clerk serving the Grand Canyon and de Cristo Presbyteries is a member of de Cristo by virtue of residence, the Stated Clerk/Associate shall also be an *ex officio* member of Grand Canyon Presbytery, with voice and vote.

1.02 Management. The Presbytery of de Cristo shares a staff with Presbytery of Grand Canyon and shares in training, meetings and educational events.

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ARTICLE III

MEETINGS

2.01 Presbytery shall hold at least four gatherings annually, including the educational gathering – “The Big Event”. At least two of the gatherings shall be stated meetings and at least two meeting shall be integrated with Presbytery of Grand Canyon, for normally the January Annual meeting and the spring meeting. Normally a fall meeting is held in October.

~~2.02 The Presbytery will hold at least four stated meetings annually, at least one (1) of which will ordinarily be held outside the Tucson area, and one which will be an educational event annually:~~

- ~~a. January – Annual Meeting~~
- ~~b. April – the 2nd quarter meeting~~
- ~~c. August Educational Event~~
- ~~d. October – the 4th quarter meeting~~

2.02 Each Stated Presbytery meeting of the year will consist of the following essential components:

- a. Teaching of the Apostles (Polity, work of the church, orientations)
- b. Fellowship (Our life together, time to “connect”)
- c. Celebration of the Lord’s Supper
- d. Prayer (Worship)

The order and form of these essential components will be flexible.

2.03 Presbytery meetings shall be approved by the Presbytery Leadership Commission. The dates of Presbytery Meetings for each calendar year shall be announced at the first meeting of the year. The Annual Meeting of the Presbytery de Cristo shall be held at the first meeting of each calendar year.

~~The Presbytery Meeting Planning Team will be responsible for the coordination of the presbytery meetings. It will consist of the Moderator of Presbytery, Moderator elect, immediate past Moderator of Presbytery, a representative from the hosting church, the Stated Clerk/Associate, and the Presbytery Pastor. The Planning Team’s meetings will be convened and moderated by the Presbytery Pastor.~~

2.04 Alternative Meetings – Electronic meetings of the Presbytery, its Commissions and Committees may be conducted at meetings at which, rather than all participating members being physically present in one room, some or all of the members communicate with the others through electronic means such as the internet or by telephone. Other rules for conducting electronic meetings may be established in the Manual of Operations.

1 2.05 The quorum for all Presbytery Meetings – The quorum of meetings of the
2 Presbytery shall be eight teaching elder members and eight ruling elders
3 present, provided that at least eight churches are represented by Ruling elders.
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ARTICLE ~~III~~ IV

OFFICERS

3.01 The officers of Presbytery will be: Moderator, Moderator-elect, Stated Clerk/Associate, and Treasurer.

3.01.1 The Moderator-elect will become Moderator upon installation at the January Annual meeting. At each October stated meeting a new moderator-elect will be nominated by the Nominating Committee for election by the Presbytery at the Annual Presbytery meeting.

3.01.2 Stated Clerk/Assoc. will be elected as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery for a period that is congruent with his/her employment contract.

3.01.3 The Treasurer of the Presbytery will be nominated by the Nominating Committee and will be elected for a term of three years and will not serve more than two consecutive terms.

3.02 Duties of the officers are provided in the Manual of Operations:

3.03 Presbytery may hire professional, administrative, and volunteer staff as recommended by the Combined Personnel Team. The process of election or hiring, position descriptions, method of performance review, and manner of termination shall be as provided in the Manual of Administrative Operations.

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ARTICLE V

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- 4.01 Board Composition – The voting members of The Leadership Team, as defined in 5.05, plus the treasurer, will comprise the Board of Trustees of Presbytery de Cristo.
- 4.02 Board Duties and Powers – The Board of Trustees has the power to elect its officers as may be required by the State of Arizona and the Presbytery de Cristo Articles of Incorporation.
- 4.03 This non-profit corporation, through its Board of Trustees, holds title to all real estate of the Presbytery, and is liable for all encumbrances on these assets as outlined in the *Book of Order* (G-4.02).
- 4.04 No church in Presbytery de Cristo will sell, mortgage, or otherwise encumber any of its real property, and will not acquire real property subject to encumbrance or conditions without written permission of the Presbytery transmitted by the Board of Trustees through the session of the particular church, according to the *Book of Order*.
- 4.05 Board Meetings – The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once a year and will report all of its actions to the Presbytery.