

Approved\* At The Annual Meeting

# First Church In Pembroke 2022 Bylaws

\*"Article 8e Board of Missions" was excluded to rework the  
Morris Scholarship section – See page #12

## **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The corporate name of this church is "First Church in Pembroke, Inc." but for general purposes it is to be known as "First Church" or "the Church."

## **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE**

First Church exists for the following purposes: to worship God; to preach the gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ; to celebrate the sacraments and rites of the Christian Religion; to teach the principles of the Christian faith; to realize Christian Fellowship and unity and to render loving service to humanity in the pursuit of righteousness, justice, and peace.

## **ARTICLE III: COVENANT**

The following covenant is an expression of the spirit in which First Church interprets the Word of God.

### **COVENANT:**

We freely pledge together in the Lord's name, United in love for one another, to strive to carry out His will as revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures. As God made covenant with His people we believe that by owning this covenant we become part of God's gathered people. We welcome all to worship with us and respect their diversity and freedom of conscience. We hold this to be the mission of First Church: walking together in Christian love and fellowship by following the Gospel, worshipping God, and working for the progress of knowledge, justice, peace, and equality through God's will and the Holy Spirit. We work and pray for the transformation of the world into the Kingdom of God, and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and life everlasting.

## **ARTICLE IV: POLICY**

The government of First Church is vested in its members, who have full and final control of all its affairs. At the same time, we declare our desire to cooperate with all churches that seek to promote the Kingdom of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **ARTICLE V: PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Invitation to receive the right hand of fellowship is extended to any person who confesses faith in Jesus Christ and desires to walk in the ways of the Lord with others, and informs the church of such intention.
- B. Membership in First Church is open to any person who receives the Baptism of our Lord, promises to uphold the Covenant of the Church, and receives the right hand of fellowship at a regular service of worship or, in the case of extraordinary circumstances such as illness or infirmity, at some other location approved by the Diaconate.
- C. Members are required, to the best of their ability, to attend regular services of worship, to contribute financially to the support of the church and its benevolence, to participate in its life and work, and to live a Christian life.
- D. Any member desiring to leave First Church to join another church may be granted a letter of transfer.
- E. Any member, for their own reasons, who desires to terminate membership without transfer to another church is free to do so. The Diaconate may consult with the member as to the reason(s) for the decision.
- F. Any member who causes harm within the church community may be subject to a hearing before Council and may have the rights and privileges of membership revoked by the Council provided that all means of reconciliation have been exhausted.
- G. Any member who fails to contribute, with time, talent, or treasure, or attend for one (1) year may, by vote of the Diaconate, be placed on a list of inactive members. Inactive members are not counted in the official roll of members, and cannot vote or hold office while on the inactive list, but can be reinstated as an active member.

## **ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS**

### **A: WORSHIP**

Regular worship services are held on Sunday at times set by the Church or the Diaconate. Special services are held as the Diaconate and the Pastor direct. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on the first Sunday of every month and as the Pastor and Diaconate arrange.

### **B: BUSINESS MEETINGS**

1. Robert's Rules of Order prevails at all meetings.
2. All legal congregational meetings of First Church are announced at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting by the posting of a warrant that states the business of the meeting. This warrant is signed by at least three (3) members of the Church Council and will be clearly posted. A quorum consists of twenty-five (25) members of the Church. All By-law changes require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of members present.
3. The Annual Meeting is held in January or on a date set by the Church Council to hear and approve all annual reports of the officers, boards, and committees; to approve the ballot and the budget; to hear the objectives of the Church Council for the coming year; and to hear any other business that may come before the meeting. The written Annual Report is available to the congregation at least two (2) weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.
4. Special business meetings and all special congregational meetings are called by the Clerk at the request of both the Pastor and the Moderator, or by the Church Council, or at the request in writing of seven (7) members of the church after they have met with the Council.
5. The official year of the Church is from January 1st through December 31st. All officers, boards, and committees assume their duties at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting and continue until successors are elected.
6. At all meetings we remember that: We are a faith based Christian community open to all people who in God's name promise to Speak the Truth in Love.
7. Ex-officio members do not have voting privileges at Board or Committee meetings.

