

**The offering taken at the January 15th Presbytery Meeting will go to East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless**

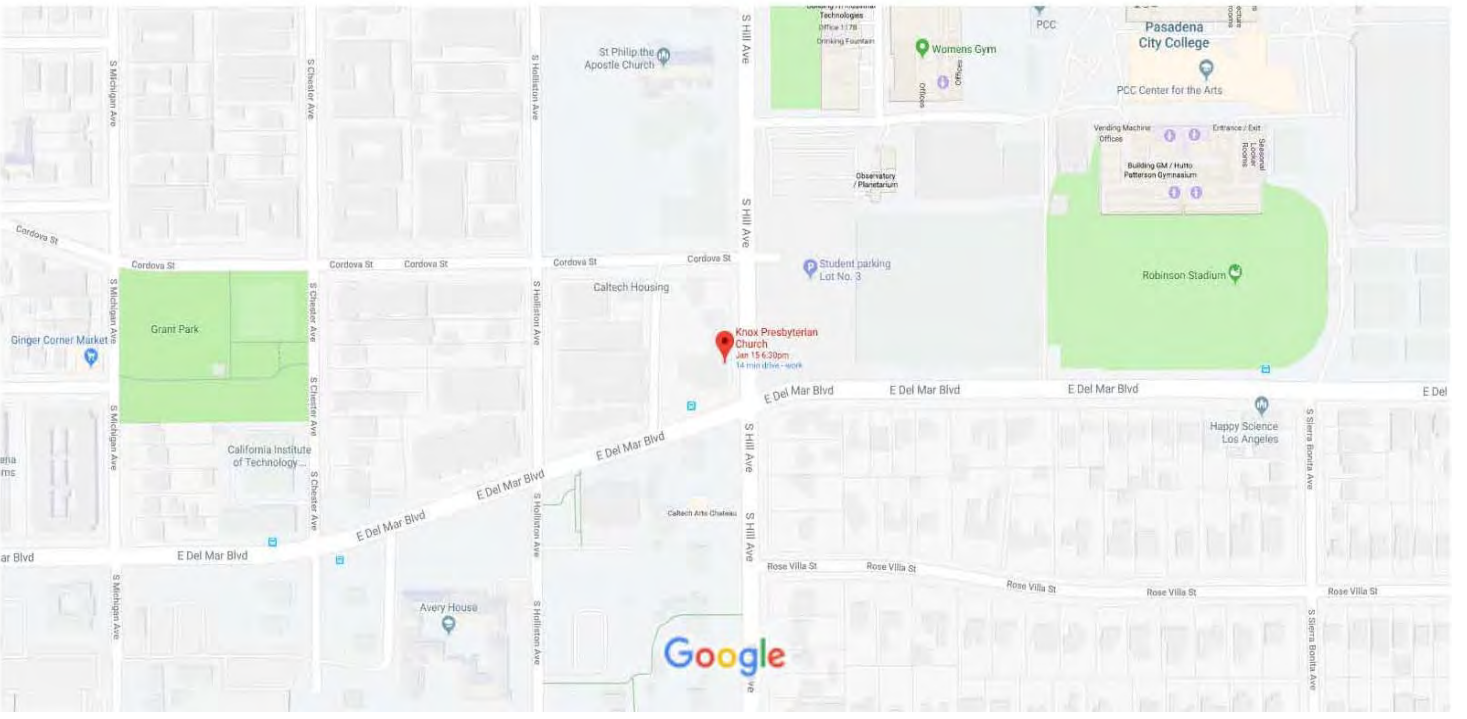


East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless (ESGVCH) is a non-profit, 501c3 charitable organization with a mission to bring hope and restore dignity to individuals and families who are homeless in the San Gabriel Valley region. Their goal is always to assist people to find permanent housing and assist them to become self-supporting. Toward this end ESGVCH:

- Provides emergency and transitional shelter programs
- Alleviates hunger by providing food
- Assists with basic daily needs: clothing, hygiene, and transportation
- Stabilizes individuals and families by making referrals for housing, jobs, education & healthcare
- Raises community awareness about issues related to homelessness
- Works collaboratively with others to end hunger and homelessness.

# Knox Presbyterian Church

225 S. Hill Avenue, Pasadena



**PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL  
STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING  
Tuesday, January 15, 2019  
Knox Presbyterian Church, Pasadena**

6:30 pm     *Registration and Hospitality*

**DOCKET**

|         |   |   |
|---------|---|---|
| 7:00 pm | Call to Order<br>Welcome<br>Stated Clerk's Report   | Moderator, TE Becca Bateman<br>Knox Presbyterian Church<br>TE Diane Frasher |
| 7:05 pm | Opening Worship   | TE Jennifer Ackerman  |
| 7:10 pm | Commission on Preparation for Ministry  | TE Jan Cook   |
| 7:15 pm | Administration and Finance  | RE Maria Cacarnakis   |
| 7:20 pm | Commission on Ministry  | TE Cyndie Crowell   |
| 7:25 pm | CoRN  | RE Janice Takeda  |
| 7:30 pm | General Assembly Commissioners  | TE Bear Ride/RE Deborah Owens/<br>YAAD Sophie Alecci                        |
| 7:40 pm | Education   | TE Ally Lee   |
| 7:50 pm | Executive Presbyter   | TE Wendy Tajima   |
| 8:05 pm | Vision and Strategy   | TE Jonathan Hughes  |
| 8:10 pm | Presbytery Executive Commission   | RE Fried Wilson   |
| 8:25 pm | House of Rest   | RE Janice Takeda  |
| 8:30 pm | Justice, Peacemaking and Mission  | TE Brian Gaeta-Symonds  |
|         | Today's offering will go to<br>East San Gabriel Valley Coalition for the Homeless<br>Make checks out to <i>San Gabriel Presbytery</i> |   |
| 8:40 pm | Worship – Communion   | TE Jennifer Ackerman  |
| 9:05 pm | Benediction and Adjourn   | Moderator, TE Roberto Ramirez   |

### **Stated Clerk's Report for January 2019:**

The Stated Clerk brings the Consent Agenda for vote (Items 1-6)

1. That enrollment of minister and elder commissioners be by enrollment list, excuses properly filed with the stated clerk be honored, and all honorably retired ministers and out of state ministers be excused unless enrolled as present.
2. That the minutes of the Stated Meeting of November 10, 2018 be approved.
3. That the proposed docket distributed in the packet be approved.
4. To receive the November 2018 Financial Report from the Administration and Finance Committee.
5. That all corresponding members voted upon and registered in writing with the stated clerk be seated.
6. Express the presbytery's thanks and appreciation to the staff and volunteers of Knox Presbyterian Church in Pasadena for their warm hospitality and assistance in hosting this meeting of the Presbytery.

### **REPORT FOR THE RECORD:**

1. Necrology since the November 2018 Presbytery Meeting:
  - a. Previously listed and included in Worship in November 2018:
    - i. Rev. David Dong Joon Lee, died 2/18/2019, lived at Monte Vista Groves
    - ii. Rev. James Oliver, died 5/6/2018
    - iii. Rev. Mehdi Abhari, died 5/10/2018
    - iv. Rev. Ralph Hamburger, died 9/2/2018, lived at Monte Vista Groves
  - b. Rev. Zachary Bright went home to be with the Lord on December 13, 2018. Please be in prayer for his family as they mourn the loss of him.
2. Report of Communion served:
  - a. The Rev. Charles Rasseiur presided at two Communion Services at Pilgrim Place, Claremont on Sunday, December 2, 2018 – one in the assisted living facility and one in the skilled nursing facility.
  - b. The Rev. Charles Rasseiur presided at two Communion Services at Pilgrim Place, Claremont on Saturday, January 5, 2019 – one in the assisted living facility and one in the skilled nursing facility.
  - c. Communion was served as authorized by Rev. Dick Hettish at Westminster Gardens, Duarte, on Sunday, December 2, 2018. Twenty two people were served and the Rev. Hettish was assisted by Elders Aleta Matthews and Cliff and Betty Barker.
3. The dates for the Presbytery Meetings in 2019 have been voted upon by the PEC. Some of the locations have been verified as well.
  - a. January 15, 7:00-8:30 PM @ Knox Presbyterian Church (Tuesday evening)
  - b. April 6, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon @ Divine Light Presbyterian Church, El Monte
  - c. June 8, 9:00 AM – Work Day @ West Covina
  - d. September 14, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon @ Puente de Esperanza
  - e. November 19, 6:30 – 8:30 PM (Tuesday evening) (TBD)

INFORMATION:

1. The next Review of Record dates will be May 18, 2019 at Claremont Presbyterian Church, Claremont at 10:00 AM. At that time, we will be reviewing the Session Minutes for the 2018 year and any previous years that have not been reviewed as of yet.
2. Information for your reference:
  - a. **Presbytery Minimums for 2019**

|                                  |    |        |
|----------------------------------|----|--------|
| i. Full-Time Salary & Housing    | \$ | 55,840 |
| ii. Travel/Professional Expenses |    | 2,645  |
| iii. Study Leave                 |    | 985    |
3. Just a reminder – If you make a motion on the floor that changes the printed handouts substantially or is a new motion, please write out your motion and turn it in to the stated clerk. It is always helpful to present action items in writing in advance.

