

Congregation, as the embodiment in one place of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, means those people (members and adherents) who worship, witness and serve as a fellowship of the Spirit in Christ, meeting regularly to hear God's Word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share the wider responsibilities of the Church, and to serve the world, and who are recognised as a Congregation by the Presbytery.

a Congregation may refer powers and responsibilities to a Presbytery or to such other body as the Presbytery shall approve; and

PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A CONGREGATION (See Para 23, Constitution)

3.1.1

(a) A Congregation, as the embodiment in one place of the one holy catholic and apostolic church, shall be those members and adherents who worship, witness and serve as a fellowship of the Spirit in Christ, and who meet regularly to hear God's Word, to celebrate the sacraments, to build one another up in love, to share the wider responsibilities of the Church, and to serve the world, and who are recognised as a Congregation by the Presbytery.

(b) In fulfilling its purpose a Congregation shall:

- (i) bear witness to that unity that is both Christ's gift and his will;
- (ii) build up the members and adherents in faith and love;
- (iii) sustain the members and adherents in hope;
- (iv) nurture the members and adherents in their growth in grace;
- (v) equip the members and adherents for engagement in worship, witness and service in the world as they participate in the mission of Christ;
- (vi) discipline its members in love;
- (vii) maintain pastoral oversight;
- (viii) encourage each member and adherent to participate in the life of the Congregation and endeavour to provide opportunity for that participation; and
- (ix) provide means whereby the members and adherents may be sustained in fellowship, in prayer and in confession, in baptism and in the Lord's Supper, in mutual reception of and mutual exertion in the Gospel proclamation and service.

(c) The responsibilities of a Congregation include:

- (i) participating in shared responsibilities with any related Congregations;
- (ii) fulfilling the ministry of the Church in and to the community;
- (iii) appointing Elders and other members of the Church Council, and members of other bodies, as required; (See Reg. 3.3.2)
- (iv) appointing member(s) to the Presbytery; (See Reg. 3.3.4)
- (v) making arrangements to call a Minister in accordance with the Regulations; (See Reg. 2.6.6)
- (vi) providing facilities and resources in support of the work of the Congregation, including stipends and allowances and other provisions for the support of the ministry, provided that stipends shall be the first charge on the funds of the Congregation;
- (vii) meeting as required to transact business that belongs to the Congregation;

- (viii) advising the Church Council on property matters affecting the Congregation;
- (ix) maintaining all necessary and appropriate relationships with the Presbytery and other councils and bodies;
- (x) such other things as are consistent with the purposes of the Church and not the specific responsibility of any other council or body within the Church.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL (See Para 24, Constitution)

3.1.2 (a) The Church Council shall give priority in its life to building up the Congregation in faith and love, sustaining members in hope, and leading the Congregation to a fuller participation in Christ's mission in the world. This priority shall be reflected in the agenda of its ordinary meetings.

(b) The responsibilities of the Church Council include:

- (i) sharing with the Minister(s) in mission and in the pastoral care and spiritual oversight of the Congregation;
- (ii) nurturing the members and adherents in their growth in grace;
- (iii) making decisions in accordance with the Regulations concerning baptism, confirmation and membership, and the keeping and reviewing of the rolls of the Congregation; (See Part 1 of these Regulations)
- (iv) assisting the Minister(s) in the conduct of worship and in the administration of the sacraments;
- (v) determining the time and place of services of public worship;
- (vi) carrying out its functions in accordance with the Regulations concerning applicants for the specified ministries;
- (vii) managing the financial affairs and the general administration of the Congregation including the reception, preparation and presentation of all necessary budgets, statements and reports;
- (viii) arranging for audit, presentation and examination of the accounts of all the funds of the Congregation; (See Reg. 3.8.7)
- (ix) managing and controlling property in accordance with the Regulations; (See Reg. 4.4.1)
- (x) preparing and presenting to a meeting of the Congregation an annual report concerning the life and work of the Congregation including its worship, mission and service, and making recommendations with regard to the program for the ensuing year;
- (xi) exercising oversight of the appointment of officers and leaders of Congregational organisations;
- (xii) referral of matters to Presbytery as prescribed;
- (xiii) discipline of members (See Reg. 5.1.2 – 5.2.5);
- (xiv) carrying out its functions in relation to Ministers-in-Association (See Reg. 2.11.1).