

PRESBYTERY OF SAN FRANCISCO STANDING RULES

As revised 2025-2026

Version 1.0

MAJOR CHANGES TO LOOK FOR

1. **Highlighted Texts:** Those areas of the Standing Rules in “blue” are additions made by the Presbytery Legal Counsel to conform the Standing Rules with corporate law of the State of California. They are written in legal language to ensure conformity with laws and statutes of the State—and may not be amended or modified without counsel review. i.e. section 2.2, 2.3, 2.5.2, 2.5.3, 4.2.i.
 - a. Note especially 2.2 which is a detailed description of the Executive Presbyter position.
 - b. This section also details the corporate responsibilities of the Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, and the Stated Clerk (Corporate Secretary.).
2. **Coordinating Cabinet.¹ 4.2.** The new Standing Rules replace the “Mission and Vision Leadership” Committee with a *Coordinating Cabinet* composed of representatives most of the Standing Program Committees, officers, and elected members from the presbytery. 4.2.1 The Cabinet has COMMISSION powers “when exigent and imminent” (time sensitive) enabling them to act as Presbytery—subject to the Constitution, Articles of Incorporation, and Standing Rules. **Further** The Cabinet becomes the **Corporate** authority for the Presbytery functioning as the BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Visioning responsibilities are now moved to #3 below.
3. **Visioning Team. 4.3.** These Standing Rules create a new body of 9 people, with no responsibilities and no authority—but charged with providing a strategic vision for the Presbytery and to help the presbytery respond to emerging changes in theology, the church, and society.
4. **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY. 4.4.** These Standing Rules create two new Working Groups related to COM:

COMMISSIONED PASTORS/ELDERS WORKING GROUP. With the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (see 4.5.3), this Working Group shall manage the education and mentoring for Commissioned Ruling Elders/Commissioned Pastors.

¹ The revised Constitution refers to the four governing bodies of the denomination as “COUNCILS”. Thus, the use of the word ‘CABINET’ rather than Council.

MEDIATION MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP. This group is created and directed by the Committee on Ministry. It is intended to be an ongoing team of individuals trained in intervention, mediation, and conflict management available to assist congregations with a specific skills set in order to avoid the need for more formal intervention.

In addition, the Committee on Ministry may form a Coordinating Team from among smaller groups. It is also assigned responsibility for implementation of the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Policy,

5. **Healthy Congregations Committee. 4.6** Creates a new Standing Committee focused solely on the needs and potentials of congregations—providing resources and support to enable them to be truly healthy manifestations of the Church. It shall also manage all grant and loan applications.
6. **New Worshipping Communities Committee 4.12.** The responsibilities for New Worshipping Communities are vested in a Committee, not in a Working Group.
7. **Executive Presbyter 2.2.** The Executive Presbyter will serve as the President of the Presbytery Corporation.
8. **Personnel Committee 4.8.** The responsibilities for Personnel are vested in a Committee, not in a Working Group.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO NOTE

1. *3.4 Committees elect their own Moderator.*
2. *3.8 Allows Committees and non-judicial, non-administrative commissions to recruit additional persons to assist in specific tasks.*
3. *Commissioned Pastor/Elders are considered as “Elders” for purposes of equalization.*
4. *4.1.5 New wording in this section allow Committees to recruit additional members to the committee—provided the names are submitted to the Nominating Committee for election by Presbytery.*
5. *4.2.5 Legal Counsel formally reports to the Coordinating Cabinet.*
6. *4.7 Most of the “loan application” responsibilities of the former Finance and Property Oversight Committee are moved to Healthy Congregations. Otherwise, no change in FPC responsibilities.*
7. *4.7.h Specifies insurance for fiduciary responsibilities.*

8. 4.9.2a *Creation of database of pastors, CLP's, ruling elders, and clerks of session for use in nominating and by Committees.*

9. 6.2 *Allows Session Records Review Commission to form an Administrative Commission for congregations that do not present their records for 3 consecutive years.*

UPON ADOPTION OF THESE STANDING RULES, THE PRESBYTERY BY-LAWS AND ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION WILL BE REVIEWED AND EDITED TO BRING THESE TWO DOCUMENTS INTO CONFORMITY WITH EACH OTHER.

THE MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS WHICH ARE APPENDICES TO THE STANDING RULES ARE UNCHANGED AND ARE PENDING REVISION.