## MINUTES

Presbytery of San Gabriel  
November 10, 2018  
First Thai Presbyterian Church, Covina

### ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

The Presbytery of San Gabriel convened on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at 9:08 am at First Thai Presbyterian Church of Covina. A quorum was present as reflected in the roll. Rev. Peter Tan-Gatue welcomed the Presbytery. The Rev. Diane M. Frasher was the stated clerk for the meeting.

Moderator, TE Becca Bateman moderated the meeting, opening with prayer.

### ENGAGE IN GOD'S WORK

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK:** Diane Frasher

**The Presbytery moved, seconded, and voted to adopt the Consent Agenda (Items 1- 7).**

1. That enrollment of minister and elder commissioners be by enrollment list, excuses properly filed with the stated clerk be honored, and all honorably retired ministers and out of state ministers be excused unless enrolled as present. (See Appendix A & B)
2. That the minutes of the Stated Meeting of September 15, 2018 be approved.
3. That the proposed docket distributed in the packet be approved.
4. To receive the September 2018 Financial Report from the Administration and Finance Committee. (See Appendix C)
5. That all corresponding members voted upon and registered in writing with the stated clerk be seated.
6. Express the presbytery's thanks and appreciation to the staff and volunteers of First Thai Presbyterian Church in Covina for their warm hospitality and assistance in hosting this meeting of the Presbytery.
7. To approve the Redress of Imbalance for 2019. (See Appendix D)

**REPORT FOR THE RECORD:**

1. The dates for the 2019 Presbytery Meetings:
  - a. January 15, 7:00-8:30 PM @ Knox Presbyterian Church (Tuesday evening)
  - b. April 6, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon – place TBD
  - c. June 8, 9:00 AM – Work Day @ West Covina
  - d. September 14, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon @ Puente de Esperanza
  - e. November 19, 7:00 – 9:00 PM (Tuesday evening)
2. Report of Communion served:
  - a. Communion was served as authorized by Rev. Dick Hettish at Westminster Gardens, Duarte, on Sunday, October 7, 2018. He was accompanied by Cliff and Betty Barker and Aleta Matthews. 28 were served.
3. Report of the Roster of names of members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose term expired within the last six years. (D-5.0206b)
  - a. Class of 2015 – Paul Boles (TE), Audrey Brown (RE)
  - b. Class of 2014 – Janice Takeda (RE)

c. Class of 2013 – Mariko Yanagihara (TE)

INFORMATION:

1. The next Annual Review of Pastors' Salaries is going on right now and the report should be available at the January meeting.
2. The last Review of Record dates was held on October 13, 2018 at New Hope Presbyterian Church, Pasadena. At that time, we reviewed the Session Minutes for fifteen congregations. They were:
  - a. Knox Presbyterian Church, Pasadena
  - b. New Hope Church, Pasadena
  - c. Community Church of El Monte, El Monte
  - d. First Thai Presbyterian Church, Covina
  - e. Claremont Presbyterian Church, Claremont
  - f. Trinity Presbyterian Church, Pasadena
  - g. Iglesia de la Comunidad, Los Angeles
  - h. Alhambra True Light Presbyterian Church, Alhambra
  - i. Calvary Presbyterian Church, So. Pasadena
  - j. First Presbyterian Church, Altadena
  - k. Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pasadena
  - l. Shepherd of the Valley Presbyterian Church, Hacienda Heights
  - m. Grace Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, Temple City
  - n. First Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, Pasadena
  - o. Pasadena Presbyterian Church, PasadenaThank you to all the congregational leaders that made time in their busy schedules to make the meeting.
3. The **next Review of Records** will be held during the month of **May, 2019 at Claremont Presbyterian Church in Claremont at 10:00 AM**. At that time, we will be reviewing the Session Minutes for the 2018 year and any previous years that have not been reviewed, as of yet. We have not set the exact date. I will keep you updated.
4. The Independent Accountants' Review for 2017 has been completed and accepted. (See Appendix E)
5. Necrology Report:  
TE Mehdi Abhari 5/10/18  
TE Ralph Hamburger 9/2/18
6. Information for your reference:
  - a. **Presbytery Minimums for 2018**

|                                  |    |        |
|----------------------------------|----|--------|
| i. Full-Time Salary & Housing    | \$ | 53,745 |
| ii. Travel/Professional Expenses |    | 2,550  |
| iii. Study Leave                 |    | 950    |
7. Just a reminder – If you make a motion on the floor that changes the printed handouts substantially or is a new motion, please write out your motion and turn it in to the stated clerk. It is always helpful to present action items in writing in advance.

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**

TE Sara Armstrong, member of Santa Fe Presbytery and TE Eun-hyey Lok, member of Twin Cities Presbytery were seated as corresponding members for this meeting.

## **OPENING WORSHIP**

The Presbytery entered into a time of worship led by TE Jennifer Ackerman with a Lectio-Divina by TE Eun-Hyey Lok.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

RE Maria Cacarnakis reported for the committee.

Maria brought the September 30, 2018 financial reports to the attention of the Presbytery. Maria reported that the property on Dalton Avenue in Azusa has been leased to Winners Outreach Church for \$2,300 per month. She also reported that escrow has closed on the former South Hills Presbyterian Church in Pomona and all personal property has been disposed of or sold.

## **PERSONNEL**

RE Carl von Bibra reported for the committee.

Carl reported that Associate Stated Clerk/Administrator, Twila French will be moving to half-time beginning July 1, 2019, focusing on bookkeeping. The personnel committee will be hiring a new full-time associate stated clerk/administrator, budgeted to begin June 1, 2019.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMISSION**

RE Fried Wilson reported for the commission.

## **FOR INFORMATION**

1. **General Assembly** – Due to scheduling conflicts, the GA Commissioners will report to the Presbytery at the January 15, 2019 meeting. The GA Amendments will be voted on at the April 6, 2019 meeting.
2. **Synod Matching Grants** – The Synod Commission of Assembly approved the grant requests reported on in September: \$45,000 from Synod (and \$45,000 from Presbytery general fund, per A&F) for Korean Good Shepherd's roof repair in anticipation of a next-generation multiethnic church, and \$25,000 from Synod (and \$25,000 from Presbytery Congregational Development funds) for the Korean Language Ministry of Pasadena Presbyterian Church for several efforts to rebuild their family ministry and outreach to young adults.
3. **2019 Presbytery Meetings** – The PEC clarified the schedule for 2019 Presbytery meetings:
  - January 15, 2019 (Tuesday), 6:30-7 pm happy hour; 7-8:30 pm meeting at Knox, Pasadena
  - [WinterFest February 2, 2019, 9 am-3 pm at Northminster, Diamond Bar]
  - April 6, 2019 (Saturday), 9 am-noon, host TBD
  - June 8, 2019 (Saturday), 9-10:30 am meeting, followed by Presbytery Work Day, all at West Covina Presbyterian
  - September 14, 2019 (Saturday), 9 am-noon, Puente de Esperanza, La Puente
  - November 19, 2019 (Tuesday), 6:30-7 pm happy hour; 7:00 pm meeting, host TBD.



The Presbytery Executive Commission (PEC) met on October 16, 2018 at Pasadena Presbyterian Church, with a quorum present.

TE Dave Tomlinson was invited to speak to the proposed 2019 Budget highlighting the following areas:

1. It is estimated that total Presbytery effort (personnel as well as direct spending) is split into three sectors: 36% serving our own congregations, leaders, and retirees; 28% mission outside our churches and presbytery (including non-Presbyterian local mission, and wider PCUSA ministries); and 36% administration.
2. The outside mission budget does not include special offerings; through September 2018, the Presbytery has received and passed through an additional \$57,000 in special offerings and designated gifts. If these figures were included, outside mission support would equal internal support and administration.
3. The Presbytery is more actively managing property in order to raise income that can be used to offset administrative expenses. The benefits of this will become much more apparent when the 20-year mortgage is paid off.
4. The Presbytery is developing a new ministry center in West Covina. The shape of that ministry is yet to be determined, but the hope is that their expenses will be covered entirely by West Covina-specific revenues.
5. Twila French will be moving to half-time beginning July 1, 2019, focusing on bookkeeping. This will require the addition of a new full-time associate stated clerk/administrator, budgeted to begin June 1, 2019. With the great increase in work overseeing the finances of the added properties, we are grateful to Twila for taking on so much added work these last two years.
6. Though this year's General Assembly approved several new initiatives that result in an increase in per capita by \$1.22/member, and inflation is reported at 4%, the Presbytery Executive Commission capped the proposed 2019 apportionment at \$69, which is 1.5% higher than last year's apportionment of \$68. This decision, plus the added staff position, requires an increase of \$21,469 to be drawn from savings over the 2018 budget, and a challenge to the congregations (and generous individuals) to increase the budgeted total shared mission giving from \$350,000 to \$365,000.

It was M/S/V to approve the Presbytery budget for 2019. (See appendix F)

It was M/S/V to approve the per-member apportionment for 2019 be increased to \$69.