#### **Speak...**

Openly sharing, talking directly with each other, speaking respectfully and listening

#### **The Truth...**

Honest, open, direct communication in an atmosphere of trust

#### **In Love...**

In an environment that is safe, considerate, open to listening and learning,  
healthy, equal, and with an agreed upon structure or process

## ARTICLE VII: OFFICERS

### **A: THE PASTOR**

The Settled Pastor must have graduated from a nationally accredited divinity, seminary, or theological institution. The Pastor has charge of the worship services of the Church and preaches the Gospel, administers the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and carries out a ministry of Pastoral care and visionary leadership. As an ordained leader of the congregation, the Pastor is an ex-officio member of the boards and committees and entitled to be present at any meeting of any church sanctioned group.

The Pastor is expected to attend the meetings of the Church Council and the Diaconate. The Pastor is in regular communication with the Moderator.

The Pastor works in concert with the Church Council to oversee the day to day operations of the Church.

In the exercise of the office, the Pastor seeks and cherishes the advice and counsel of the Diaconate, whose responsibility it is to consult with the Pastor about the visions of the congregation, pastoral duties, and to interpret the special concerns of the congregation to the Pastor.

The Pastor's performance and personal needs will be reviewed annually by the Diaconate at their June meeting.

The Pastor works in concert with the Music Director to choose music for all services.

When a vacancy in the office of the Pastor occurs, the Church Council elects a diverse Pastoral Search Committee. The settled Pastor must be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those members of the church present and voting at a legal congregational meeting. The term is of indefinite duration.

The settled Pastor may be terminated by the congregation by a two-thirds ( 2/3) majority vote of those present and voting at a legally called church meeting. The church may request the Pastor's resignation with the expectation that it will be fulfilled in accordance with the employment contract and these Bylaws. The Pastor may terminate the relationship to the Church by giving notice as specified in the contract.

**All Lay officers are members of the Church and will be elected annually**

**B. THE CLERK**

The Clerk serves as the secretary of the Church and keeps the official record of the proceedings of the Church and the Council. The Clerk also keeps a paper record of all baptisms, marriages, and funerals. The Clerk, along with the Diaconate, creates and maintains the First Church database of names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and talents of people attending the Church and preserves on file all communications and written official reports in conjunction with the Archives Committee; gives legal notice of all meetings when such notices are necessary; conducts all correspondence so far as this is not otherwise provided for; and performs such duties as are prescribed by law or as usually pertain to the office of a Clerk of an assembly in Massachusetts.

**C: THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

The Financial Secretary receives all monies and takes charge of all offerings and special collections. The Financial Secretary or Assistant Financial Secretary and an unrelated member of the Trustees count all collections, special gifts, and keep an accurate and confidential account of the First Church and notify the Mission Committee of receipts for missions.

The Financial Secretary must be bonded.

The Financial Secretary reports to the Treasurer.

**D: THE ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY**

An Assistant Financial Secretary assumes the duties of the Financial Secretary when absent.

The Assistant Financial Secretary must be bonded.

The Assistant Financial Secretary reports to the Financial Secretary.

**E: THE TREASURER**

The Treasurer pays all the bills of the church and reports such at the meetings of the Board of Trustees. A report of all receipts and disbursements is made at the Annual Meeting. The books will be audited every two years by an outside auditor. The Treasurer serves ex-officio on the Board of Trustees.

The Treasurer must be bonded.

## **F: THE ASSISTANT TREASURER**

The Assistant Treasurer assists the Treasurer and assumes the duties of the Treasurer when absent. The Assistant Treasurer must be bonded.

## **G: THE MODERATOR**

The Moderator conducts all legal congregational meetings and is Chairperson of the Church Council. In the event of the Moderator's absence, the Pastor or Clerk may call the meetings to order and a Moderator pro-tempore must be elected for that meeting. The Moderator is considered the corporate head of the church. The Moderator makes an annual report to the church.

The signatures of the Moderator and the Treasurer constitute the official and legal signature of the church.

