

Chapter 6 Notes

¹ Leaders Box, "Constitution and Bylaws of Your Church," <http://www.ucc.org/ministers/leaders-box/a3.pdf>

² "When starting a nonprofit corporation, the organization must file articles of incorporation with the state in which it resides or decides will be its jurisdiction for legal purposes.....Each state has various rules and regulations, but most require officers of the corporation, a board of directors, by-laws and annual meetings." ("What is a Nonprofit Organization?") http://www.nonprofit.pro/nonprofit_organization.htm

The UCC Leaders Box lists the **basics to be included in your church's governing statement**: Name, Affiliation with the Association and Conference of the United Church of Christ, purpose or mission, membership qualifications, officers, pastoral selection procedures and tenure, meetings of the membership, etc. Check these links:

Organization & Structure of your Church <http://www.ucc.org/ministers/leaders-box/a12.pdf>

Constitution & Bylaws for Local Church <http://www.ucc.org/ministers/leaders-box/a3.pdf>

The Local Church <http://www.ucc.org/ministers/leaders-box/a7.pdf>

Legal Requirements of Church Meeting Minutes http://www.ehow.com/way_5150080_legal-requirements-church-meeting-minutes.html

Legal issues regarding **the validity of the church as corporation** are addressed in a paper by UCC Conference Attorney Mike McKee. Although the paper, "When A Church Leaves The UCC," refers specifically to churches that are closing or leaving the denomination, it is informative for all churches: <http://www.ucc.org/ministers/pdfs/whenachurchleaves.pdf>

³ The study by the Pew Research Center on changes in religious affiliations between people surveyed in 2007 and those surveyed in 2014 offers more substantiated data. <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>

⁴ Alan C. and Sharon D. Klaas, *Flexible, Missional Constitution/Bylaws—In One Day, Not Two Years*, Mission Growth Publishing, 2000, 2003, pp. 3,5.

⁵ See the UCC Leaders Box on "Organization and Structure of Your Church" <http://www.ucc.org/ministers/leaders-box/a12.pdf>

⁶ Brueggemann, "The Risk of Heaven/The Possibility of Earth," pp.124-125.

⁷ Ibid., p. 127.

⁸ Ibid., p. 126.

⁹ "*Vox populi, vox dei*" is a Latin phrase meaning "The voice of the people is the voice of God."

¹⁰ See Anthony B. Robinson, *Transforming Congregational Culture*, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2003, Chapter 5.

¹¹ Julianne Pirtle, email of November 21, 2012.

¹² Steckel, op. cit., p. 94.

¹³ Most churches, like other organizations, "adopt language in their bylaws stating that they will follow a particular parliamentary procedure book. Such language has the effect of law because organization members who act contrary to the rules they adopted may be liable for actions that go against the rules." (Jim Slaughter, "Matching Parliamentary Procedure to Needs") <http://www.jimslaughter.com/Matching-Parliamentary-Procedure-to-Needs.cfm> Which means that, yes, if your bylaws state that you will abide by, say, Robert's Rules of Order and a disappointed church member challenges the Church Council's decision to sell a piece of property, based on there not having been a quorum, as defined by Robert's Rules, present for the vote, your church may be at legal risk. Search for Robert's at Church Law and Tax for updated commentary. <http://www.churchlawandtax.com/?aid=153>

If your church chooses to use Robert's Rules of Order for the business portion of the Annual Meeting of the corporation, you will want to note recent changes to Robert's Rules, with regard to churches. This article noted 17 areas of concern to churches in the 2011 revision of Robert's Rules:

<http://www.christianitytoday.org/mediaroom/news/2012/keychangesforchurches.html>

Go to www.churchlawandtax.com for updates on tax law for churches. This site also posted an article on changes in Robert's Rules that affect churches: <http://www.churchlawandtax.com/blog/2012/september/3-key-changes-for-churches-in-latest-emroberts-rules-em.html>

You can go to <http://www.christianitytoday.org/search/?query=robert%27s+rules&x=0&y=0> for additional articles and updates, including reference to electronic meetings.

¹⁴ See Shelly Berman, "A Comparison of *Dialogue* and *Debate*" 1993. <http://www.odec.umd.edu/CD/ACTIVITI/BERMAN.pdf>