It was M/S/V to establish an Administrative Commission for Grace Presbyterian Church to work with the Session to discern the future of Grace, which may include dissolution. The members of the AC will be:

|                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| TE Dave Tomlinson, Moderator | HR                               |
| TE Cyndie Crowell            | Trinity Presbyterian, Pasadena   |
| RE Judie Evers               | Grace Presbyterian, Los Angeles. |

**Administrative Commission for West Covina**

TE Nancy Moore reported for the Commission

The Administrative Commission has met several times with representatives from the International Theological Seminary who have shown interest in leasing the facility in West Covina, formerly Community Presbyterian Church.

The AC recommends the following for Presbytery approval:

1. To approve "in principle" the renting of the West Covina property to ITS for \$3,000 a month according to the terms outlined in the LOI
2. that Presbytery secure a loan (probably from PILP) to do major deferred maintenance and upgrades to the West Covina property, secured by the value of that property.
3. to appoint a three-person Task force of Nancy Moore (from the West Covina AC), Maria Cacarnakis (moderator of Administration and finance and president Trustees), and Dave Tomlinson (property consultant for the Presbytery) to work out the contractual details of this arrangement with ITS.
4. That approval of the contractual terms be granted to Presbytery's Administration and Finance Committee (Trustees).

It was M/S/V to handle actions 1-4 by consent agenda.

It was M/S/V that action item #1 be removed from the consent agenda.

It was M/S/V to approve items 2-4.

It was M/S/V to amend item #1 by removing the words "to the terms outlined in the LOI" replacing them with the following "in a LOI to be negotiated by the approved taskforce". Item #1 now reads:

To approve "in Principle" the renting of the West Covina property to ITS for \$3,000 a month according to an LOI to be negotiated by the approved taskforce.

## **NAVY CHAPLAINCY**

Lt. Daniel Menza spoke about chaplaincy service in the Navy. Chaplains perform their duties according to their own faith traditions. Candidates attend chaplaincy school in North Carolina along with chaplains of other faith traditions. Opportunities are available for active duty or reserves.

The presbytery took a short break.

TE Roberto Ramirez moderated the meeting.

## **COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATION**

Members of the committee were unavailable. Vice-Moderator Roberto Ramirez reported for the committee.

It was M/S/V to vote on the nominees by consent agenda with the exception of the action for the Vice-Moderator for 2019.

After an opportunity for nominations from the floor, it was M/S/V to elect TE Karen Sapio of Claremont Presbyterian Church for Vice Moderator/Moderator elect beginning 2019.

Consent Agenda – After an opportunity for nominations from the floor, it was M/S/V to elect the following:

***Administration and Finance***

Class of 2021

TE Steve Wiebe Pasadena, Pasadena

***Commission on Preparation for Ministry***

Class of 2021

TE Mary Ellen Azada Fuller Seminary  
TE Janice Cook Community, San Marino  
TE Lisa Lamb Fuller Seminary

***Commission on Ministry***

Class of 2021

TE Cyndie Crowell Trinity, Pasadena  
TE Dongwoo Lee Pasadena, Pasadena  
RE Pat Martinez-Miller Calvary, So. Pasadena  
TE Ralph Su Good Shepherd Taiwanese, Monterey Park  
RE Sonnie Swenston-Forbes First, Baldwin Park

***Education Committee***

Class of 2021

TE Deidra Goulding Shepherd of the Valley, Hacienda Heights

***Justice, Peacemaking and Mission***

Class of 2021

TE Matt Colwell Knox, Pasadena  
TE Walter Contreras Pasadena, Pasadena  
TE Brian Gaeta-Symonds Claremont, Claremont  
TE Young Lee Hertig At Large  
RE Angelica Michail Shepherd of the Valley, Hacienda Heights  
TE N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie At Large

***Permanent Judicial Commission***

Class of 2022

TE Marsha Fowler

Azusa Pacific University

Class of 2024

TE Deidra Goulding

Shepherd of the Valley, Hacienda Heights

TE N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie

At Large

RE Fried Wilson

Pasadena, Pasadena

***Personnel***

Class of 2021

RE Pat Collins

Westminster, Temple City

TE Stephanie Kang

Chaplain

RE Carl von Bibra

Calvary, So. Pasadena

**Presbytery Executive Commission Member at Large, Class of 2021**

RE Deborah Owens

Westminster, Pasadena

***Self-Development of People***

Class of 2020

TE Walter Contreras

Pasadena, Pasadena

Class of 2021

TE Young Lee Hertig

At Large

***Vision and Strategy***

Class of 2020

TE Jonathan Hughes

La Verne Heights, La Verne

Class of 2021

RE Deborah Owens

Westminster, Pasadena

TE Peter Tan-Gatue

First Thai, Covina

***Synod Commissioners***

Class of 2021

RE Janice Takeda

Shepherd of the Valley, Hacienda Heights

TE N'Yisrela Watts-Afriyie

At Large

## Thanks for Service

On behalf of San Gabriel Presbytery, we would like to thank those who are completing their terms of service. Thank you for sharing your gifts of time and talents to the Presbytery.

|                     |                            |                          |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| TE Ken Tracy        | Administration and Finance | HR                       |
| RE Conrad von Bibra | Administration and Finance | Calvary, So. Pasadena    |
| TE Karen Kiser      | COM                        | HR                       |
| TE Paul Boles       | CPM                        | Azusa Pacific University |
| RE Deborah Owens    | Education                  | Westminster, Pasadena    |
| TE Karen Berns      | PJC                        | HR                       |
| TE Millason Dailey  | PJC                        | Calvary, So Pasadena     |
| TE Don Maddox       | PJC                        | HR                       |
| RE Barbara Maxwell  | PJC                        | San Marino               |
| TE Margarita Reyes  | PEC/Vision and Strategy    | Puente de Esperanza      |

### EDUCATION

TE Ally Lee reported for the committee.

Alley reported on Winterfest which will be held on February 2, 2018 at Northminster Presbyterian Church of Diamond Bar from 9:00am – 3:00 pm. Expert on community organizing, Rev. Alexia Salvatierra will be the keynote speaker and will hold two workshops, one in English and one in Spanish. Rev. Samuel Son from the Presbyterian Mission Agency will also be hosting a workshop. The cost will be \$10 and the committee will be bringing in a taco truck for lunch.

Any church that brings more than 5 people will receive a bundle of resource books and the 6<sup>th</sup> person will be free.

Tapestry – will be holding a fall retreat beginning today at the Big Bear Conference Center.

### COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

TE Cyndie Crowell reported for the commission.

The Commission on Ministry met on Monday, October 1 and Monday, November 4, 2018 and brings the following recommendations to the Presbytery:

1. It was M/S/V to concur with the congregation of Pasadena Presbyterian Church to dissolve the Designated Pastor relationship with TE Walter Contreras effective October 31, 2018, with salary continuance through December 31, 2018.
2. It was M/S/V to concur with the congregation of Arcadia Presbyterian Church to dissolve the Pastoral relationship with TE James Connor effective October 31, 2018, with salary continuance through October 31, 2019, unless employment is found prior, and extending the shared equity agreement to June 30, 2020 at the latest.

- 3a. It was M/S/V to receive into membership TE Eun-hyey Lok upon her dismissal from Twin Cities Presbytery.
- 3b. It was M/S/V to validate the ministry of TE Eun-hyey Lok as the Director of Outreach and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist at the Asian American Christian Counseling Service in Alhambra.
- 4. It was M/S/V to approve Emmanuel Presbyterian Church's call to Rev. Jaime Torres, ordained in the Nazarene Church, as temporary half-time pastoral leader, under supervision of a PC(USA) Teaching Elder. A plan of preparation for authorized ministry in the PC(USA) was outlined for Rev. Torres. Rev. Torres is not being recommended for membership at this time. Terms of Call as follows:
 

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Salary  | \$26,872 |
| Travel/Professional Expenses                        | \$1,275  |
| Study Leave   | 950      |
| Board of Pensions according to Presbytery standards |          |
| 4 weeks vacation and 2 weeks study leave            |          |
- 5. It was M/S/V to approve the Membership Roll of the San Gabriel Presbytery. (See appendix G)
- 6. It was M/S/V to approve the following minimum salary and benefits for 2019:
 

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Salary and housing    | \$55,840 |
| Professional Expenses | \$2,645  |
| Study leave           | \$985    |

This represents a 3.9 % increase in the CPI-U in our geographical area.

**VISION AND STRATEGY**

Elder Melinda Forbes reported for the committee.

Several years ago, the Synod gave each Presbytery in its bounds funds to be used for church vitalization projects. San Gabriel Presbytery chose to make these funds available to its congregations in the form of \$2,000 grants. A number of our churches chose to use the funds to cover the cost of the New Beginnings program. The committee is making available grants for those churches that have not yet used the funds. To apply for the funds, ideas on how to use them, members should contact TE Jake Kim.

At the end of 2019, any funds that have not been used may be returned to the Presbytery's General Fund for church planting or revitalization.

**JUSTICE PEACEMAKING AND MISSION**

TE Rob Crowell reported for the committee.