The Moderator is in regular communication with the Pastor and Council members.

## **H: OTHER OFFICERS**

Other Officers may be elected as need indicates.

## **ARTICLE VIII: BOARDS**

All Boards must organize within thirty (30) days of election or appointment; submit minutes of their meetings to their members within one (1) week; submit a copy of the approved minutes to the church office; submit a written report at the Annual Meeting; and submit a proposed budget to the Board of Trustees sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting. It is the responsibility of the Boards to report to the Council.

Vacancies that arise during the year may be filled by the Board and reported to Council.

All Board meetings must be called by the Chairperson. Chairpersons of all boards do not vote except to break a tie. No paid employee of the church may serve as chairperson of these boards. Any board member who, without good cause, fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings may be removed by majority vote of that board and will be reported to Council.

Any Church member may attend any meeting but may not vote. Visitors must be recognized by the Chair to speak.

## **A: CHURCH COUNCIL**

The Church Council is the governing body of the church. The Council meets monthly at least ten (10) times during the year. As the official policy making body it acts in all matters not requiring a congregational vote. It is responsible for the stewardship of the total resources of the church.

Council submits to the Annual Meeting a comprehensive program involving the chief objectives of the church for the coming year.

The Church Council consists of the Moderator, Clerk, Treasurer, and chairpersons of the boards and committees, and up to three (3) at-large members appointed by the Church Council. Any absent member of the Church Council may appoint a designee to attend. The Pastor is a non-voting member. A majority of the voting members constitutes a quorum.

They keep informed of all activities, needs, plans, and programs by the following and other means devised by the Council itself.

Duties of the Church Council:

1. To set the goals of the church for the Annual Meeting
2. To hear and act upon reports of officers, boards, committees, and organizations
3. To request church members to attend council meetings whenever exchange of information is needed
4. To have the power to appoint one or more representatives of the church to any group or function
5. To appoint all committees unless otherwise specified
6. To appoint a Scout coordinator who is a member of the church
7. To appoint up to two (2) members as representatives to the ecclesiastical body to which we belong
8. To inform all users of church property of the facility's policy and guidelines
9. To act as legal agent for the church and have power to buy, sell, or transfer property with the approval of members of the church at a legally called meeting by a 2/3 majority vote
10. To enter into all contracts of any kind except repair and maintenance contracts entered into by the Trustees
11. To review and approve any fundraisers to benefit the church
12. To approve or revise, if necessary, the annual budget
13. To approve by majority vote any contract for any temporary pastor position other than short-term pulpit supply



## **B. DIACONATE**

The Diaconate consists of six (6) to twelve (12) persons, all of whom are members of the church, to be elected for a term of three (3) years in such a manner that the terms of one-third (1/3) expire annually. The Diaconate meets monthly at least ten (10) months per year.

The Diaconate and Pastor have in their care the spiritual life and program of the Church.

Duties of the Diaconate:

1. To assist the Pastor in the administration of the sacraments and all other matters pertaining to worship services.
2. To secure any short-term pulpit supply.
3. To appoint Head Ushers and oversee ushering duties.
4. To conduct an annual performance review of the Pastor at its June meeting.
5. To consult with the Pastor about Pastor's duties.
6. To interpret the Pastor's special concerns to the congregation.
7. To relay the concerns of the congregation to the Pastor.
8. To consult with the Pastor annually about the Pastor's personal needs.
9. To make recommendations regarding compensation and benefits to the Board of Trustees.
10. To oversee the music program in worship and to make recommendations regarding the Music Director and music budget in consultation with the Pastor.
11. To review annually the membership roll and report to the Clerk.

## **C: BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees consists of six (6) to twelve (12) persons, all of whom are members of the church, to be elected in such a manner that the terms of one-third (1/3) expire annually.

They meet monthly for at least ten (10) months of the year.

They are responsible for the care and property of the church and have charge of its financial affairs. The Board sees that all its financial records are duly professionally audited once every two (2) years.

