

## **Proposed Changes to the TPC By-laws**

A summary of the proposed changes to the TPC By-laws is shown below. A section-by-section discussion of the specific changes is attached.

1. All references to the Book of Order will be updated to those in the 2011/2013 version that was published after the approval by the PC(USA) of the New Form of Government during 2011.
2. Consistent with the terminology approved in 2011 by the PC(USA), references to “elders” in the by-laws will be changed to “ruling elders.”
3. The actual date of the incorporation of The Tustin Presbyterian Church was found to be December 23, 1884 rather than the date in the current by-laws. This date will be corrected.
4. The requirement for the quorum of the session will be deleted from the by-laws. The specific requirement was removed from the recent revision of the *Book of Order* and replaced with language that indicates that the session will determine its own quorum. The Stated Clerk of The Presbytery of Los Ranchos has notified all of the churches in the presbytery that the new language makes it inappropriate to include the quorum of the session in the by-laws of the congregation. Consequently, the quorum of the session will be moved to the Session Standing Rules.
5. The sections about the specific organizational structure of the Board of Deacons will be removed from the by-laws and placed in another document. The way in which the Board of Deacons organizes itself to carry out its responsibilities can change occasionally. Changes in this organization should not require action by the congregation as is required if the structure is specified in the by-laws.
6. A change to the composition of the Nominating Committee will be made such that this committee will be composed of one member of the session and three congregation-at-large members. The pastor and the moderator of the deacons will serve as ex-officio members of the committee. The new *Book of Order* includes fewer restrictions on the membership of this committee. In light of the size of the congregation, a reduction in the number of members of this committee from seven to four was considered to be appropriate and sufficient.
7. The election of the members of the Nominating Committee will be moved from the fall meeting of the congregation to the annual meeting of the congregation to bring the election closer to the time frame in which this committee conducts its business.
8. A change will be made in the number of members of session from twelve to ten. This reduction was deemed to be appropriate in light of the current size of the congregation and the availability of people to serve in this role.
9. Language will be added to allow for election of elders or deacons to terms of one, two, or three years. This replaces the language that allowed for this option only for persons under twenty-five years of age. This will provide more flexibility for the Nominating Committee as it seeks candidates for these offices.
10. Language will be added to clarify that elders and deacons continue to serve until their successors are ordained and/or installed. This language was previously in the *Book of Order* but was removed in the most recent revision. It now needs to be included in the TPC By-laws to provide for an orderly transition between years.
11. Changes will be made in the language concerning the schedule for ordaining and installing elders and deacons to provide more flexibility. The current by-laws specify that the installation occur in December, but this has frequently been found to be impossible.