Rob introduced Mission Co-Workers Rusty Edmondson and Sara Armstrong. Sara and Rusty spoke about their 10-year service as mission co-workers in Peru. They reported that there are a lot of problems in Peru including graft, human trafficking, destruction of the environment by illegal mining. They reported that water is a huge problem for Peru, much of it being contaminated by mining.

Living Waters for the World became a great vehicle for their ministry. There are now 32 water

systems in Peru creating pure drinking water.

Rev. Crowell offered a prayer of blessing for Sara and Rusty.

Rev. Colwell reported that the offering taken during worship will go to Inland Valley Hope Partners.

Inland Valley Hope Partners (IVHP) is an organization based in Pomona that addresses homelessness and hunger issues in west San Bernardino County and east Los Angeles County. IVHP brings together faith communities, businesses, individuals and community groups to provide food, shelter and supportive services.

Their programs include:

Food Security Programs - locations in Ontario, Pomona, Claremont, Upland, Chino and San Dimas

Housing Programs - Our House Shelter, Rapid Rehousing

Healthy Living Programs – Hope Partners@Amy’s Farm, Gleaning Hope and Pomona Valley

For more info, please visit their website: [www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org](http://www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org)

## **WORSHIP**

The presbytery entered in to a time of worship led by the worship team of First Thai and included communion; TE Peter Tan-Gatue presided. Worship also included a recognition of those minister members who passed in 2018. Presbytery members given the opportunity to mention others who have passed during the year.

## **ADJOURN**

It was M/S/V to adjourn at 11:57 pm

## **BENEDICTION**

TE Roberto Ramirez gave the benediction.

The next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2019 (Tuesday), 6:30-7 pm happy hour; 7-8:30 pm meeting at Knox, Pasadena

Respectfully Submitted,  
Diane Frasher, Stated Clerk

**TEACHING ELDER PRESBYTERY ROLL  
DATE NOVEMBER 10, 2018**

**APPENDIX A**

|                            |                      |                        |                      |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| √ ACKERMAN, JENNIFER       | @ GIRGIS, MAGDY      | E MESSINGER, THOMAS    | E TAYLOR, TOM        |
| E ANDERSON, BARBARA        | @ GITHUMBI, STEVEN   | E METCALF, STEVE       | E THOMPSON, DEAN     |
| E ANDERSON, BARBARA P      | E GLENN, CASPER      | E MEZA, JOSEPH         | √ TOMLINSON, DAVE    |
| E AZADA, MARY ELLEN        | E GOODERICH, CHARLES | E MILLS, ANN           | E TRACY, KEN         |
| √ BATEMAN, BECCA           | √ GOULDING, DEIDRE   | @ MOLDEN, RICHARD      | √ VAN LOAN, WILLIAM  |
| E BERNS, KAREN             | E GRANT, KEN         | E MOLLER, GARTH        | E VAN NESS, WILLIAM  |
| E BIBAWI-SOLIMAN, VEN.     | E HAGNER, DON        | E MOON, CYRIS          | √ VAUGHN LOWER, J.   |
| E BOLES, LARRY             | E HAWTHORNE, DON     | @ MOON, JOHN           | @ WANG, CHUNG-HSIN   |
| @ BOLES, PAUL              | E HERTIG, YOUNG LEE  | √ MOORE, NANCY         | @ WASHBURN, BRAD     |
| @ BRIGHT, ZACHARY          | E HESSELL, MARTIN    | @ MORA, HUGO           | √ WATTS-AFYRIE, N.   |
| E BROWN, RAYMOND K.        | E HETTISH, RICHARD   | E MORGAN, DALE         | E WENDEL, ROBERT     |
| @ BUCHANAN, MARK           | E HILL, TOM          | E MUSCH, RON           | E WENTZ, TOM         |
| @ BURNETT, JOHEE           | @ HSIEH, FRANK       | E NAJARIAN, JOHN       | √ WIEBE, STEVE       |
| E CALHOUN, BRAD            | @ HUANG, BOB         | @ NELSON, TARRY        | E WILLIAMS, HEATHER  |
| √ CAMPBELL, MARTHA         | E HUANG, DAVID       | E NEWSTEAD, JANE       | E WILLIAMS, PATRICIA |
| √ CAMPBELL, TWINING        | √ HUGHES, JONATHAN   | @ OGLESBY-EDWARDS, ANN | E WONG, HOOVER       |
| E CARLSON, CATHARINE GRIER | E JACOBY, ROBERT     | E O'GRADY, JEFF        | E WOO, DAVID         |
| √ CARLSON, MARK            | E JARVIS, ANDREWE    | E OSIRIPAIBUL, THANIT  | E WOO, FRANKLIN      |
| E CASTELLANO, PAT          | E JOHNSON, HARRIET   | E OVERHOLSER, DENISE   | E WOODBERRY, DUDLEY  |
| √ CASTLES, CHARLES         | E JOHNSON, ROBERT    | @ PAK, DAVID           | @ WUERTZ, KRISTA     |
| @ CHAI, DAVID              | @ KAMEL, HISHAM      | E PARK, HEIDI          | @ YANAGIHARA, MARIKO |
| E CHATFIELD, DONALD F.     | E KANG, JOSEPH       | E PARKER, GREG         | E YEE, ED            |
| E CHEN, SHUI-TENG          | @ KANG, STEPHANIE    | @ PEACE, DWIGHT        | @ YEY, KAOFANG       |
| @ CHEN, THOMAS             | @ KIM, CHARLES       | @ PENG, JAMES          |                      |
| E CHRISTOPHER, HUW         | √ KIM, JAKE          | E POPE, GEORGE         | DUAL MEMBERSHIP      |
| E COATES, JESSIE           | E KIM, SAMUEL        | E POTTER, RALPH        | @ DE ROSAS, ANGEL    |
| E COLLINS, STERRETT        | E KIM, SUENG-NAM     | E RAMOS, SANTOS        |                      |
| E COLON, ROBERTO           | @ KIM, YOHAN         | √ RAMIREZ, ROBERTO     | √ =PRESENT           |
| @ COLWELL, MATTHEW         | E KING, PAMELA       | @ RANDALL, VIKKI       | E =EXCUSED           |
| @ CONNER, JIM              | @ KINSLER, ROSS      | @ RASMUSSEN, SARAH     | @ =ABSENT            |
| @ CONTRERAS, WALTER        | E KISER, KAREN       | √ REYES, MARGARITA     |                      |
| E COOK, JANICE             | E KIEWER, MARK       | E RIDE, BEARE          | 25 RULING ELDERS     |
| @ CORMODE, SCOTT           | √ KWON, PAUL         | E ROBINSON, JEAMES     | 29 TEACHING ELDERS   |
| E CORTES FUENTES, D.       | E LAI, PETER         | E RODRIGUEZ, TEONY     |                      |
| √ CROWELL, CYNTHIA         | @ LAI, PING TUNG     | E RUPPART, RANDEALL    |                      |
| √ CROWELL, ROBERT          | E LAMB, LISA         | @ RYU, JUN             |                      |
| @ DAILEY, ERIK             | √ LEE, ALLY          | @ SANDERS, JAMES       |                      |
| @ DAILEY, MILLASON         | @ LEE, DONGWOO       | E SANTANA-GRACE E.     |                      |
| @ DAVIDSON, JACK           | @ LEE, JAMES SEUNG   | E SAPIO, KAREN         |                      |
| @ DAVIS, STEVE             | √ LEE, YAN CHIH      | E SHANNON, FOSTER      |                      |
| E DE MELO, JAIRTON         | @ LIM, JUNG          | E SHERVINGTON, ROGER   |                      |
| E DEMAREST, GARY           | @ LIN, DAVY          | E SHUSTER, MARG        |                      |
| @ DONNER, ADAM             | √ LITTLE, BRYCE      | E SIEMON, JEFFREY      |                      |
| E DUGGAN THOMAS            | @ LORENZ, AL         | E SIMMEN, LOUIS        |                      |
| √ DUONG, JOHN              | @ LUTZ, DAVID        | E SOGA, KEIJI          |                      |
| E DYRNESS, BILL            | E LUTZ, STEPHEN      | E SPAHN, DAVE          |                      |
| @ EDWARDS, DOUG            | @ LY, KEN            | E STACKHOUSE, WIL.     |                      |
| @ ELGAWLY, RAAFAT          | E MACK, BURTON       | E STOCK, JOAN          |                      |
| E ERICKSON, TOM            | √ MADDOX, DON        | E STOECKLY, EUGENE     |                      |
| E EURICH-RASCOE, SOPHIE    | E MADRIGAL, LUIS     | E STOUT, BARBARA       |                      |
| √ EVANS, LAUREN            | @ MAKAR, MAHER       | @ STRICKLAND, JEN      |                      |
| E FOWLER, MARSHA           | E MANNING, MARILYN   | @ SU, SEN YUAN         |                      |
| √ FRASHER, DIANE           | E MCCURRY, DON       | E SYMONS, JAMES        |                      |
| √ GARCIA, OSVALDO          | E MCDANIEL, REX      | E TAJIMA, WENDY        |                      |
| @ GAETA-SYMONDS, BR.       | @ MCHUGH, ADAM       | √ TAN-GATUE, PETER     |                      |