The Board has no power to buy, sell, mortgage, lease or transfer real property unless specially authorized by two thirds (2/3) vote of the church membership at a legal business meeting. The Board has no power to dispose of, by sale or otherwise, any personal property without prior approval of the Church Council. The Trustees may borrow money if authorized by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the congregation at a legal business meeting.

All deeds, mortgages, leases or other documents having to do with the real property of the church will be executed, acknowledged and delivered by the Trustees, and any Notes in connection therewith will be signed by the Moderator and Treasurer of the Church. The Trustees are responsible for the safekeeping of the above.

The Trustees make annual evaluations of church staff other than the Pastor and with the advice of the Pastor and appropriate committees establish personnel policies. They set up policies and fees for the use of church property and report to the Council for approval.

At least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting, they prepare, in consultation with the officers and committees, a proposed budget. After consultation with the Diaconate, they prepare a salary and benefits package for the Pastor to be included in the annual budget, to be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

All bills or contracts over twenty-five hundred (\$2,500) dollars must have the two-thirds (2/3) vote of the church membership at a legal business meeting except in cases of emergency repair as approved by two of the following: the Chair of Trustees, the Treasurer, or the Moderator.

The source of funding for all bills and contracts must be presented at the time of signing the contract.

## **D. BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

The Board of Christian Education consists of three (3) to six (6) persons, the Chairperson being a member of the Church. Members are elected in such a manner that terms of one-third (1/3) expire annually.

This Board will appoint a Chairperson for Christian Education and any other leaders, such as a Youth Director, as needed.

The Board is responsible for the conduct of a well-rounded program of Christian Education for all ages in the congregation.

## **E. BOARD OF MISSIONS**

### **Current By-Law (2007)**

The Board of Missions shall consist of six (6) members, the officers of which shall be members of the Church, to be elected for the terms of three (3) years in such a manner that the terms of two (2) members shall expire annually. Within thirty (30) days of the organization of this Board, the Board shall elect officers. The Church Clerk shall be notified of election results within one week. No member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms and is ineligible for re-election for a period of one (1) year.

This Board shall be responsible for the benevolent giving of the Church and shall present missions projects for the consideration of the Church.

The Board shall award annually the \$500 Morris Scholarship to Church members(s) who are graduating high school senior(s) going on to higher education.

Morris Scholarship:

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be a member of First Church in Pembroke. He/she must be a graduating High School Senior, accepted by college, university, vocational school, or other institution. He/she must submit an application form, available in the Church office, and an essay (200 words minimum) or project beneficial to the Church.

Projects will be considered on a case by case basis, and approved by the Missions Committee and, if necessary, Trustees and Church Council. The application, essay or project must be completed by June 1st. This deadline is firm. The application, essay or project must include elements of personal involvement in the mission of First Church.

**NOTIFICATION OF THE MORRIS SCHOLARSHIP:** Individual letters will be sent to eligible candidates by April 1st, describing the scholarship and explaining its requirements. The Missions Committee will make every effort to locate these candidates by reviewing past confirmands and contacting Sunday School and Youth Group Leaders for the names of the current high school seniors. At the time of notification, April 1st, the candidates do not yet have to be accepted to their school, but must be before June 1st. Announcements of the Scholarship will be printed in the Church Bulletin and newsletter and announced verbally during the Church service.

SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded on Children's Sunday. Checks may be sent to the recipient him/herself, or to the school being attended, if the recipient so prefers

## **E. BOARD OF MISSIONS**

### **Proposed By-Law (2022)**

The Board of Missions consists of three (3) to six (6) persons, the Chairperson being a member of the Church. Members are elected for terms of three (3) years in such a way that the terms of one-third (1/3) expire annually.

The Board is responsible for the benevolent giving of the Church, the monies coming from pledges and offerings made directly to the Board, and presents mission projects for the knowledge of the Church Council.

## **ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES**

All committees are appointed by the Church Council unless otherwise specified and serve on a rotating basis with the longest serving member stepping down annually.

