



Presbyterian Youth Victoria Constitution

(Last Updated 12/02/2011)

1. TITLE

- 1.1. The youth organisation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of Victoria shall have the title Presbyterian Youth Victoria (PYV).

2. BASIS

- 2.1. PYV accepts:
 - a) The word of God as its supreme standard in all matters of faith and life.
 - b) The Westminster Confession of Faith as its subordinate standard as an expression of the sense in which we understand and accept the Holy Scriptures.
- 2.2. Notwithstanding anything contained in this constitution, PYV is subject to the rules and procedures of the Code Book of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
- 2.3. PYV operates under the authority of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, which has delegated oversight to its Christian Education and Nurture Committee (CENC).

3. AIMS

- 3.1. PYV aims to glorify God by assisting the congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in the development and nurture of youth for the service of Christ Jesus.
- 3.2. Specifically PYV's objectives are:
 - a) To provide support and nurture for youth in their Christian development and outreach.
 - b) To provide opportunity, influence and assistance to youth to make a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.
 - c) To promote unity of the youth within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria through providing opportunities for socialising and fellowship.
 - d) To encourage and provide the opportunity for the equipping and training of youth leaders with the skills necessary to serve and lead.
 - e) To represent the needs of the youth within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in the courts of the Church.

4. PYV COUNCIL

- 4.1. The PYV Council shall have oversight of the affairs, business and property of PYV.
- 4.2. Save with the consent of the PYV AGM, the CENC and the General Assembly, neither PYV Council nor any of its sub-committees shall:
 - a) Borrow money (whether on security or otherwise) or mortgage any assets of PYV;
 - or
 - b) Enter into any contract or arrangement for the acquisition or disposal of any real estate or for the erection of, or substantial alterations to, buildings or property.
- 4.3. The PYV Council shall consist of:
 - a) Convenor (elected by PYV Council at its first regular meeting following each PYV AGM)
 - b) Secretary (elected by PYV Council at its first regular meeting following each PYV AGM)
 - c) Treasurer - PYV Council, in consultation with the CENC, may deem this to be an extra-conciliar position (elected by PYV Council at its first regular meeting following each PYV AGM)
 - d) Up to a maximum of seven additional Councillors (or eight if the Treasurer is not on Council)
- 4.4. In fulfilling its delegated oversight of PYV, up to two members of the CENC shall attend Council meetings in a non-voting capacity.
- 4.5. Councillors are elected for a term of two years. One half of their number retire annually in rotation but are eligible for re-election. No councillor may serve for more than five consecutive terms.
- 4.6. Members of PYV Council are to be communicant members of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and shall be not less than 18 years of age.
- 4.7. The quorum for PYV Council meetings shall be 60% of the current elected councillors.
- 4.8. In absentia, elected members of PYV Council may not vote, have a proxy vote or initiate action at PYV Council meetings. Each member of PYV Council present at a meeting of PYV Council shall have one vote.
- 4.9. Members of PYV Council are to be given at least seven days notice of all meetings.
- 4.10. PYV Council meetings shall be chaired by the Convenor, or in his/her absence, a member delegated by the Convenor.
- 4.11. Should a member of PYV Council not regularly attend PYV Council meetings and/or other PYV events, following consultation with the member regarding their non-attendance, the CENC may remove the member from office.
- 4.12. Any PYV Council vacancy that exists between PYV AGMs may be filled at a PYV Council meeting, in consultation with the CENC, providing the nominee satisfies the criteria for a Councillor (as outlined in 4.6). A person appointed in this way remains on PYV Council for the balance of their predecessor's term.

5. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 5.1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of PYV shall be held annually at such a time and place as the PYV Council determines. Such a meeting shall be held within 13 months of the preceding AGM.
- 5.2. Delegates to the AGM shall consist of a maximum of three people from each parish who are appointed annually in writing by their local Session. Such appointments are to be presented to the CENC Representative/s by the commencement of the AGM. Delegates are to be communicant members of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and shall be not less than 16 years of age.
- 5.3. Each delegate present shall have one vote.
- 5.4. Notice of the proposed business of the PYV AGM shall be given in writing (includes email) to each Session in Victoria at least fourteen days before any such meeting.
- 5.5. The quorum for the PYV AGM shall be 10 voting delegates representing parishes in at least 3 Presbyteries.
- 5.6. The business of the PYV AGM shall be conducted as far as possible under the standing orders of the Code of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and shall meet to:
 - 5.6..1 Consider the PYV Annual Report
 - 5.6..2 Receive the PYV Budget for the next financial year
 - 5.6..3 Consider any proposed amendments to the PYV Constitution
 - 5.6..4 Elect the PYV Council
 - 5.6..5 Deal with any other set Agenda items
- 5.7. Candidates for election to PYV Council:
 - 5.7..1 Must fulfil the criteria for being a Councillor as in 4.6 above.
 - 5.7..2 Save with the consent of the CENC, shall have a demonstrated history of recent and regular attendance and involvement in PYV events.
 - 5.7..3 If unable to attend the PYV AGM, their nomination will be accepted in writing by the CENC.
- 5.8. The procedure for the election of vacant positions on PYV Council shall be as follows:
 - 5.8..1 Nominations shall be called for by the CENC Representative/s
 - 5.8..2 Where the number of nominations exceeds the number of positions available, each delegate shall indicate their preference on a CENC approved voting form
 - 5.8..3 The results of the election will not be announced at the PYV AGM. The CENC's Representative/s to the PYV AGM shall collect the completed voting forms and delegate nomination forms and present them to the next meeting of the CENC. At this meeting the CENC will:
 - 5.8..3.1 Verify results against the returned voting forms
 - 5.8..3.2 Check the suitability of the nominees against the delegate nomination forms

- 5.8..3.3 Inform all nominees by mail/email as to the success of their election
 - 5.8..3.4 Where any nominee is judged unsuitable, the CENC shall personally inform the nominee and the reasons for their lack of suitability
 - 5.8..3.5 The CENC may - after discussion with the outgoing PYV Council - substitute an unsuitable nominee with the next suitable nominee
- 5.8..4 The outgoing PYV Council remains in place until the first meeting of the new PYV Council.

6. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 6.1. A Special General Meeting (SGM) of PYV may be convened by:
- a) PYV Council or the CENC, at any time; or
 - b) The Secretary, within one month of receiving of a requisition in writing signed by at least 8 voting delegates representing parishes in at least 2 Presbyteries.
- 6.2. The announcement and conduct of a SGM of PYV shall be subject to the same procedures as those of the AGM.

7. SPEAKERS AT EVENTS ORGANISED BY PYV COUNCIL

- 7.1. The name and church of proposed speakers at PYV events should be given to the CENC for approval before the proposed persons are asked to speak.

8. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

- 8.1. This Constitution may be amended by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of a PYV AGM or SGM, subject to final approval by the CENC.