

## Constructing new NCCP By-Laws – an Interim report to Presbytery

**Process:** Deborah Wright, assisted greatly by STK RE Dave Weisenberger, has created a mashup of the current By-Laws of SAC and STK presbyteries. (Please note, we had begun but not completed the process of switching to the use of NCCP – that process will be appropriately completed throughout once the new narratives are set). There are a few topics addressed only by one of the two presbyteries, but for the most part both sets of By-Laws address common topics, if in different manners. That mashup will be shared with the NCCP Council, along with this suggestion as to how to proceed. In the mashup, the black print is current STK By-Laws language and the red is SAC's.

Below is a suggested outline of the structure of our new NCCP By-Laws and a proposed order of Council review and consideration of each article, with the ultimate hope that they will be ready for a first read by Presbytery at a special meeting in October, and a subsequent vote by the Presbytery in November 2020. A copy of the August progress will be shared at the September Presbytery meetings for information only!

### Proposed Articles of NCCP By-Laws:

Preamble

1. Composition and Boundaries {verified and adjusted beautifully by SC Nancy Clegg!}
2. Vision Statement
3. Corporation and Authority
4. Officers and Elections
5. Council
6. Presbytery Meetings (incl. Quorum)
7. Committees and Commissions of Presbytery
8. Board Representatives and Synod Representation
9. Commissioners to General Assembly
10. Annual Apportionment – *per capita*
11. Mileage
12. Administration of & Revisions to By-Laws  
(Records, Suspensions, Amendments)

Some of these articles will require greater discussion and review than other. As a path of least resistance, we will consider the more *pro forma* articles first: Preamble, 1, 3, 8, 9, 10,11, and 12. Council will be provided with each article's existing language and decision points for consideration. Following consideration by Council, a draft will be prepared for eventual presentation to NCCP for review/revision and ultimate approval. The draft sent to Presbytery will be annotated as to changes from the prior presbytery language and any rationale from Council consideration, as appropriate.

### Suggested timing of Review by Council(s):

August: Preamble, articles 1,3, 8, 9,10,11,12

September: Articles 4, 6

October: Articles 2, 5, 7

# Proposed Articles of the New NCCP By-Laws

## PREAMBLE:

The North Central California Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA) was created through a merger and change of boundaries of the previous Presbyteries of Sacramento and Stockton. This merger was confirmed by action of a duly appointed Administrative Commission of the 224th General Assembly on \_\_\_\_\_. The Articles of Incorporation were duly filed with the State of California on \_\_\_\_\_.

## ARTICLE 1: COMPOSITION & BOUNDARIES

The Presbytery of North Central California is composed of the portions of the counties of Siskiyou and Trinity, within the Mt. Diablo Grid of the Geological Survey, with the exceptions of Siskiyou townships 45, 46, 47, 48 of Range 1W, 2 W, 1E, 2E, 3E, and 4E; Modoc County with the exceptions of Townships 45, 46, 47, 48 of Range 5E, and those portions of Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer and El Dorado lying west of the line from west shore of Goose Lake at the Oregon border, to Susanville, to Donner Summit, to Echo Summit, to the northeast corner of Amador County where it joins Alpine County; Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Yuba, Yolo, Sutter, Sacramento and Amador counties; east of a line running due west from the southwest corner of Yolo County First Standard Parallel North, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, those portions of Solano County lying north of a line running west along the First Standard Parallel North, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, between the southwest corner of Yolo County and Napa County line and east of a line running north from the town of Rio Vista to the southwest corner of Yolo County; San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Calaveras, and Tuolumne counties; and the unincorporated community of Cortez in Merced County.

## ARTICLE 2: VISION STATEMENT – TBD

## ARTICLE 3: CORPORATION & AUTHORITY

THE CORPORATION As directed by Book of Order, G-4.0101 the North Central California Presbytery, part of the Synod of the Pacific of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is a corporation under the laws of the State of California, enabled to receive, hold and transfer property and to facilitate the management of its corporate affairs in such manner as the presbytery may from time to time direct. The Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of said corporation as adopted are approved by the Presbytery of North Central California as being the powers and purposes of this corporation.

