

COUNCIL

The Council represents the ministries and congregations of the Presbytery of the Coastlands and has responsibility for the coordination and program of the Presbytery. Consequently, it has the primary responsibility for determining the support needed by member congregations and ministries; engaging in strategic planning; and developing policies for the Presbytery.

Composition

The Council shall be composed of seven voting members:

- Moderator of the Presbytery
- Six (6) at-large members in three equal classes.
 - Ordinarily at the first meeting of each calendar year, the Presbytery shall elect each at-large member for a term of three years. The Committee on Representation shall nominate candidates; nominations from the floor will be entertained.
 - Each nominated individual shall be a Ruling Elder or a Teaching Elder.
 - Every effort shall be made by the Committee on Representation to establish a balance between Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders.
 - No more than one individual associated with a particular congregation at the time of their election (Teaching Elder or Ruling Elder) shall serve as an at-large member of the Council.
 - In the event of a vacancy, the Committee on Representation shall nominate, ordinarily at the first Presbytery meeting following the vacancy, a candidate to fill the remainder of the term; nominations from the floor will be entertained.
 - No at-large member of the Council shall serve for consecutive terms, either full or partial, aggregating more than six years. An at-large elected member of the Council, having served a total of six years, shall be ineligible for reelection to the Council for a period of at least one year.
 - Ruling Elders who are members of the Council shall have voice and vote at Presbytery meetings.
- The Vice Moderator of the Presbytery and Past Moderator are invited, as available, to participate as members ex-officio, without vote
- The Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leaders shall be members ex-officio, without vote.
- The Moderator of the Presbytery shall be the moderator of the Council
- The Stated Clerk shall provide polity interpretation and keep minutes of the Council.
- The Council shall identify one of its members to serve on the Committee on Representation

Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Council include, but are not limited to:

- leading the Presbytery in discerning and defining the nature of its vision and mission
- serving as the guardian and interpreter of that mission to the Presbytery as a whole
- discerning and communicating the priorities that shape the work of the Presbytery

- acting on behalf of the Presbytery in ways defined in the Manual of Administrative Operations
- nominating to Presbytery candidates for the Committee on Representation.
- ensuring clear communication about the work of the Presbytery as a whole
- recommending to the Presbytery the creation or elimination of Presbytery Commissions and Committees; approving the creation of Presbytery Working Groups, teams, or task forces
- hearing proposals from and making proposals to the Trustees regarding budget priorities and to recommend jointly with the Trustees an annual budget for Presbytery
- aiding the Moderator, Presbytery Leaders, and Stated Clerk in planning the Presbytery meeting, including, but not limited to planning and discerning the docket and shaping the worship service in coordination with the Worship Team
- Council Meetings
 - Ordinarily the Council shall meet monthly.
 - The Moderator may invite members of the Presbytery to meetings to call Council's attention to particular matters.
- Communications
 - In the event of inquiries from the press, the Council will provide consultation to the Presbytery Leader spokesperson
 - Approval of Presbytery Minutes: The minutes of Presbytery meetings shall be reviewed by Council, which shall recommend their approval to the Presbytery with any additions or changes.
 - Provide reports to the Presbytery at every stated meeting by sharing Council minutes with the Presbytery and providing such further detail as may be prudent.
- In case of emergency, acting in the name and with the power and authority of Presbytery between meetings, except in those matters that the Form of Government does not permit presbyteries to delegate, and except for those powers otherwise delegated to the Trustees, Commission on Ministry or the Commission on Preparation for Ministry. Presbytery may adopt a policy specifying and restricting matters in which the Council may or may not act for Presbytery. Any emergency action shall be communicated to the whole Presbytery, both by posting on the Presbytery website and by reporting on the floor of the next gathered meeting of Presbytery.