

**The Presbyterian Church of James's Island**  
**(also known as)**  
**James Island Presbyterian Church**  
**1632 Fort Johnson Road**  
**Charleston, SC 29412**

**Bylaws**

**I. Statement of Purpose and Motto**

Purpose: "To love God, to love our neighbors, to be Christ's witnesses, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ."

Motto: "A Light to the Nations, a Beacon to the Island"

**II. Statement of Mission**

"Our mission at James Island Presbyterian Church is fourfold. First, we worship on Sundays and special days throughout the year. Second, we provide nurture to our church families. Third, we serve others through mission. Fourth, we preserve the legacy of our faith by good stewardship."

**III. Active Membership Defined**

An active member is defined as a person who has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and has been baptized and has been received into the active membership of the church by the session. The session must vote to determine if an active member should be removed from the rolls or to have his or her membership status changed.

**IV. Parliamentary Guidance**

These bylaws shall provide specific guidance for this church. The latest edition of *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be used for parliamentary guidance.

**V. Meetings of the Church**

There shall be an annual meeting of the church corporation. At minimum the following business shall be presented: annual reports from committees and/or organizations and the session (information only), financial report for the preceding year, budget for the current year (information only), changes in the

terms of call for the pastor(s), nominating committee report for church officers, and election of members to serve on the nominating committee.

Special meetings may be called by the session. Such calls shall state clearly the purpose of such special meetings, and business shall be restricted to that which is specified in the call.

#### **VI. Notice of Meetings**

Adequate public notice of all congregational meetings shall be given as follows: Notice shall be given two (2) consecutive Sundays before any special meeting; the congregation may meet on any day following the second Sunday announcement.

#### **VII. Moderator**

The pastor shall moderate the meetings. If there are co-pastors, they shall alternately preside at meetings.

#### **VIII. Secretary**

The clerk of session shall serve as secretary. If the clerk is not present or is unable to serve, the congregation shall elect a secretary.

#### **IX. Minutes of the Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting recorded by the secretary shall be attested by the moderator and the secretary, recorded in the minute book of the session.

#### **X. Quorum for the Meeting**

The quorum of a meeting of the congregation shall be the moderator, the secretary, and 10 percent of the active membership. The secretary shall determine whether a quorum is present. All active members of the congregation present at annual and/or special meetings are entitled to vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

#### **XI. Nominating Committee**

The congregation shall form a nominating committee in the following manner:

- (1) A quorum of 5 members and a majority of the total committee votes are required to nominate.
- (2) At least one of the members shall be a ruling elder who is currently serving on the session.
- (3) The pastor shall be a member ex officio and without a vote.
- (4) A majority of all active members present and voting shall be required to elect a nominating committee.

Full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation.

## **XII. Church Officer Requirements**

The James Island Presbyterian Church maintains the following minimum requirements of all officers: Each candidate will be examined on an individual basis by the session. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian Gospel in the church and in the world.

James Island Presbyterian Church affirms its belief in the Biblical standard of fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness. Guided by its interpretation of the Scriptures, the Confessions of the Church and the Holy Spirit, James Island Presbyterian Church finds no Scriptural or confessional support for ordination to church office if such a candidate has self-acknowledged, unrepentant sins and is determined to practice those sins. This would be a refusal to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life and would thereby exclude a candidate from ordination and/or installation.

## **XIII. Elders**

The congregation shall elect elders divided into three equal classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at the annual meeting for a three-year term. No elder shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. An elder having served a total of six years shall be ineligible for reelection to the session for a period of at least one year.

The session, at its first meeting following the annual meeting, shall elect an elder to serve as clerk for a period of one year and shall form such committees as necessary to carry out its work. At that same meeting of the session, the session shall annually elect a treasurer. A quorum for the session shall be the pastor or other presiding officer and at least 51% of current active elders.

## **XIV. Deacons**

James Island Presbyterian Church currently does not elect deacons, but uses a unicameral system of elders. The following procedure would be applied if the church were to add a board of deacons. (The congregation shall elect deacons divided into three equal classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at the annual meeting for a three-year term. No deacon shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. A deacon having served a total of six years shall be ineligible for reelection to the board of deacons for a period of at least one year.

The board of deacons, at its first meeting following the annual meeting, shall elect a moderator and a secretary from among its members and shall form such committees as necessary to carry out its work. The pastor shall be an advisory member of the board of deacons. A quorum for the board of deacons shall be one third of the members, which includes the moderator.)

## **XV. Trustees**

A Board of Trustees shall be elected in three classes serving the same as the terms for elders. Only active members shall be members of the church corporation and eligible for election as trustees. The trustees shall have the following powers: to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property, real or personal, for the congregation, granted in a duly constituted meeting; to accept and execute deeds of title to such property; to hold and defend title to such property; and to manage any permanent special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the congregation.

## **XVI. Vacancies**

Vacancies on the session, trustees or the board of deacons may be filled at a special meeting of the congregation or at the annual meeting, as the session may determine.

## **XVII. Sacraments and Marriage Ceremonies**

As in the written and preached Word, so in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, Jesus Christ is present with believers. The Sacraments are an essential part of the public ministry of the church, in which all Christians are expected to participate. However, salvation is not limited to those who have received them.

Marriage is a gift that God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage is defined as a covenant between a man and a woman. For Christians, marriage is a covenant through which a man and a woman are called to live out their lives of discipleship together before God. In a service of Christian marriage, a lifelong commitment is made by a man and a woman to each other, publically witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.

No other form of union ceremony or blessing of unions or marriage ceremonies that do not conform to the definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman may be performed on the grounds of James Island Presbyterian Church.

## **XVIII. Committees**

James Island Presbyterian Church will maintain a nominating committee and any such other committees as the session may approve from time to time.

## **XIX. Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active members present.