**APPENDIX B**  
**ELDER COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 10, 2018**  
(#)= COMMISSIONERS ALLOWED

**ALHAMBRA TRUE LIGHT(3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**ALTADENA FIRST (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**ARCADIA, ARABIC (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**ARCADIA PRESBYTERIAN (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**ARCADIA CAPSTONE (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**ARCADIA VILLAGE (3)**  
KATHARAN BARROWS  
ALETA MATTHEWS  
LYNN BEST

**AZUSA FILIPINO (3)**  
BATIS TEOTICO  
ABSENT: 2

**BALDWIN PARK (3)**  
SONNIE SWENSTON  
ABSENT: 2

**CLAREMONT, CLRMT. (5)**  
ELAINE WALKER  
SCOTT RANGLES  
ABSENT: 3

**CLAREMONT EM HISP. (3)**  
ZOILA GARCIA  
ARLETTE PABLO  
ABSENT: 1

**COVINA, FAITH GRACE (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**COVINA FIRST THAI (3)**  
SIRIWAN OSIRIPAIBUL  
WANPEN DOUNGNETRE  
PRATOUM PRADIT

**DIAMOND BAR NORTHM. (3)**  
KATHY FARRIS  
ABSENT: 2

**EL MONTE COMMUNITY (3)**  
STEPHENE MOSLEY  
ABSENT: 2

**EL MONTE, DIVINE LT. (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**HAC. HGTS. SOTV (3)**  
SUE LEE  
FREYA SCHMUS  
ABSENT: 1

**LA PUENTE, ST ANDREWS (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**LA PUENTE, PUENTE DE  
ESPERANZA (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**LA VERNE HTS (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**L.A. EAGLE ROCK (3)**  
CAROLYN HARRIS  
ABSENT: 2

**L.A. GLENDALE KOREN (3)**  
YOUNGSHIN KIM  
ABSENT: 2

**L.A. GRACE (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**L.A. IGLESIA DE LA  
COMUNIDAD (3)**  
MARTHA ZAKARI  
ABSENT: 2

**L.A. OCCIDENTAL (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**MONT. PK. TAIWANESE (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**PAS. FIRST TAIWANESE (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**PASADENA KNOX (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**PASADENA NEW HOPE (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**PASADENA. PRES. (7)**  
MARIA CACARNAKIS  
ABSENT: 6

**PASADENA TRINITY (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**PAS. WESTMINSTER (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**POMONA FIRST (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**ROWLAND HTS. KOREAN (3)**  
ABSENT: 2

**SAN MARINO COM. (7)**  
CAROLINE HOWELL  
ABSENT: 6

**SO. PAS. CALVARY (3)**  
CARL VON BIBRA  
ABSENT: 2

**TEMPLE CITY, GRACE (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**TEMP. CTY. MIDEAST EVAN (3)**  
ABSENT: 3

**TEMPLE CITY WESTMIN (3)**  
PAT COLLINS  
ABSENT: 2

**COUNCIL ELDERS (3)**  
FRIED WILSON  
MELINDA FORBES  
ABSENT: 1

**APPENDIX B**  
**ELDER COMMISSIONERS**  
**November 10, 2018**  
(#)= COMMISSIONERS ALLOWED

**COMMISSIONED RULING**

**ELDER (2)**

ABSENT: 2

Presbytery of San Gabriel  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of November 30, 2018

Nov 30, 18

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

|                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 10010 · Petty Cash                    | 250.00     |
| 10100 · Banner Bank Checking          | 138,797.63 |
| 10150 · Banner Bank Savings/Money Mkt | 786,593.79 |
| 10160 · Banner Bank - Azusa           | 6,886.96   |
| 10170 · Chase Bank - West Covina      | 2,317.07   |

Total Checking/Savings 934,845.45

Other Current Assets

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 11010 · New Covenant Funds | 178,227.19 |
| 11210 · PILP Investment    | 200,000.00 |
| 11310 · TD Ameritrade      | 794,307.42 |

Total Other Current Assets 1,172,534.61

Total Current Assets 2,107,380.06

Fixed Assets

15000 · Fixed Assets 3,719,357.88

Total Fixed Assets 3,719,357.88

Other Assets

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| 18000 · Notes Receivable     | 264,071.72 |
| 19200 · Other Current Assets | 53,311.46  |

Total Other Assets 317,383.18

**TOTAL ASSETS** 6,144,121.12

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

20200 · Payroll Liabilities 13,384.16

Total Other Current Liabilities 13,384.16

Total Current Liabilities 13,384.16

Long Term Liabilities

26100 · PILP Loan Payable 2,274,027.65

26150 · PILP Restoring Creation Loan 199,423.42

Total Long Term Liabilities 2,473,451.07

Total Liabilities 2,486,835.23

Equity

30000 · Opening Balance Equity 782,566.95

31000 · Presbytery-Restricted 569,486.62

34000 · Donor-Restricted 810,506.47

39000 · Unrestricted Net Assets 565,434.52

Net Income 929,291.33

Total Equity 3,657,285.89

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 6,144,121.12

## Presbytery of San Gabriel

### Revenue and Expense Budget vs. Actual

January through November 2018

|                                      | <u>Jan - Nov 18</u>      | <u>Budget</u>          | <u>\$ Over Budget</u>    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                        |                          |                        |                          |
| 40000 · Shared Mission               | 280,851.49               | 325,416.74             | -44,565.25               |
| 42000 · Facilities Cost Sharing      | 138,420.00               | 162,066.63             | -23,646.63               |
| 43000 · West Covina                  | 2,267.07                 |                        |                          |
| 45000 · Inv Related Income/Transfers | 365,577.26               | 195,336.13             | 170,241.13               |
| 49100 · Other Income                 | 1,035,639.14             | 3,666.63               | 1,031,972.51             |
| <b>Total Income</b>                  | <u>1,822,754.96</u>      | <u>686,486.13</u>      | <u>1,136,268.83</u>      |
| <b>Expense</b>                       |                          |                        |                          |
| 50000 · Shared Mission Expense       | 147,472.17               | 94,416.74              | 53,055.43                |
| 51000 · Commission on Ministry       | 97.66                    | 6,875.11               | -6,777.45                |
| 52000 · Comm on Prep for Ministry    | 183.50                   | 2,933.37               | -2,749.87                |
| 53000 · Mission                      | 78,501.95                | 72,233.37              | 6,268.58                 |
| 54000 · Education Committee          | 4,977.10                 | 2,291.63               | 2,685.47                 |
| 55000 · Church Development           | 143,961.03               | 6,233.26               | 137,727.77               |
| 60000 · Presbytery Expenses          | 2,144.67                 | 4,033.37               | -1,888.70                |
| 61000 · Personnel                    | 298,093.88               | 299,222.00             | -1,128.12                |
| 62000 · Office Administration        | 48,057.43                | 44,962.61              | 3,094.82                 |
| 65000 · Property Management          | 169,671.45               | 144,210.00             | 25,461.45                |
| 68100 · Contingency Expenses         | 0.00                     | 1,375.00               | -1,375.00                |
| 69900 · Miscellaneous Expenses       | 302.79                   |                        |                          |
| <b>Total Expense</b>                 | <u>893,463.63</u>        | <u>678,786.46</u>      | <u>214,677.17</u>        |
| <b>Net Income</b>                    | <u><u>929,291.33</u></u> | <u><u>7,699.67</u></u> | <u><u>921,591.66</u></u> |

**Presbytery of San Gabriel  
Commission on Preparation for Ministry  
January 15, 2019**

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry met on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at Community, San Marino; a quorum was present.

**For Action:**

- That Jeff DeSurra be enrolled as an Inquirer. Jeff is a member of Community, San Marino.

**For Information:**

- The commission accepted a written report from Certified Ready Candidate Peter Hawisher as his Annual Consultation for this year. Reports to the individual and sponsoring session have been provided as appropriate. Mr. Hawisher is currently living in Ohio.

## **Presbytery of San Gabriel Executive Commission Report**

The Executive Commission met on Tuesday, December 11 at Pasadena Presbyterian Church with a quorum present and reports the following items for information.

### **Administration and Finance**

Property – Members of the Administrative and Finance Committee along with other presbytery representatives have been in conversations with TELACU, a non-profit corporation that is interested in working with the Presbytery to re-purpose church properties as mixed-use facilities. They would develop and manage the property while the presbytery or church retains title and receives income from the redevelopment. The consensus of A & F was to continue to dialogue to learn more details.

West Covina – International Theological Seminary (ITS) is in the process of applying for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) with the City of West Covina. They cannot move the seminary to this site until that CUP is obtained (which may take five to six months). In the meantime, negotiations are underway to have them manage the property: taking care of grounds, custodial service, gardening and minor maintenance repairs. The hope is to raise some income for ITS (for the duration of this agreement) and get some familiarity as we move towards a more committed partnership. This is only an interim agreement for six months that can be terminated by either party with a 30-day notice.

### **Vision and Strategy**

Church Vitalization Fund – VST has been working on getting the word out about the available vitalization grants. At this time, about 13 churches have used the funds. **The Commission voted that churches that have not already used the funds have until the end June of 2019 to apply for funds.** After that deadline, VST will make a recommendation to PEC on how to use unused funds.

