

PRESBYTERY OF SAN FRANCISCO STANDING RULES

As revised 2025-2026

Version 2.0

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. **Executive Presbyter 2.2.** The Executive Presbyter will serve as the President of the Presbytery Corporation.
3. **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. Responsible for coordinating the mission and ministry of the Presbytery. Reviews all actions and recommendations from committees going to 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.
4. **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. Provides “balcony view”. Audits programs and ministries. Suggests priorities. Executive’s “brain trust”.
5. **Committees. 4.4.** The committees elect their own moderator and elect representatives to the Cabinet, unless otherwise noted. May recruit additional members to the committee (with Nominating Committee action) and recruit persons with specific skill sets to the committee.

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.

5. **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY** **4.4.** These Standing Rules continues the major functions of the COM – including acting as commission as authorized. These Standing Rules create two new Working Groups related to COM:

COMMISSIONED PASTORS/ELDERS WORKING GROUP (formerly Education 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.

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, such as commissions or judicial process.

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,

6. **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** **4.5.** These Standing Rules continues the major functions of the CPM, including partnering with Committee on Ministry for Commissioned Pastors/Elders Working Group.

7. **Healthy Congregations Committee** **4.6.** Restores a Standing Committee focused solely on the needs and potentials of congregations—providing resources and support, including leadership development, stewardship and education, to enable them to be truly healthy manifestations of the Church. It shall also manage all grant and loan applications and make recommendations to Finance and Property Committee for which ones to approve.

8. **Finance and Property Committee** **4.7.** These Standing Rules make the Finance and Property Committee (formerly Finance and Property Oversight Committee) the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery. Budgets and fiscal management. Approve loans and grants – consistent with Presbytery resources and priorities. Stewardship of property. Responsible for aligning income and expenses.

9. **Personnel Committee** **4.8.** The responsibilities for Personnel are vested in a Committee, not in a Working Group. Responsible for meeting all legal human resource management requirements. Oversight of all staff. Responsible for hiring and firing.

10. **Nominating Committee** **4.9.** All previous responsibilities continue. New structure requires about the same number of committee members as did previous standing rules – and permits committees to be a resource for finding members.

11. **Committee on Representation, Belonging and Empowerment (CORBE)** **4.10.** Constitutionally required.

12. **Bills and Overtures Committee** **4.11.** All previous responsibilities of reviewing and making recommendations regarding all overtures to and from General Assembly continue. Is not represented on the Coordinating Cabinet.
13. **New Worshipping Communities Committee** **4.12.** The responsibilities for New Worshipping Communities are vested in a Committee, not in a Working Group. Oversees development, resourcing, and support of all NWC's.
14. **Session Records Review Commission** **6.2.** As a commission, it has greater authority for securing annual reports from congregations. Failure to submit Session records may now result in intervention, such as the formation of an Administrative Commission for congregations that do not present their records for 3 consecutive years.
15. **The Corporation Chapter** **8.** As noted above, several major changes were made upon advice of legal counsel. Coordinating Cabinet (see above) is now the Board of Directors of the Presbytery – with Executive Presbyter as President.

OTHER IMPORTANT CHANGES TO NOTE

1. Commissioned Pastors/Elders are considered as "Elders" for purposes of equalization.
2. *4.2.5 Legal Counsel formally reports to the Coordinating Cabinet.*
3. *4.7.h Specifies insurance for fiduciary responsibilities.*
4. *4.9.2a Creation of database of pastors, CLP's, ruling elders, and clerks of session for use in nominating and by Committees.*

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.