The Coordinating Cabinet recommends that Presbytery:

1. Appoint a Special Committee to Review the Bylaws consisting of the following persons: RE Suzanne Lewand (Royal Oak, First); TE Garrett Mostowski; TE Thomas Oxtoby, Chair; RE Autumn Palmer (Detroit, Westminster); RE Rhonda Favors Smith (Detroit, Calvary); and the following ex officio members, with voice but not vote, not to be included in the quorum: the Stated Clerk; the Transitional General Presbyter; the Associate Executive Presbyter; the Chair of the Coordinating Cabinet; the Moderator of the Presbytery; and the Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery.

The Bylaws Committee shall develop a new set of Bylaws to help the Presbytery live out its new understanding of its identity, purpose, vision, and mission.

In developing new Bylaws, the Bylaws Committee shall work closely with the Planning and Visioning Team and the Coordinating Cabinet to interpret and implement the results of the North Star Strategies planning process. The Bylaws Committee shall give particular attention to dismantling any structural racism that may be built into the current Bylaws. The Bylaws Committee shall encourage communication from all of the Presbytery’s stakeholders.

The Bylaws Committee shall submit its recommendations to the Coordinating Cabinet. In accordance with the current Bylaws, the Coordinating Cabinet shall propose to the Presbytery any amendments to the Bylaws. The quorum of the Committee shall be the majority of its members.

2. Amend the Bylaws as follows: Add the following words at the end of Article III, section 5: “The Presbytery, and any of the committees or other entities that report to it, may meet by electronic means, or may permit participation by electronic means at an otherwise in-person meeting, if notice in writing is posted not less than ten days in advance of the meeting, so long as all members shall have the ability to discuss and vote on all business items, as per the standing rules for electronic meetings voted on by the Presbytery.”

3. Amend the Bylaws as follows: Strike out the first three sentences of Article III section 4 and insert the following in their place: “Special meetings may be called by the Coordinating Cabinet. The Moderator may also call a special meeting with the concurrence of five teaching elders and five ruling elders, the ruling elders being from five different churches. If the Moderator is unable to act or declines to act, the Vice-Moderator may call a special meeting with the same concurrence. The Stated Clerk shall call a special meeting upon the request of fifteen teaching elders and fifteen ruling elders, the ruling elders being from fifteen different churches.”

The section would then read as follows: “(Meetings: Special Meetings) The Moderator shall call a special meeting at the request, or with the concurrence, of two teaching elders and two ruling elders, the ruling elders being of different churches. Should the Moderator be unable to act, the Vice Moderator shall, under the same conditions, issue the call. If both Moderator and Vice Moderator are unable to act, any three teaching elders and three ruling elders, the ruling elders being of different churches, may call a special meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Coordinating Cabinet. The Moderator may also call a special meeting with the concurrence of five teaching elders and five ruling elders, the ruling elders being
from five different churches. If the Moderator is unable to act or declines to act, the Vice-Moderator may call a special meeting with the same concurrence. The Stated Clerk shall call a special meeting upon the request of fifteen teaching elders and fifteen ruling elders, the ruling elders being from fifteen different churches. Notice of a special meeting shall be published in writing not less than ten days in advance to each teaching elder and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting, and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted.”

4. Amend the Bylaws as follows: Add the following words at the end of Article XI, section 5.b.vii: “The Trustees shall have the power to approve, on behalf of the Presbytery, the sale, encumbrance, or purchase of property by a congregation, including the power to review, approve, and execute any necessary contracts for said purpose, subject to the condition that the property description and amount have been approved prior to the transaction, first by the Committee on Ministry, and then by the Presbytery at a duly constituted meeting. In place of a dollar amount, the Committee on Ministry and Presbytery may at their discretion approve a transaction at fair market value, with fair market value to be finally determined by the Trustees.”

The section would then read as follows: “(Work of the Presbytery: Trustees: Responsibilities) Making recommendations to Presbytery concerning Presbytery approval of loans and property transactions involving churches of the Presbytery. The Trustees shall have the power to approve, on behalf of the Presbytery, the sale, encumbrance, or purchase of property by a congregation, including the power to review, approve, and execute any necessary contracts for said purpose, subject to the condition that the property description and amount have been approved prior to the transaction, first by the Committee on Ministry, and then by the Presbytery at a duly constituted meeting. In place of a dollar amount, the Committee on Ministry and Presbytery may at their discretion approve a transaction at fair market value, with fair market value to be finally determined by the Trustees.”

5. Rescind Presbytery Policy P-24, which reads as follows: “In those cases where the Trustees determine it necessary to act for the benefit of Presbytery before the next stated meeting of Presbytery, the Trustees are authorized to approve actions on behalf of Presbytery. When they do so, they shall report the action in full to the next stated meeting of Presbytery, along with a statement of why they believed it necessary to act on it.”

6. Hold the Saturday, November 20 meeting at 9:00am and by electronic means.

The Coordinating Cabinet reports the following for the information of Presbytery:

1. Cabinet referred the approval of the job description and associated hiring of the Office Administrator/Executive Assistant to Presbytery Operations.

2. Cabinet referred the approval of the job description and associated hiring of the Business Manager to Presbytery Operations.

3. Cabinet authorized the serving of communion at the Pastors About Companionship retreat June 15-16.

4. Cabinet approved requiring masks to be worn at all Presbytery gatherings until further notice for groups over 20 individuals.

5. Cabinet approved the minutes of the March 20, 2021 Presbytery meeting as presented.

6. Cabinet approved the serving of communion at the upcoming Presbyterian Women’s retreat.
7. Cabinet approved the service of communion at the July 13, 2021 Presbytery meeting.

8. Cabinet authorized Robert Lee, Sarah Leight, Marianne Grano, and three persons to be appointed by the Transitional General Presbyter to report to Coordinating Cabinet and Trustees and present a plan for a new Presbytery website.