



JAMES ISLAND

Presbyterian Church

James Island Presbyterian Church
Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws
For congregational meeting 2/2/25

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Members of the session present for your consideration changes to our church's by-laws. The session has not undertaken this process lightly, but prayerfully, in consideration of the needs of the congregation and in accordance with the most current Book of Order.

The proposed changes you see presented here are seen in italic print with the original wording struck through for transparent comparison and reflect changes previously approved by congregational vote on 6/9/24.

These changes have largely been made for clarity and major amendments include:

- Section III - Clarification regarding the determination of membership
- Sections IV and V – Clarification regarding annual and special meetings of the congregation including notice of these meetings
- Sections VII and VIII – moderator and clerk service to reflect the Book of Order
- Section X – an allowance for remote participation and voting in congregational meetings if approved by session
- Section XI – clarification regarding the process of approving a nominating committee and the members of that committee
- Section XVI – the addition of a section regarding operations of the church, as outlined in the Book of Order

We invite you to consider these changes thoughtfully and in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the session, Reverend Wetherell or Reverend Payne with any questions or concerns.

In Christ's Name,
The session of James Island Presbyterian Church

James Island Presbyterian Church
1632 Fort Johnson Road, Charleston, SC 29412
843-795-3111; jipc@jamesislandpc.org

Approved by James Island Presbyterian Church at a called congregation meeting on April 28, 2013
Amended by James Island Presbyterian Church at a called congregation meeting on June 9, 2024
WITH EXTRACTED/AMENDED SECTIONS INCLUDED AND MARKED

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.” (*Matthew 22.37-40*)

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~~ to worship on Sundays and special days throughout the year, ~~Second, we~~ to provide nurture to our church families, ~~Third, we~~ to serve others through mission, ~~Fourth, we~~ and to 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.

Management of Membership Rolls and definition of Membership is defined by the Membership Committee and approved by session. The Membership Committee is charged with an annual review of the Membership with reporting to session. Any change to a member’s status on the JIPC rolls must be approved by 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

JIPC is guided by scripture and operates under the constitution of PC(USA). 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.

Signed _____ Date _____ Clerk of session
Signed _____ Date _____ Moderator
Signed _____ Date _____ Trustee

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The clerk of session shall serve as secretary for all meetings of the congregation. If the clerk of session is unable to serve, the congregation shall elect a secretary for that meeting. The secretary shall record the actions of the congregation in minutes of the meeting. G-1.0506

IX. Minutes of the Meeting

The minutes of the meeting recorded by the secretary shall be attested by the moderator and the secretary and 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.

While James Island Presbyterian Church encourages and prefers live interactions and in presence voting at all congregational, trustee and session meetings, it is permissible, if approved by session, for each individual meeting to include and accept electronic voting. All remote participants shall be afforded the same opportunities for input on items to be voted upon and all participants shall be confirmed as JIPC members before results of a vote are considered complete.

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. The current nominating committee will bring forth a slate of candidates to fill a committee of seven (7) candidates.~~
- (2) ~~At least one of the members shall be a ruling elder who is currently serving on the session. Four (4) will be at large members from the congregation, two (2) elders currently on session and one (1) an actively serving deacon. The elders shall serve as chair and co-chair.~~
- (3) The pastor shall be a member *ex officio* and without a vote.
- (4) A majority of the active members *of the congregation present and* voting shall be required to elect a nominating committee.
- (5) *The chair of the Nominating Committee shall serve for a two-year term, the first year as co-chair and the second year as chair.*

Signed _____	Date _____	Clerk of session
Signed _____	Date _____	Moderator
Signed _____	Date _____	Trustee

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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 elect a treasurer for a period of one year. A quorum for the session shall be the pastor or other presiding officer and at least 51% of current active elders. *If the clerk or treasurer is unable to continue to serve in his/her position, the session may elect a stated clerk and/or treasurer to fill the vacancy from currently serving 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.~~

James Island Presbyterian Church may elect a board of deacons in this manner: The congregation shall elect deacons divided into three equal classes, one class of whom shall be elected each year at the ~~annual~~ *a congregational* 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. *Deacons may elect a moderator and/or secretary to fill a vacancy from currently serving deacons. 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 *by the congregation* in three classes serving the same as the terms for elders. Only active members *of the congregation* shall be members of the church corporation and eligible for election as trustees. The trustees shall have powers *as outlined in the Book of Order G.4.0101. including:* 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. Operations of the Church

Signed _____ Date _____ Clerk of session
Signed _____ Date _____ Moderator
Signed _____ Date _____ Trustee

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_____ a notary for the State of South Carolina. My commission expires _____.

Signed _____	Date _____	Clerk of session
Signed _____	Date _____	Moderator
Signed _____	Date _____	Trustee