

Good Shepherd Players By-Laws

As of July 20, 2014

I. PURPOSE

The Good Shepherd Players (Players), established in 1980, is organized under the auspices of The Church of the Good Shepherd (Church), Burke, Virginia, operating within the Church's mission of being "...a Christ-centered community sharing God's love...[by striving] to strengthen faith, build community, and serve others." The Purpose of the Players is to provide an opportunity for Christian fellowship, growth and sharing through the medium of music and theater.

The Players' objectives include the following:

- A. Producing full length plays and musicals that provide an opportunity for participation by members of the parish and others in all facets of the production;
- B. Providing an outreach function by sharing performances with the community;
- C. Encouraging the expression of music, dance and drama through the theater experience in a Christian, family-oriented environment;

II. General Considerations

- A. The Players operate under the authority of the Rector and the Vestry and shall consult with both no less than annually regarding the activities of the Players.
- B. It shall be the policy of the Players to encourage broad participation by the members of the parish in their productions. In line with this objective, the Board Officers will ensure that major roles in Good Shepherd Players productions are shared among the membership to the maximum extent feasible given the nature and demands of the roles.

III. Membership

- A. Membership with full voting privileges is open to all Members of The Church of the Good Shepherd (Church) as defined in the Church By-Laws.
- B. As part of the Players outreach, and to facilitate the Players mission of Christian fellowship, members of the local community may participate in the Players productions along with members of the Church. As "Participants", though, they are not accorded the same voting privileges as members of the Church.
- C. Player Officers shall be restricted to "Communicants in Good Standing" of the Church. The Budget Manager shall be a Member of the Church.

From the Church of the Good Shepherd By-Laws, as amended:

Article II – Membership Definitions

Section 1 – Members of the Parish

Members of the parish are all persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in the Episcopal Church in the United States of America or in another Christian Church and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in the parish records.

*Section 2 – Adult Members
Members 16 years of age and over are adult members*

*Section 3 – Communicants
All members of this parish who have received Holy Communion at least three times during the preceding year are communicants.*

*Section 4 – Communicants in Good Standing
All communicants of this parish who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God are communicants in good standing.*

IV. Officers and Board Members

A. Officers and Board Members will be selected by the Player Members as outlined in a later paragraph. Four Board members are designated as Officers and shall be Communicants in Good Standing with the Church. The four will include the Chair, Vice Chair and two other members of the Board, normally the Budget Manager plus one other position. The remaining Board positions may be filled per these by-laws by either a Member of the Players or a participant from the local community. All Board Members are eligible to vote on Board and Players matters. Board decisions will be by majority vote of voting eligible Board Members. At no time can the majority number of Board positions be held by non-Members of the Church. The Board consists of the following seven positions:

1. Chair
2. Vice Chair/Administrative Manager
3. Budget Manager
4. House Manager
5. Publicity Manager
6. Technical Manager
7. Costume Manager

B. The duties of the Officers and Managers are described in the Job Descriptions and Responsibilities appended to these By-Laws.

C. The Players shall be governed by a Board consisting of seven members who will each serve for three years. Two or three 3-year term members will be elected every year. A Special Election will be held by the Board for Members to elect a person to fill an unexpired term of any Board member who resigns or is designated as the production Director or Stage Manager, so long as the majority Communicate in Good Standing pre-requisite of Board membership is maintained. A person may not succeed himself/herself in a 3-year term after serving his/her 3-year term until after a waiting period of one year.

D. New Board members will be elected at the annual general membership meeting. Said Board members will be elected by a majority of Players Members present and voting. Secret ballots will be used. Nominees will be accepted at the general membership meeting via personal nomination either orally or in writing. Nominations by persons other than the nominee must be confirmed by the nominee. This procedure will ensure that a nominee is familiar with and willing to undertake the responsibilities of Board membership.

E. The Directors and Stage Manager for each production shall be selected by the Board and may be members of the Board. The responsibilities of the Directors and Stage Manager are set forth in the Job Descriptions and Responsibilities addendum.

V. Finances

The Players are a non-profit organization within the Church of the Good Shepherd, Burke, Virginia. Productions by the Players are intended to be self-sustaining and are for the benefit of the parish. To this end the Board formulates a budget for each production based on financially breaking even. All income and expenses will be run through an Activity Checkbook established for the Players by the Treasurer of the Church. The account will be maintained for use in future productions and for such other expenditures to the Church as are approved by the Board. The account will be managed by the Budget Manager. The approved budget for each production shall be presented to the Vestry and the Rector for their information. Check signing authority for the Players Activity Checkbook is given to the Chair and Budget Manager. The Board may consider and approve fundraising projects for the purpose of supplementing the budget.

VI. Meetings

The Payers will meet at least once a year for its general membership meeting. Business at that meeting shall include a discussion of the previous year's activities and production and the election of new Board members in accordance with section III and IV of these By-Laws. Other meetings of the Players will be held at the call of the Board or upon petition by a Member of the Players. The Board will meet on a regular basis as business demands. The Chair will preside at all meetings. Each meeting shall be recorded with minutes. These minutes shall be available for review by any member of the parish, Vestry, or Rector. Agendas shall be prepared and followed at all general membership meetings.

VII. Files

The Players, through the Chair, shall maintain official files including all minutes, correspondence, agendas, copies of programs from productions and guidelines.

VIII. VIII Changes to By-Laws

Changes to these By-Laws may be proposed by any member of the Players. The initial adoption and all subsequent changes to these By-Laws will first be approved by two-thirds majority of Players Members present at a called general membership meeting. The approved document or changes will then be forwarded to the Church Vestry, via the Register, for concurrence and final endorsement by the Vestry at a stated meeting.