

**Coordinating Council Report to the Presbytery  
May 25, 2021**

**The Council's Working Group on By-Laws Revisions presents for first reading, proposed changes to the by-laws.** The proposed by-law changes allow for greater flexibility, as the presbytery and its churches continue to make necessary adjustments, given current conditions, by:

1. Removing references to presbytery meetings being held in particular months of the calendar year.
2. Consolidating the multiple offices of the Stated Clerk into two, in alignment with current practice, and shortening the term of office (without restriction on the number of terms).
3. Making provision for Electronic meetings of the presbytery as well as its committees, commissions, and permanent entities and offering amended guidelines for voting by e-mail.
4. Moving material on the Nominating Committee and its process and criteria for electing Commissioners to the General Assembly to the Standing Rules for Entities of the Presbytery. Revisions in these sections reflect on-going changes in the practices and format of General Assembly meetings, which impact when and how presbyteries elect commissioners. The removal of these sections from the By-laws and their placement in Standing Rules is consistent with material on other permanent entities of the presbytery and streamlines the time necessary for making future changes, as needed.

**Additional By-Laws Revisions are anticipated, as the presbytery continues to move through a time of on-going change.** We are currently in an experimental season to discern what structural changes (committees, budget, staff, office) will most faithfully and effectively serve Christ's mission in and through our congregations:

1. In the years 2020 and 2021, the Mission Advocacy, Education, and Strengthening our Congregations Teams were dormant, while a new Grants Review Team fulfilled the grant-funding functions of these entities.
2. Additionally, two Administrative Commissions walked alongside congregations in discernment of a legacy path, with a third AC currently proposed.
3. Task groups and sub-committees continue to function on an ad-hoc basis, relative to the presbytery's mission relationships with Honduras and Camp Krislund.
4. A Vision Working Group of the Council has begun to ask how the presbytery will engage the opportunities and challenges for our life and witness as we emerge from the pandemic.