

BYLAWS
Of
THE FREEDOM PLAINS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1. The Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church has been called by God and organized to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, to minister to the needs of the members of the congregation and of the residents of the community, and to promote peace and justice in the world.

2. The Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church (the “Church”), being a particular congregation of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) recognizes that the Constitution of PCUSA is obligatory upon the Church and its members.

3. The official corporate name of the Church shall be The Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church. The Church was formed by the merger of The Presbyterian Society of Freedom Plains Meeting House, a/k/a The Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church, and The First Presbyterian Church of Poughkeepsie, New York on January 1, 2010.

4. The principal location of the Church shall be 1168 Route 55 at the corner of Stringham Road in Lagrangeville, New York.

5. There shall be an annual meeting of the congregation of the Church on a Sunday in the month of January after worship each year. The Session shall fix the date and the transaction of any business properly coming before such a meeting.

6. Special meetings of the congregation may be called by the Session, the Presbytery or by the Session when requested in writing by one fourth of the active members on the roll of the congregation. Such calls shall state clearly the purpose of the special meeting, and no other matters may be considered.

When, from time to time, physical meetings to conduct business are impractical, such meetings of the congregation may be held via electronic video and/or audio teleconference. Reasonable notice of the date, time and set-up procedures of electronic meetings will be given by the moderator. The conduct of electronic meetings will conform as closely as possible to the procedures for physical congregational meetings set out in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, including (but not limited to) those for quorums and the recording of minutes. Minutes of teleconference meetings shall be treated as official minutes, must be approved by the congregation at its next physical or electronic meeting and shall be kept and forwarded in the same way as minutes of physical meetings.

7. Public notice of the time, place and purpose of all meetings shall be given from the pulpit on the two Sabbaths directly preceding the meeting
8. The pastor of a congregation shall be the moderator of the Session and of congregation meetings. If it is impractical for the pastor to moderate, he or she shall invite another teaching elder who is a member of the presbytery or a person authorized by the presbytery to serve as moderator. If there is no installed pastor, or if the installed pastor is unable to invite another moderator, the presbytery shall make provision for a moderator.
The moderator possesses the authority necessary for preserving order and for conducting efficiently the business of the body. He or she shall convene and adjourn the body in accordance with its own action.

9. The Clerk of Session shall be secretary of the meetings of the congregation. If the Clerk is unable to act, the Session shall designate a secretary in his or her stead.
10. The members of the Church shall be active members in good standing as defined by the Book of Order of PCUSA, regardless of age.
11. Only members of full age (18) shall be eligible to vote on matters dealing with property and matters that are strictly the business of the Church Corporation. Otherwise, all active members of the Church are eligible to vote at all meetings of the Church. Voting by proxy is not allowed.
12. A quorum for meetings of the congregation shall consist of the moderator, secretary and twenty-five eligible voters.
13. The Session shall consist of seventeen ruling elders (of whom two are youth elders), and the pastor and the associate pastor. Youth elders shall serve a one-year term while all other ruling elders shall serve a three-year term. Two youth elders and five regular elders will be elected each year.
14. The Board of Deacons shall consist of seventeen deacons (of whom two are youth deacons). Youth deacons shall serve a one-year term while all other deacons shall serve a three-year term. Two youth deacons and five regular deacons will be elected each year.
15. Each member of Session of full age (18) shall also be a member of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall appoint the President of the Board of Trustees and the Church Treasurer for such a term as it may determine. The President of the Board of Trustees shall be a ruling elder. The Board of Trustees may call a special meeting of the church corporation, and such

meeting shall be conducted in accordance with the laws of the State of New York.

16. When vacancies occur on the Session or the Board of Deacons, they will be filled at either a special meeting of the congregation or the annual meeting of the congregation as the Session may determine.
17. The quorum for Session meetings shall be the moderator and one-third of those ruling elders in current service on the session. The quorum for the Board of Trustees shall be a majority of those trustees in current service on the Board.

When, from time to time, physical meetings to conduct business are impractical, such meetings of the session may be held via electronic video and/or audio teleconference. Reasonable notice of the date, time and set-up procedures of electronic meetings will be given by the moderator. The conduct of electronic meetings will conform as closely as possible to the procedures for physical session meetings set out in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, including (but not limited to) those for quorums and the recording of minutes. Minutes of teleconference meetings shall be treated as official minutes, must be approved by the entity at its next physical or electronic meeting and shall be kept and forwarded in the same way as minutes of physical meetings.

The session may, from time to time, cast binding votes through email or other commonly used but individually addressed electronic tool. Email voting is limited to action items believed to be routine and not controversial. In such cases the moderator of the session will make a motion (a second is not required) by sending the motion's text and any significant background material to all members of the body. The moderator will also include an announcement which clearly indicates the deadline for receipt of responses and offers any and all members the opportunity to stop the email vote and call for an electronic

meeting to consider the matter. Members of the session will use the “respond all” facility of email or otherwise respond in a way by which all participants can see all the votes. Email voting produces a valid action when the number of voters responding meets or exceeds the group’s normal quorum, and the measure being voted on receives positive responses from at least 3/4 of those members who respond.

18. Meetings of the congregation, the Session, and the Board of Deacons shall be opened and closed with prayer. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, except when it is in contradiction to the Constitution of PCUSA.
19. The Session, at its organization meeting after the annual meeting of the congregation or at a subsequent meeting, shall elect a Clerk of Session, and such other officers as it may determine as necessary. The Clerk shall be a ruling elder.
20. There shall be a nominating committee that is representative of the congregation, chosen in accordance with the Book of Order of PCUSA. It shall include at least one ruling elder who is currently serving on the session. The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote. The committee shall bring to the annual meeting or special meeting of the congregation nominations for one eligible person for every office to be filled. Additional nominations of qualified persons may be made from the floor by any eligible voter.
21. These bylaws may be amended subject to and in harmony with Certificate of Incorporation of the Church corporation, the law of the State of New York and the Constitution of PCUSA at any annual or special meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voters present provided that a full

reading of the proposed changes or a copy thereof shall have been made available in connection of the call of the meeting.