

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS of
EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
East Lansing, Michigan

PREAMBLE

The purpose of Eastminster Presbyterian Church is to worship God through Jesus Christ.

We hereby enact these Bylaws to effectuate that purpose:

1. The Eastminster Presbyterian Church of East Lansing, Michigan, being a particular congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) recognized that the Constitution of said Church, is in all its provisions, obligatory upon it and its members.
2. There shall be an annual meeting of the Congregation in the church edifice in the thirty (30) days following the end of the fiscal year as set by the Session for the transaction of any business properly coming before such meeting.
3. Special meetings may be called by the Session or the Presbytery. Such calls shall state clearly the purpose of such special meeting and no other matter save that specified in the call may be considered.
4. Public notice of the time, place, and purpose of all meetings of the congregation shall be given at least one (1) week prior to the appointed time.
5. The pastor shall preside at all meetings of the congregation. If the church is vacant, or if the pastor and the elders agree that the subjects to be discussed require it, or the pastor is ill or is otherwise unable to be present, a minister of Lake Michigan Presbytery shall be invited by the Session to preside. This invitation shall be cleared through the Committee on Ministry of Lake Michigan Presbytery.
6. The Clerk of the Session shall be secretary of the meetings of the congregation. If the Clerk is unable to attend, the Session shall designate a secretary.
7. All active communicant members in good and regular standing shall be entitled to vote at congregation meetings affecting the ecclesiastical affairs of the church. On all matters affecting corporate affairs, only persons having attained the age of majority as prescribed by the laws of the State of Michigan shall be entitled to vote.
8. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
9. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the General Rules for Judicatories adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), so far as they apply, and when they do not apply, according to usual legislative rules of order.
10. All meetings shall be opened and closed with prayer.

11. A quorum shall consist of 10% of the eligible voters as defined in Bylaw #7. The congregation may meet by electronic means if all members have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss and vote on business items.
12. The Session shall consist of twelve (12) elders divided into three (3) equal classes, one (1) class of which shall be elected each year at the called meeting of the congregation for a three-year (3) term. No elder shall serve on the Session for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six (6) years and shall be ineligible to be elected to a new term until one (1) year shall have elapsed. The Session shall be responsible for the whole life of the church and may divide themselves into commissions to carry out their responsibilities more effectively. No organization shall be formed within this Church without the approval of the Session, and all activities of such organizations shall be subject to its approval.
13. There shall be Deacons in numbers to be determined by the Session, divided into three (3) classes, one (1) of which shall be elected each year for a term of three (3) years. No Deacon shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years and shall be ineligible to be elected to a new term until one (1) year shall have elapsed. Deacons may be appointed by the Session to serve on Session Commissions.
14. Vacancies on the Session or among Deacons may be filled at a special meeting of the congregation or at the Annual Meeting as the Session may determine.
15. The Session shall serve as trustees of the Corporation. The duties of the trustees shall be only those delegated to them by the law of the State of Michigan, the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
16. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of active communicant members of this church. Two (2) members of the committee shall be designated by and from the Session, one (1) of whom shall be named by the Session as chairperson, and one (1) Deacon shall be selected by the Board of Deacons. A minimum of four (4) other members of the Committee (none of whom may be in active service on the Session) shall be elected annually by the congregation. The Pastor shall be a member of this committee ex officio but without vote. This committee shall bring to a called meeting nominations of at least one (1) eligible person for each office to be filled. Additional nominations of qualified persons may be made from the floor by any eligible voter.
17. The above bylaws are based on the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and may be amended only as follows: Bylaw 2 is subject to amendment with respect to date, hour, and place of meeting only. Bylaw 16 is subject to amendment only as to the number of nominations that shall be presented for each office. Bylaw 1,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10 and 14 are not subject to amendment. Other bylaws may be amended at any special meeting called for that purpose or at any Annual Meeting.