

1.000 ORGANIZATION

1.100 Organizing Principles

The following served as a guideline for structuring the Presbytery—April 12, 1995:

- A. We recognize that we are geographically widespread and have small numbers of people and meager resources; therefore:
 - 1. Presbytery meetings have to be as meaningful as possible in regard to allowing time to do business, building relationships, worship.
 - 2. This may mean fewer meetings for longer time periods.
- B. We must be willing to delegate its responsibilities to smaller committees and task forces: decision-making needs to be carried out at its most appropriate level.
- C. If we put the responsibility at the lowest level, we have to trust that the people closest to an issue know the issue best. We must have more trust in the Holy Spirit than in geographical diversity. Quota system sometimes undermines trust and quality.
- D. We will have committees and task forces that are absolutely necessary to the Presbytery mission. It is important that we respect the concept of fair representation and equal access, but at the same time a committee does not have to represent the geographic makeup of Presbytery. Therefore, the composition of committees should take into account the idea that many people may be willing to be on committees when they meet after a full day at work and do not have unreasonable distances to drive to and from the meeting.
- E. People are valuable; therefore we have to respect their time and their availability.
- F. People must be envisioned as "servants" as opposed to people with "power" when/if size of committees and council is scaled down for efficiency.
- G. Presbytery Council and the Committee on Ministry will be granted virtually every authorization to act on behalf of presbytery that the Book of Order allows (or does not allow).

IDEA: That the number on Presbytery Council with vote be small enough that a quorum will not be difficult to maintain. Other committee chairs or members may be on Presbytery Council, ex-officio with vote, so as not to complicate the quorum. Therefore, Presbytery Council meetings will be for communication and advising as well as acting on behalf of Presbytery. (See Book of Order G11.0103 "deem appropriate")
- H. Presbytery needs to be "church friendly".
- I. Presbytery needs to be "candidate and pastor" friendly.