Disbursement of Grant Funds – Korean Good Shepherd and the Korean Language Ministry at Pasadena Presbyterian have received grants from the Presbytery which were matched by the Synod. The Synod portion of the funds for Korean Good Shepherd have already been disbursed - \$45,000. The Commission agreed to disburse the remainder of the funds (up to \$45,000) to Korean Good Shepherd of Rowland Heights upon request from the church as the roof repairs proceed, and that the grant funds for the Korean Language Ministry at PPC (\$50,000, \$25,000 each from Presbytery and Synod) be distributed in full immediately.

## **Administrative Commissions**

Baldwin Park – The congregation is no longer worshipping at the church and has been worshipping at West Covina. However, the congregation still wants to visit other churches as well. A separate report from this AC will be presented at the January Presbytery meeting.

Grace, Los Angeles – Several years ago, the church sold their property and has been leasing back a small worship space from the new owner. Al Lorenz has been the pastor at the church for decades. The rental agreement is up for renegotiation in June and, by action of the Church's session, they are looking toward dissolving the church. A motion will be coming to a future presbytery meeting to dissolve the church by a specific date; a recommendation as to the distribution of any remaining funds from the sale of the property will also be made. Edgardo Cedeño is working with the church and is working toward becoming eligible to be a Commissioned Ruling Elder if such a call is given.

## **Justice Peacemaking and Mission**

Peace Conference - The Synod-wide Peace Conference will be held February 23, 2019 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Pasadena.

El Monte Initiative - The JPM Committee considered proposals presented by El Monte Community Presbyterian Church and Puente de Esperanza.

JPM committee members visited El Monte Community to gain a better understanding of their services. JPM was not ready to fund Community Church's proposal at this time and suggested to them that they work building on their leadership and foundation.

While Puente de Esperanza's CaliCenter program is going well, the committee members thought it would make sense for them to seek local community-based support in addition to the El Monte Initiative funds. JPM approved \$40,000 (of \$43,200 requested) for CaliCenter's use in 2019, with notification that JPM will expect them to cultivate additional sources of funding for 2020 from within the community.

Submitted by Fried Wilson, PEC Moderator

**PRESBYTERY OF SAN GABRIEL**  
*2019 Meeting Dates*

**Presbytery Meetings**

| <b>Date</b>            | <b>Time</b> | <b>Note</b>    | <b>Host Church</b>             |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Tuesday, January 15    | 7 pm        |                | Knox, Pasadena                 |
| Saturday, February 2   | 9 am        | Winterfest     | Northminster, Diamond Bar      |
| Saturday, April 6      | 9 am        |                | Divine Light, El Monte         |
| Saturday, June 8       | 9 am        | Day of Service | West Covina                    |
| Saturday, September 14 | 9 am        |                | Puente de Esperanza, La Puente |
| Tuesday, November 19   | 7 pm        |                | TBD                            |

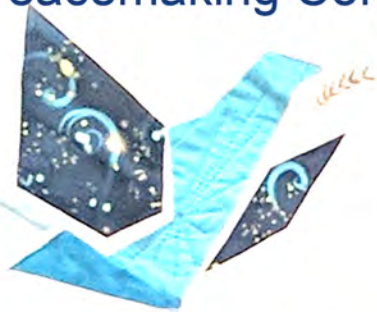
**Committee/Commission Meetings**

| <b>Executive Commission</b>                           | <b>COM</b>   | <b>CPM</b>   | <b>Administration &amp; Finance</b>                                 |
|---|--|--|---|
| 6:00 pm<br>San Marino                                 | Sub-Cmms. @ 4:00 or as needed<br>Full Committee @ 5:00<br>Trinity, Pasadena      | 6:00 pm<br>Community, San Marino<br>(meetings added as needed) | 2:30 pm<br>Presbytery Center, TC<br>(Thursday Prior to PEC Meeting) |
| February 26   | January 7  | February 5   | February 21   |
| May 14  | February 4   | March 5  | May 9   |
| July 23   | March 4  | May 7  | July 19   |
| October 15  | May 6  | August 6   | October 10  |
| December 10   | July 1   | October 1  | December 5  |
| (additional meetings as needed)                       | August 5   |  |   |
|   | October 7  |  |   |
|   | November 4   |  |   |
|   | December 2   |  |   |
|   |  |  | <b>Special Days</b>   |
|   |  |  | March 6      Ash Wednesday  |
|   |  |  | April 21      Easter  |
|   |  |  | August 1-3    Big Tent  |
| <b>Representation/<br/>Nominations</b>                | <b>Personnel</b>   | <b>Justice, Peacemaking<br/>and Mission</b>                    | <b>Holidays – Office Closed</b>                                     |
| 12:30 pm<br>Shepherd of<br>the Valley<br>Hacienda Hts | 1:00 pm<br>Westminster, Temple City<br>(Monday the week prior to<br>PEC Meeting) | Location TBD<br>Meeting schedule TBD                           |   |
| February 26   | February 11  |  | January 1      New Year's Day                                       |
| March 26  | May 6  |  | January 21      MLK Day   |
| April 30  | July 15  | <b>Vision and Strategy</b>                                     | February 18      Presidents' Day                                    |
| June 25   | October 7  | 12:00 noon   | April 19      Good Friday   |
| August 27   | December 2   | B-Man's Teriyaki Duarte  | May 27      Memorial Day  |
| September 24  |  | 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday                                       | July 4      Independence Day  |
| October 22  | <b>Education</b>   |  | September 2      Labor Day  |
|   | 3:30 pm  | January 24   | November 28-29      Thanksgiving                                    |
|   | Fuller Seminary  | February 28  | December 23-      Winter Recess                                     |
|   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  | March 28   | January 1, 2020   |
|   | January 9 (at NPC)   | April 25   |   |
|   | February 13  | May 23 . . .   |   |
|   | March 13   |  |   |
|   | April 10 . . .   |  |   |



# Peace-ing It Together

Peacemaking Conference - Synod of S. CA and Hawaii



February 23rd, 2019

8:30 a.m. registration, 9:00 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Knox Presbyterian Church

225 S. Hill Ave., Pasadena, CA 91106

## Featured speakers include:

Sara Lisherness — Senior Director for Compassion, Peace & Justice, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Rev. Denise Anderson — Coordinator for Racial & Intercultural Justice, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Rev. Emily Brewer — Executive Director, Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

## Musical leadership provided by Zehnder

Free lunch will be served.

Specific ideas for peacemaking activities in your church and community will be offered on these topics:

gun violence, immigration, homelessness, interracial issues, and interfaith dialogue.

RSVP to [PeaceConfSoCal2019@gmail.com](mailto:PeaceConfSoCal2019@gmail.com)

Thanks to the following for their support of this conference:

Synod JPIC, Presbyteries of San Fernando, Riverside, San Gabriel and Los Ranchos.

All in attendance will be entered into the drawing to take home the quilt commissioned for this conference.

# Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

## Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Order*

Approved by the 223rd General Assembly (2018) and  
recommended to the presbyteries for their vote.



Including: Note from the Stated Clerk, a list of the proposed amendments  
with advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, and an index.

## NOTE FROM THE STATED CLERK

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved and recommended to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes proposed changes in the language of the *Book of Order* that, if approved, will amend the Constitution.

With each proposed amendment, reference is made to an item number that indicates the General Assembly Committee report and action related to each proposed amendment. These item numbers also indicate where to find other background information from various entities that was available electronically to the General Assembly commissioners. This information may be accessed through PC-Biz at <https://www.pc-biz.org>. The item number references will also be found in the *Minutes of the 223rd General Assembly (2018)*, which are expected to be available to the presbyteries by the time they consider the amendments. The full advice of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) and other advisory entities can be found immediately following the item in the *Minutes* for which the advice is given.

Unless otherwise indicated, new language to be added to the *Book of Order* is in italics and any language to be stricken will have a line through it. In providing rationale and advice for each item, direct quotations from the various groups that presented or commented on these items before the General Assembly is used whenever possible.

Presbyteries must report to the Office of the General Assembly a separate vote on each proposed amendment. A presbytery may vote on the amendments in a consent agenda or omnibus motion, as long as each proposed amendment is identified separately. Presbyteries are required to report their votes by June 23, 2019. However, in order to make the changes and publish the 2019–2021 *Book of Order* in a timely manner, receipt of votes prior to this deadline would be appreciated (by May 10, 2019, if possible).

Thank you for your careful and prayerful consideration of these proposed amendments.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Herbert Nelson, II".

The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

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## PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

### Form of Government

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## **18-A. Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons On Amending G-2.0401 (Item 06-11)**

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

**Shall G-2.0401 of the Form of Government be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with strike through; text to be added or inserted is shown in *italic*.]**

### **“G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons**

**“Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation’s membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403). Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from and representative of its membership. ~~Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee, provided that the committee shall consist of at least three active members of the congregation, and shall include at least one ruling elder who is currently serving on the session.~~ *Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee. The rule shall meet the following criteria: (1) the minimum size of the committee as specified in the rule shall be at least three persons; (2) at least one member of the committee shall be an elder currently serving on session; and (3) a majority of those persons on the committee who are eligible to vote shall consist of persons not currently serving on session. The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote. When elections are held, full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. A majority of all the active members present and voting shall be required to elect.*”**

### **Rationale**

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Grace as Item 06-11. The Presbyteries of Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Huntington, and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Grace provided the following rationale [edited].