All committees must organize within thirty (30) days of election, develop and/or update their mission, keep minutes of their meetings, make a report at the following Church Council meeting, submit a copy to the church office, and submit a proposed budget to the Board of Trustees sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Chairpersons of all committees are members of Church Council and do not vote except to break a tie. Ex-officio is defined as a non-voting member. Committee members need not be church members unless otherwise specified. Any church member may attend any meeting but may not vote. Visitors must be recognized by the Chair to speak.

### **A. NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee is appointed at the next meeting of the Church Council after the Annual Meeting and consists of three (3) church members. They solicit candidates and prepare ballot nominations for all officers, boards, and committees for the following year. They present the slate of candidates for approval to the regularly scheduled Church Council meeting at least thirty-two (32) days prior to the Annual Meeting. They provide the ballot to the church secretary for printing so that it is available at least fourteen (14) days prior to the Annual Meeting

### **B. FINANCIAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

This Committee is elected at the Annual Meeting and consists of three (3) church members. They will have unlimited access to, and will audit, the financial records of the church and any auxiliary organizations if needed, and report their findings to the Church Council and in the Annual Report to the church.

The Committee works with the Treasurer to prepare and maintain records necessary for the biannual professional audit.

### **C. DECORATION COMMITTEE**

This Committee consists of three (3) persons who are responsible for providing flowers and decorations for the worship services and other events in coordination with the Diaconate.

### **D. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

This Committee consists of at least three (3) persons and is responsible for planning and helping to publicize events and activities of the church.

## **E. ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

This Committee consists of three (3) persons who are responsible for preserving the historical data of the church. They attempt to stimulate a helpful interest in the history of the church. They work in coordination with the Clerk and the Information Technology Committee as needed.

## **F. STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

This Committee consists of at least three (3) persons who are responsible for educating church members and friends on the meaning and importance of Stewardship through time, talent, and treasure and for managing the annual pledge campaign

## **G. ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**

The Committee consists of four (4) persons who are all Church members: the Treasurer, who is an Ex-officio member, one (1) member of the Board of Trustees, and two (2) church members.

The Endowment Committee was established to further the mission of First Church. The Church wishes to encourage the Christian stewardship of accumulated, inherited, and appreciated resources in addition to regular pledges.

The Endowment Committee works with a recognized financial institution who will have fiduciary responsibility for the benefit of the Fund.

The principal amount of this fund is to remain intact and only the income is to be used. The Endowment Fund Committee is the guardian of the Fund.

The Committee is responsible for the education of the congregation in the purpose, function, plan, and execution of the Fund.

No member of the Committee is personally liable as long as the member acts in good faith with ordinary prudence.

Signatories consist of the Moderator, Chair of the Endowment Committee, and a present member of the Committee.

Any withdrawals or transfers from the fund require two (2) of the three (3) signatories on the account. Such withdrawals or transfers must have prior approval by the Committee.

## **H. PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

The Pastoral Relations Committee consists of four (4) church members, two (2) appointed by the Diaconate and two (2) by the Pastor. They are appointed for a term of two (2) years in such a manner that the terms of two (2) members, one from each group, expire annually. After having served one (1) full term a member is ineligible for reappointment for one (1) year.

The purpose of the Pastoral Relations Committee is to ensure a good relationship between the Pastor and the congregation. The Committee communicates concerns, affirmations, goals, visions, expectations, and needs of the congregation to the Pastor. The Pastor and the Committee seek to identify and resolve problems that may arise in the church. The Pastoral Relations Committee serves as a support group for the care and well-being of the Pastor, both personally and professionally. Discussions held by the Committee will be kept confidential.

In the case of unresolved conflict guidance will be sought from the ecclesiastical organization to which the church belongs.

The Committee meets at the request of the Pastor or any member of the Committee or congregation with the requirement that they meet at least quarterly.

## **I. FELLOWSHIP AND GROWTH COMMITTEE**

The Committee consists of three (3) to six (6) persons.

The purpose of this Committee is to foster fellowship and growth in a variety of ways, including but not limited to being more visible, welcoming, hospitable, and inclusive. It conducts a program of outreach: caring for church members and overseeing the welcoming and inviting of new members into the church.