As permitted by Section 9210(b) of the California Corporations Code, the Presbytery of North Central California shall itself be the governing body (board of directors) of the corporation. From time to time, and as specifically now and hereafter authorized in these bylaws, the governing body may delegate certain of its powers to subordinate units and committees, always reserving the right of final review and decision to itself.

**AUTHORITY:** The Bylaws of the Presbytery of North Central California, a council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a California Corporation, shall be subject to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) comprised of the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order, as well as to the Constitution and laws of the State of California.

**MEMBERSHIP OF PRESBYTERY:** The members of Presbytery are determined by the Book of Order G-3.0306 (hereafter, BOO).

**BOARD REPRESENTATIVES AND SYNOD EXECUTIVES** Synod executives, staff members and area representatives of the boards and agencies of the church, if not members of this Presbytery, shall be given permanent status as corresponding members with all the rights and privileges as prescribed in the Book of Order. They shall be [ex officio] consulting, non-voting members of the particular committee representing the interest which they serve.

#### **ARTICLE 4: OFFICERS & ELECTIONS – TBD**

#### **ARTICLE 5: COUNCIL - TBD**

#### **ARTICLE 6: PRESBYTERY MEETINGS - TBD**

#### **ARTICLE 7: COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERY - TBD**

#### **ARTICLE 8: COMMISSIONERS TO THE SYNOD**

**DATE OF ELECTION:** Commissioners to the Synod of the Pacific shall be elected by a majority vote at the May stated meeting of Presbytery.

**ELIGIBILITY OF COMMISSIONERS:** Any minister member or ruling elder with at least one year of active Presbytery experience shall be eligible for election.

**ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS:** In the year of election, at the May stated meeting, the Nominating Committee shall nominate commissioners according to the request of the Synod Stated Clerk. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. The nominee receiving the most votes shall be the elected commissioner and the nominee receiving the next highest number of votes shall be the alternate.

**REPORT OF SYNOD COMMISSIONERS:** Ordinarily, Synod Commissioners shall report to Presbytery at the stated meeting immediately following Synod meetings.

#### **ARTICLE 9: COMMISSIONERS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Any minister member of the presbytery and any ruling elder of a church in the presbytery shall be eligible for nomination as a commissioner to a higher governing body.

**ELECTION:** Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegates to the General Assembly and Commissioners to Synod shall be elected far enough in advance of the announced meeting dates of these governing bodies to provide opportunity for proper briefing of the persons elected. Commissioners to the General Assembly shall be elected at the November stated meeting in the year preceding the General Assembly. The stated clerk shall notify all members of presbytery and all clerks of session of the date and format of these elections.

#### **ARTICLE 10: ANNUAL APPORTIONMENT (PER CAPITA)**

The amount per member of the annual apportionment (per capita) for contingent funds of Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly shall be based on the membership of the churches of the Presbytery reported the preceding year to the General Assembly.

The per capita rate for North Central California Presbytery shall be recommended by the Council and voted on annually by the Presbytery at its November Meeting.

#### **ARTICLE 11: MILEAGE**

Mileage and shall be allowed for all meetings of Presbytery and Presbytery business. Mileage requests maybe submitted to the Treasurer. All persons required to attend Presbytery shall be authorized to submit mileage claims for attendance at Presbytery meetings and Presbytery business not compensated by the church.

The rate for round trip shall be recommended to Presbytery by the Presbytery Council, and, unless otherwise stated, shall be equivalent to the stated annual mileage reimbursement rates allowable for Federal IRS tax purposes.

#### **ARTICLE 12: ADMINISTRATION OF & REVISIONS TO THE BY-LAWS**

**SUSPENSION:** These Bylaws may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any meeting of Presbytery

**RECORDS OF THE PRESBYTERY:** Minutes and all other official records of the presbytery, including all financial records, are the property of the Presbytery, and are to be maintained in the Presbytery office. Current working files may be kept for the current year only with the Presbytery officers responsible for them. (See G-3.0305)

**AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS:** The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of any regular meeting of Presbytery, a quorum being present, provided the amendment either has been studied by the Presbytery Council and previously read to the Presbytery or was included in the call for the meeting.

**PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:** Parliamentary authority for the Presbytery shall be the most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except in those cases where these Bylaws or the statutes of the State of California provide otherwise.