This proposed amendment clarifies the somewhat ambiguous language regarding the nominating committee membership.

The proposed changes set the minimum size of the nominating committee at three members, not including the pastor. This is ideal for small congregations yet also provides flexibility for churches to add more from this minimum.

The goal is to provide clarity while preserving the overall permission-giving nature of the Form of Government.

### **Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution**

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-11 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

The Presbytery of Grace presents proposed language to clarify the minimum size of a congregational nominating committee and the requirement that a majority of the voting members of a congregational nominating committee be members-at-large of the congregation.

The proposed amendment provides helpful clarification to G-2.0401. The minimum size of a congregational nominating committee shall be three members, at least one member of which must be a ruling elder in active service on

the session. The minimum size of three is appropriate for smaller congregations. There is no maximum size for a congregational nominating committee.

The proposed amendment adds clarity and is consistent with past practice. The majority of a congregational nominating committee should be members-at-large of the congregation, not ruling elders currently serving on the session.

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The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 54/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 478/3. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 69, 72, 592.)

For the full report of Item 06-11, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

## 18-B. Renunciation of Jurisdiction

### Background

These two proposed amendments, 18-B.1 and 18-B.2, (Item 06-09, Recommendations 1. and 2.) come out of the intent to clarify congregational prohibition and individual jurisdiction when a PC(USA) minister of Word and Sacrament renounces jurisdiction while in the midst of disciplinary proceedings and then wants to rejoin the PC(USA). [Editor's Note: The General Assembly approved the combination of two proposed amendments in one item. The advice on each of these proposed amendments come from the separate items, (Items 06-09 and 06-07) not on the combined items. In addition, the General Assembly asked that a third item similar be referred to the Rules of Discipline Task Force (Item 06-09, Recommendation 3.).]

### 18-B.1.

#### On Amending G-2.0509 (Item 06-09)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

**Shall G-2.0509 be amended by striking the fourth paragraph and adding two new paragraphs to read as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added is shown as italic.]**

**~~“Whenever a former minister of the Word and Sacrament has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused, that former minister of the Word and Sacrament shall not be permitted to perform any work, paid or volunteer, in any congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) unless and until the person rejoins the church, comes forward and resubmits to the disciplinary process.~~**

***“No congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be permitted to employ, for pay or as a volunteer, a former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused.***

***“Any former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction and later wants to be restored to office can be restored only through application to the presbytery in which he or she renounced jurisdiction for restoration to office, in which case the provisions of D-10.0401d and D-12.0200 shall apply.”***

### Rationale

The proposed amendment 18-B.1 originated from the Presbytery of Central Florida as Item 06-09 and proposed amendment 18-B.2 originated from the Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area as Item 06-07 Recommendation 2 and added to Item 06-09 by the General Assembly. The Presbyteries of Albany, Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Newton, North Alabama, Tropical Florida, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with Item 06-09 and the Presbyteries of Albany, Denver, Grand Canyon, Missouri River Valley, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with former Item 06-07 including Item 06-07 recommendation 2. The Presbytery of Central Florida provided the following rationale for Item 06-09 [edited].

The [former] amendments to G-2.0509, while intended to protect the church and its entities from ministers who have left the church without submitting to the constitutional process for establishing guilt or innocence and providing for repentance when repentance is needed, have instead created a situation in which the administration of justice, as defined

by the amendment, is impossible to carry out. By definition of the section itself, a person who has renounced jurisdiction no longer holds membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The preamble to the Rules of Discipline defines the limits of church discipline as follows:

... The purpose of discipline is to honor God by making clear the significance of membership in the body of Christ; to preserve the purity of the church by nourishing the *individual within the life of the believing community*; to achieve justice and compassion for all participants involved; to correct or restrain wrongdoing in order to bring *members* to repentance and restoration; to uphold the dignity of those who have been harmed by disciplinary offenses; to restore the unity of the church by removing the causes of discord and division; and to secure the just, speedy, and economical determination of proceedings. ... (D-1.0101, emphasis added)

Since church discipline exists for the welfare of the believing community and applies to members of that community, a former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction is no longer a member by action of the presbytery that removes his or her name from its rolls. In any complaint, the Rules of Discipline would apply to the congregation or other entity which employed that former minister. Should a former minister of the Word and Sacrament who has renounced jurisdiction wish to be restored to the ordered ministry of minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder), the process for restoration is spelled out in the Rules of Discipline, D-12.0200.

### **Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution**

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-09 with action on Item 06-07 providing the following advice [edited]. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-07 recommendation #1 with disapproval and refer recommendation #2 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force. They provided the following advice [edited].

Both Items 06-07 and 06-09 would amend G-2.0509 on renunciation of jurisdiction. Each proposes correcting a perceived flaw in the language of the last paragraph of G-2.0509. The approaches are different and do not achieve the same end. There is a comprehensive description of the issues related to renunciation of jurisdiction in the advice on Item 06-07 that will provide helpful background for consideration of this overture as well.

There are particular issues inherent in Item 06-09 [18-B.1]. The first sentence of Item 06-09 addresses the actions of a congregation. The second sentence of Item 06-09 [18-B.1], addresses actions of a former minister. Each part is discussed separately below.

... The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the first paragraph would place requirements on the congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the PC(USA), rather than on a former minister who has renounced the jurisdiction of this church and, therefore, is no longer subject to its jurisdiction and discipline. Section G-2.0509 is about ministers of the Word and Sacrament and their actions in renouncing jurisdiction. Insertion of requirements for a congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) interrupts the flow and sense of this section.

... The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the second paragraph presents some matters of concern.

- Having struck the requirement for rejoining the church in the existing text of G-2.0509, if approved, the new language would eliminate any requirement for membership before “application” for restoration.
- It would require “application” to the presbytery. “Application” is not defined, nor are there any criteria for considering such an “application.”
- Most significantly, it assumes that renunciation of jurisdiction is equivalent to removal from ordered ministry in judicial process. A person who seeks to be restored after the censure of removal (D-12.0201) has subjected him or herself to the discipline of the church and satisfied the requirements for restoration. A person who has renounced jurisdiction of this church in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding has avoided the discipline of this church. A 1989 authoritative interpretation specifies that one who renounces jurisdiction and seeks to return to ministry of the Word and Sacrament “should first come again under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a member of a particular church and then initiate the process and procedures found in G-2.06, Preparation for Ministry (formerly G-14.0300, Preparation for the Office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament).” The proposed language of Item 06-09 conflicts with this and would not require membership in the church.



[Editor's note: As noted in their advice above, the ACC provided advice on Item 06-07, which also applies to Item 6-09 since they recommended answering Item 06-09 with Item 06-07. The applicable advice is as follows.]

### *Return to Ordered Ministry*

When a former minister renounced jurisdiction while a disciplinary case against him or her was pending, and now desires to return to ordered ministry in the PC(USA), additional process is required. Renunciation is not the removal of a person's status in ordered ministry, but a voluntary abandonment of it. A minister of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction may not be *restored* to ordered ministry and the office of minister of Word and Sacrament because the person voluntarily acted in a manner to negate that status. This is particularly true where the minister renounced while a disciplinary case was pending against him or her and thus refused to be subject to church discipline.

1. A person who has renounced jurisdiction while subject to a disciplinary process and who is a minister in good standing of another denomination may seek to have those credentials recognized under G-2.0505.
2. A person who has renounced jurisdiction while subject to a disciplinary process and who is not a minister in good standing in another denomination or whose credentials are not recognized by the PC(USA), must do so as a member of a congregation through the process of G-2.06, Preparation for Ministry.

## **18-B.2.**

### **On Amending D-10.0401d (Item 06-09)**

**Shall D-10.0401d be amended to read as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]**

**~~“For instances where a former minister of the Word and Sacrament comes forward in self-accusation to undergo a disciplinary process to regain permission to perform work under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (G-2.0509) who renounced jurisdiction while being accused in a disciplinary case rejoins the church, no time limit from the time of the commission of the alleged offense to the filing of charges shall apply. Charges based on all accusations that had been made by the time that the former minister of the Word and Sacrament had renounced jurisdiction may be brought regardless of the date on which any such offense is alleged to have occurred.”~~**

### **Rationale**

The proposed amendment 18-B.1 originates from the Presbytery of Central Florida as Item 06-09 and proposed amendment 18-B.2 from the Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area as Item 06-07 Recommendation 2. The Presbyteries of Albany, Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Newton, North Alabama, Tropical Florida, Wabash Valley, and de Cristo concurred with Item 06-09 and the Presbyteries of Albany, Denver, Grand Canyon, Missouri River Valley, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred with former Item 06-07 including Item 06-07 Recommendation 2. The Presbytery of Central Florida provided the following rationale for Item 06-09 [edited].