The Committee is responsible for the scheduling, in conjunction with the Council, those hosting the Sunday Coffee Hour after worship and for fostering friendly conversation with members and guests during this time

## **J. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) COMMITTEE**

The Committee consists of three (3) persons. The Chairperson is a church member.

The purpose of the Committee is to keep the technology of the Church current and working and set policy for technology related aspects of the Church as approved by the Church Council.

The Technology Committee is in charge of the acquisition and maintenance of the Church's technological equipment as approved by the Board of Trustees. The Technology Committee provides logistical support for related church functions, digitizing and securing all archival records and maintaining the Church website and other outward facing digital platforms.

## **K. SOCIAL MEDIA (SM) COMMITTEE**

The Committee consists of three (3) persons. The Chairperson is a church member.

The purpose of the Committee is to facilitate digital church communications to Membership; and, to promote the church to the surrounding community using a wide variety of digital social media programs, in the form of blogging, posting, commenting, social bookmarking, etc.

The committee assists with the digital media endeavors of the Church Boards and Committees by integrating relevant social media techniques to promote the church and its programs of outreach.

Wherever possible the Committee works in harmony with the Events and IT committees.

## **L. SEARCH COMMITTEE**

The Committee consists of at least seven (7) church members who, after seeking the advice and counsel of the ecclesiastical body with which we are affiliated, nominates a candidate at a meeting of the Church called for the purpose of acting on such nomination.

The purpose of the Search Committee is to fill any vacancy for the settled pastorate of First Church. This Committee is formed as needed. Members are voted by Church Council after nominations or volunteering by members of the congregation.

## **ARTICLE X: ANCILLARY OPERATIONS**

The Church supports organizations, approved by Council, as an extension of its ministry. These groups report to the Board of Trustees of the Church.

### **A. COMMUNITY NURSERY-KINDERGARTEN**

The Church, as part of its mission and community outreach, oversees a Nursery-Kindergarten, also known as CNK, as an extension of its ministry to the community. The CNK conducts its own program according to its own By-Laws. One member of the Executive Board of the CNK, who is a member of the Church, shall be a member of Church Council. Financial reports are given to the Treasurer and reported to Church Council quarterly. Appointment to the CNK Board of Directors is made by the Church Council.

An Oversight Committee provides counsel to the Executive Board in the areas of program philosophy, fiscal wellbeing, and other such matters that they deem are important to ensure. The CNK is integrated into the Church community. This Committee meets with the Executive Board at least twice a year, has no power of direction over them, and reports directly to the Church Council. Any and all records and documents of the CNK are available to the Committee. A financial review is done annually by the Oversight Committee and when deemed necessary they will arrange for a full audit. The Oversight Committee consists of three (3) members: one from the Diaconate, one from the Board of Trustees, and one member at large appointed by Church Council.



## **B. THE SEWING CIRCLE THRIFT SHOP**

The Board of the Sewing Circle Thrift Shop consists of three (3) to six (6) persons, the Chairperson being a member of the Church, and who is a member of Church Council. Members are to be elected in such a way that the terms of one-third (1/3) expire annually.

The organization known as the Sewing Circle Thrift Shop is established under the direction of First Church and operates under its own Bylaws. It is the purpose of this organization to contribute an annual gift to the general funds of the Church. This amount will come from funds received in excess of the operating cost of the organization.

## **C. SCOUTING**

The church shall support scouting as an extension of its ministry to youth. The scout coordinator, who is a member of the church, shall be a member of the Church Council.

## **ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS**

These By-Laws of the Church may be altered or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present at any annual or special meeting, provided that a notice specifying the time and place of the meeting and the substance of the proposed amendment was given from the pulpit, posted on the door, sent by electronic notification with mailed notice to those without internet, and/or printed in the bulletin for the two Sundays preceding the meeting.

## **ARTICLE XII: DISSOLUTION**

Upon the dissolution of the corporation the Church Council will, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation exclusively for the purpose of the corporation in such a manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes as at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) as the Church Council determines. Any such assets not so disposed of will be disposed by the Court of Common Pleas of Plymouth County, exclusively for such purposes.

# NOTES: