

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE CONGREGATION BYLAWS OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA

Regarding Having the Session Serve as the Board of Trustees

10/29/19

After study, reflection, and presentation to the Session by the Board Governance Task Force, the Session, with the concurrence of the current Board of Trustees, has determined that it would be advantageous for the Church to unify the functions of the Session and the Board of Trustees and have a modestly expanded Session act as the Church's Board of Trustees. This proposed modification to our governance structure is authorized by the Book of Order and has been successfully implemented by comparable congregations across the United States.

To that end, a draft amendment to the ByLaws of the Congregation is proposed for approval of the congregation (with the corporate ByLaws of the Board of Trustees to be amended accordingly, by that group), with the proposed changes being as follows:

1. Section XIV, "Trustees" was changed to: "The ruling elders serving on the Session shall constitute the Board of Trustees." The previous section requirements about number, selection, and term, were deleted (since they would be the same as for the Session).
2. Section XV, "Size of the Session and the Board of Deacons" indicates that the Session will be expanded from 15 to 18; also, we omitted any reference to the Board of Trustees in this section because the Session will assume all Trustee functions.
3. Section XI, "Nominating Committee" was changed to substitute a member of the Session for the member of the Board of Trustees (so, now the Committee will have 2 Session members).
4. A number of small "clean-up" changes were made (such as changing By-Laws or bylaws to the current version preferred by Robert's Rules, of "ByLaws;" numbering the activities to be done at the annual meeting; updating the notice requirements to include electronic notice, as well as other means and hard copy at the meeting; removing "non-voting" after "ex-officio," since the latter means non-voting; putting numerals after the written out numbers in all instances, consistently capitalizing Session, etc.)