

BY-LAWS OF
COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) OF DRAYTON PLAINS
WATERFORD, MICHIGAN
{formally organized on May 7, 1928}

I. Statement of Purpose or Mission

The Community Presbyterian Church of Drayton Plains (U.S.A.) has been called by God and organized to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to minister to the needs of members of the congregation and residents of the community, and to promote peace and justice in the world.

II. Relation to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Community Presbyterian of Drayton Plains is a member church of the Presbytery of Detroit in the Synod of the Covenant of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

III. Governance of the Church

This church shall be governed in accordance with the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*. Consistent with that Constitution, these bylaws shall provide specific guidance for this church. The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be used for parliamentary guidance.

IV. Meetings of the Congregation

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Congregation in the church building on the third Sunday in January, at which at least the following business shall be presented: all minutes of the previous years congregational meetings are read and approved. An Annual Report is distributed which includes the following: annual reports from organizations and the session (for information only); financial report for the preceding year; budget for the current year (for information only); changes in the terms of call for the pastor (s); nominating committee report for church officers; electing members to serve on the nominating committee.

Special meetings may be called by the session. Such calls shall state clearly the purpose of such special meetings, and business shall be restricted to that which is specified in the call.

Both ecclesiastical and corporate business may be conducted at the same meeting of the congregation.

All meetings will be opened and closed with prayer.

V. Notice of Meetings of the Congregation

Public notice of the meetings shall be given in printed and verbal form on at least two successive Sundays prior to the meeting. When the meeting is called for the purpose of electing a pastor, the notice shall be given in printed and verbal form at least ten days in advance which shall include two successive Sundays.

VI. Moderator of Session and Congregational Meetings

The Pastor shall moderate the meetings. If the pulpit is vacant, or if the Pastor and ruling elders agree that the subjects to be discussed require it, or if the Pastor is ill or is otherwise unable to be present, a minister of the Detroit Presbytery shall be invited by the Session to preside. Any such invitation shall be cleared through the Committee on Ministry of the Detroit Presbytery.

VII. Clerk of Session – Minutes – Records

The Clerk of Session shall be the secretary of all meetings of Session and the Congregation. If the clerk is not present or is unable to serve, the session or its moderator shall appoint a secretary to record the minutes of that meeting. All minutes are approved at the next meeting of Session. All minutes of congregational meetings are also read and approved at the next Annual Meeting of the Congregation. All minutes, books and records of the

Length of terms of service:

No elder or deacon shall be elected for a term of more than three (3) years, nor shall an elder or deacon serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six (6) years. An elder or deacon having served a total of six (6) years shall be ineligible for re-election for a period of at least one (1) year. Vacancies on the Session or Board of Deacons may be filled at a Called Meeting of the Congregation, at the Stated Meeting of the Congregation held during the fourth quarter of the year, or at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

XIV Amendments

These bylaws may be amended subject to the charter of the corporation, the laws of the State of Michigan, and the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* at any annual meeting of the congregation or at any special meeting by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the voters present, providing that a full reading of the proposed changes or a printed version of the same shall have been made in connection with the call of the meeting.

These bylaws or the charter of this corporation may not be amended contrary to or so as not to include the provisions of the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*

2001 updating of bylaws by:

Elder Art McQuinn
Clerk of Session, Nita Larpenteur
Pastor Thomas Hartley

***** Sources *****

1. Previous bylaws of Community Presbyterian Church of Drayton Plains.
2. "Companion to the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*", The Office of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 4th edition, 1999.
3. "Book of Order 1999-2000"--Part II of the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*.