

The Praetorian Project, Inc. By-Laws

Adopted September 27, 2021

Preamble:

These by-laws have been created in order to:

1. coordinate the actions of member churches towards the stated purpose;
2. preserve the liberties of each member church in this association of churches; and
3. provide for the orderly conduct of internal affairs.

Article 1 – Name:

The name of this association of churches shall be The Praetorian Project, Inc.

Article 2 – Purpose:

The Praetorian Project, Inc. (TPP) exists to unify the efforts of member churches to:

1. provide long term discipleship of highly transient people (specifically military members and their families); and
2. advance the Gospel by multiplying churches.

Article 3 – Governing Documents:

The governing documents of TPP shall be the Articles of Incorporation, the Statement of Beliefs, and these By-Laws.

Article 4 – Membership:

Section 1 – Admission:

The admission process is a two-step process:

1. prior to public promotion, constituting, or establishing membership as a Praetorian Project church plant, receive approval from the member churches of TPP;
2. prior to full membership into the project, receive approval from the member churches of TPP.

The board shall be responsible for working with each sending church to oversee this process.

Section 2 – Duties and Privileges:

As a member of TPP, each church shall be privileged and expected to:

1. work together to facilitate transitions of members within TPP;
2. work together to advance the Gospel by multiplying churches;
3. participate in the annual meeting in person (preferred) or via video-conference;
4. to extent possible send at least one pastor to the annual family retreat;
5. contribute at least 1% of undesignated offerings to TPP general fund; and
6. submit to any disciplinary actions of TPP member churches.

Section 3 – Discipline:

Any member church or board member shall be subject to the admonition of TPP Board and/or the discipline of member churches for conduct that is:

1. consistently neglectful of duties as specified in the governing documents; or
2. otherwise impeding the purpose of TPP.

If private efforts to bring about repentance and reconciliation are unsuccessful, one or more member church pastors or members shall bring the matter to the attention of the board. The board shall review and investigate the matter. After prayer and deliberation, the board may:

1. dismiss the matter; or

2. submit the matter to the member churches at a duly convened meeting for a decision.

Discipline by the member churches can include suspension from voting until the issue is resolved, removal of an individual from the Board, and/or removal from TPP membership.

Section 4 – Removal:

TPP shall recognize the removal of a church's membership:

1. upon voluntary resignation by letter;
2. upon ceasing to regularly gather weekly as a church body; or
3. as an act of discipline, when three quarters of the member churches vote to terminate membership.

Article 5 – Offices:

Section 1 – The Praetorian Project Board:

The purpose of the Board is to lead the member churches to fulfill the purpose of TPP. The board members shall be equal in authority but may be specialized in function. TPP Board shall always maintain a minimum of three board members.

All members of the Board shall:

1. be an active pastor/elder of a TPP member church;
2. be present at all TPP Board meetings during tenure (video-conference allowed); and
3. be comprised of a maximum of two representatives from any one church.

The responsibilities of the Board shall include:

1. examination and instruction of prospective member churches;
2. examination and recommendation of prospective candidates for TPP Board;
3. examination and hiring of TPP staff;
4. oversight of the Executive Director; and
5. oversight of TPP discipline processes.

Section 2 – Appointment:

The election of board members shall be held at a duly called meeting. Names of nominees to serve as board members shall be presented by the board to the member church representatives at least four weeks prior to the vote. Voting executes in accordance with Article 7 of this document. The persons elected shall assume their position upon election, unless another date has been specifically designated and announced prior to the vote.

Section 3 – Removal:

A board member's term may be terminated by:

1. resignation; or
2. dismissal by a three-quarters vote of member churches.

Section 4- Positions within the Board

The Board President is affirmed by three quarters vote of the other board members and will serve a one-year term as President and is able to serve two consecutive terms. The Board President shall:

1. determine the agenda of each board meeting;
2. chair each board meeting;
3. determine the agenda of the annual meeting; and
4. chair the annual meeting.

The Praetorian Project Treasurer is affirmed by three quarters vote of the other board members and will serve a minimum one-year term and is able to serve in this role for the entirety of his tenure on the Board. The Treasurer shall:

1. develop the annual budget and present to the Board and then to the member churches;
2. provide quarterly updates to the Board regarding expenditures in relation to the approved budget; and
3. recommend during-year budget changes as necessary.

The Board Secretary is affirmed by three quarters vote of the other board members and will serve a one-year term and is able to serve in this role the entirety of his tenure on the board. The Secretary shall:

1. maintain accurate records of TPP founding documents and policies, and
2. take and maintain meeting minutes for both the board meetings and member meetings.

At-large Board Members may be appointed in addition to the three minimum board members. The number of total board members must be fewer than the number of member churches.

Article 6 – Staff:

Section 1 – Executive Director:

The Executive Director shall be hired by the board and serve at the pleasure of the board and the member churches. The Executive Director shall:

1. assist the board members and member churches in the accomplishment of their roles;
2. oversee the processing of future church planters from recruitment to maturity;
3. oversee the annual budget of TPP;
4. develop and maintain informal partnerships with strategic churches and organizations;
5. communicate on behalf of the TPP to member churches and external entities; and
6. coordinate TPP and board gatherings.

Section 2 – Support Staff:

The Board may create or dissolve paid support staff positions. Support staff shall serve under the supervision of the Executive Director. Support staff shall affirm and support the governing documents and shall exemplify godly character.

Section 3 – Removal:

A staff member may be terminated by:

1. resignation; or
2. dismissal by a three-quarters vote of the board. (The staff member being considered for termination shall abstain from voting.)

Article 7 – Meetings and Voting:

Section 1 – Annual Meeting:

There shall be an annual meeting each year during the second half of the calendar year. The date, time, and location of regular meetings shall be communicated at least six months prior to the meeting.

Special members' meetings shall be called as required by the Board. The date, time, and purpose of any special meeting shall be communicated at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

During the Annual Meeting, the following items will be considered:

1. Reports;
2. Membership Matters;

3. Approval of the following year budget; (TPP Fiscal Year shall be from January 1 to December 31. In the rare event this does not occur, subject to the Board's discretion, expenditures shall continue at the prior year's level.)
4. Board Offices Matters; and
5. Ancillary business brought by the Board or a member church.

Section 2- Annual Family Retreat:

There shall be an Annual Family Retreat. The primary purpose of this retreat is building relationships among member church leaders and their families.

Section 3- Board Meetings:

There shall be at least two board meetings per year separate from the annual meeting and annual family retreat.

Section 4 – Voting:

A three-quarters vote is necessary on all matters. Each member church tallies one vote. Member churches are permitted to abstain from votes. Abstaining churches do not count for or against the three-quarters requirement.

Article 8 – Non-Profit Status And Disposition Of Property:

The Praetorian Project, Inc. is not organized for profit.

Section 1 – Division:

In the case of organic division of TPP, all assets shall belong to those member churches who abide by this document as determined by an agreed upon arbitration organization.

Section 2 – Dissolution:

Should conditions arise under which, for any reason, TPP's work cannot continue, all assets shall be transferred to an agreed upon Christian, non-profit entity for redistribution.

Article 9 – Revisions and Amendments:

Revisions or amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, Statement of Beliefs, or these By-Laws shall be made in the following manner:

1. Any member church can provide a suggested revision or amendment in writing to the board.
2. For a revision or amendment to be effected, the board shall confirm its consistency with Scripture and affirm the revision or amendment with a three quarters vote.
3. After approval from the board, the revision or amendment shall be presented at the annual meeting for affirmation.
4. Any revision or amendment shall be affirmed by a three quarters vote.