*How the Book of Order's Currently Mandated Disciplinary Process in G-2.0509 and D-10.0401d Is Inconsistent with the Preamble of the Rules of Discipline*

Recently adopted language in the *Book of Order* may seem to be merely a compassionate response to former ministers of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction while being accused in a disciplinary case, who may have done so because of pressing family or medical reasons, for example. The current process allows former teaching elders to rejoin the church, but does not require them to face accusations until sometime in the future when they themselves choose to come forward, in self-accusation, to resume the disciplinary process. However, requiring the disciplinary process to resume only when the accused chooses to come forward in self-accusation is inconsistent with

five out of seven of the purposes of discipline stated in the Preamble of the Rules of Discipline (D-1.0101), because such a process (1) tramples on victim's rights, (2) is not likely to remove causes of suspicion, and (3) is not likely to bring perpetrators of offenses to repentance, especially if many years pass between when the accused renounces jurisdiction and when the accused chooses to resume the disciplinary process.

The Preamble of the Rules of Discipline state that three of the purposes of discipline are:

- “to achieve justice and compassion for all participants involved;”
- “to uphold the dignity of those who have been harmed by disciplinary offenses;”
- “to secure the just, speedy, and economical determination of proceedings.” (D-1.0101)

When an accusation is made, victims have a right to see a fair and impartial investigation go forward with all deliberate speed (up to and including a trial, if necessary), so that, whatever the outcome of the disciplinary process<sup>2</sup>, victims feel free to put memories of painful events in the past, and move on with their lives. However, under the current process in the *Book of Order*, victims (and perhaps their families or friends) may feel compelled to have to constantly prepare to testify about abusive events, just in case they ever receive notice from a new investigating committee that the accused wants to resume the disciplinary process, which could be at any time in the future of the accused's choosing. It is cruel, inhumane, and anything but “speedy,” to expect victims to keep hanging on to evidence of abuse and to relive painful memories for months, years, or even decades in the future, on the perhaps slim chance that the accused might rejoin the church and choose to resubmit to the disciplinary process. In the words of a theological seminary advisory delegate to the 2016 General Assembly (2016), the process in G-2.0509 and D-10.0401d as now written “punishes victims.”

### **Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution**

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-09 with action on Item 06-07 providing the following advice [edited]. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to answer Item 06-07 recommendation #1 with disapproval and refer recommendation #2 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force. They provided the following advice [edited].

#### *Part 2*

Recommendation 2 of Item 06-07 would amend D-10.0401d to add words to make clear the section applies only to a former minister of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction of the PC(US.) while a disciplinary proceeding was proceeding against him or her as the accused. There is a task force working on a revision to the Rules of Discipline. The amendment to D-10.0401d (Recommendation 2 of Item 06-7) should be referred to it.

### **Advice from the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns**

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-09 for its greater clarity of language in amending the *Book of Order*, G-2.0509 and approve Item 06-07 Recommendation 2.

*While ACWC supports the above changes, they are inadequate.* Unless victims have the right to a fair and impartial investigation with all deliberate speed, they will never feel free to put memories of painful events in the past and move on with their lives. Under the current ruling, however, former teaching elders are allowed to rejoin the church but are not required to face accusations and resume the disciplinary process until a time in the future of their own choosing. Thus, a predator can deliberately wait until after key witnesses have moved on with their lives, perhaps even died, or *the original* evidence is no longer available.

### **Advice from the Office of the General Assembly**

The Office of the General Assembly advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) advises that all items, including Items 06-09 and 06-07, amending the Rules of Discipline, be referred to the Rules of Discipline Task Force, which is

currently revising the Rules of Discipline as a whole and will report with suggested changes to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

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The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 54/3. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 466/7. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 71–72, 588.)

For the full report of Item 06-09, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

## 18-C. Officers

### On Amending G-3.0104 (Item 06-16)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

**Shall G-3.0104 of the Form of Government be amended by adding the following statement as the last paragraph to read as follows? [Text to be added is shown as italic.]**

***“No congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office.”***

### Rationale

The proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as Item 06-16. The Presbytery of de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina provided the following rationale for Item 06-16 [edited].

Since 1954, the Johnson Amendment has been a provision in the United States tax code prohibiting charitable organizations, including churches, from endorsing or opposing political candidates. This allows for charitable organizations to qualify for tax exemption and qualifies donations to these organizations as tax-exempt. In recent years, there has been discussion regarding the repeal of this amendment; those in favor of repeal claim that the amendment infringes on the first amendment rights of clergy and other leaders of religious and charitable organizations while those in favor of maintaining the statute fear that a repeal would lead to religious and charitable organizations becoming safe-havens for tax-exempt and un-reported political contributions.

While full repeal of the Johnson Amendment has not yet come to fruition, action has been taken to loosen the interpretation and implementation of the statute when churches and secular charitable organizations are found to be in violation.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long supported the notion of the separation of church and state. We can see this throughout our Foundations of Presbyterian Polity. Section F-3.0101a and b affirms that “God alone is Lord of the conscience,” and that “We do not even wish to see any religious constitution aided by the civil power, further than may be necessary for protection and security, and at the same time, be equal and common to all others.”

While it is clear that the principles of this overture are present in abundance throughout the *Book of Order* and *Book of Confessions*, there is no explicit guidance offered to governing bodies or to those in leadership positions regarding endorsing or opposing candidates running for political office. This amendment to the *Book of Order* precludes such activity while still allowing for churches and leaders to actively engage with secular issues that touch on the life of faith, to work towards bringing God’s reign of justice and peace ever closer to reality.

### **Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution**

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) disapprove Item 06-16 providing the following advice [edited].

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina summarizes the history of the “Johnson Amendment,” and anticipates change to that statute. Because the Johnson Amendment has not yet been revoked or altered, it is premature for the assembly to address anticipated statutory change. The overture would reverse long-standing foundational principles of our denomination and have long-reaching effects on the church,

#### *Individual Discernment and Diversity of Religious Belief*

Presbyterians begin with a firm and fundamental belief in the private discernment of religious belief. Section F-3.0101 sets forth and affirms the historic principle that “God alone is Lord of the conscience” and that “in all matters that

respect religion” “we consider the rights of private judgment ... as universal and inalienable.” Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith, and church power in matters of religious belief is limited as explained in F-3.0107. This first historic principle of church order (F-3.0101) was affirmed and explained in the policy statement, “God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience.”<sup>1</sup> The principle that God alone is Lord of the conscience both reflects and underlies many other foundational<sup>2</sup> and confessional<sup>3</sup> statements in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

“Religious bodies and people of faith hold to a wide variety of convictions, ideas, and values that make important contributions to the shape and strength of public life. That life has been shaped by individuals and groups that have sought to create new forms, sustain traditional ones, challenge existing ideologies and reform or resist unjust institutions. Participation is thus viewed by the government sometimes as a blessing and at other times as a threat” (*God Alone*, p. 48; see also F-1.404). Because the individual is the bearer of conscience, it does not matter whether others of the same faith make the same conscientious claim. *God Alone*, p. 19. “Religious tolerance and pluralism are our political and societal norm. We do not perfectly achieve that norm and intolerance has not been eliminated....” (*God Alone*, p. 7).

#### *Formation of Conscience in Community*

While Presbyterians emphasize individual belief, we also recognize the importance of community and our shared expression of belief. Discourse and expressions of diversity within the church are important to formation of religious conscience. As Presbyterians, we recognize that “The formation of conscience occurs in community, but its exercise is very often finally an individual matter” (*God Alone*, p. 19). It is a fundamental principle for our church and our country that “The individual’s right to believe cannot be divorced from the right to exercise that belief in the company and community of others. For nearly every human being, the right to practice religion only as a solitary individual is virtually no right at all” (*God Alone*, p. 12). “The exercise of individual and corporate conscience must be affirmed as an integral aspect of religious liberty.”<sup>4</sup>

#### *Separation of Church and State*

The freedom to express religious views in public is as important as the freedom to determine religious beliefs for oneself. For Reformed Christians, “faith demands engagement in the secular order and involvement in the political realm” (*God Alone*, p. 48). The so-called “separation between church and state” is “particularly misleading when used to advocate the separation of religion from politics or from any other dimension of the public order. The First Amendment has never meant separation of religion from community or separation of the church from public life. On their face, the religion clauses [of the U.S. Constitution] constitute an absolute prohibition on government participation in religious life; there is no hint that that barrier was even thought to isolate religion from the life of the republic” (*God Alone*, pp. 47–48).

#### *Responsibility for Involvement in Public Life*

The freedom and responsibility to express religious and moral views in public is an important part of our denominational principles and history. The Gospel demands that we share our faith and that we seek to be a community of faith witnessing to God’s good news and Christ’s teachings to the world in words and deeds. According to the Reformed tradition and standards of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), “it is a limitation and denial of faith not to seek its expression in both a personal and public manner, in such ways as will not only influence, but transform the public order and involvement in the political realm” (*God Alone*, p. 48). This principle reflects our foundational statements (F-1.0301, F-1.0304, F-1.0404), other parts of the *Book of Order* (e.g., W-5.0304), and our long-standing and important history of social witness to world.

#### *Endorsement or Opposition to Political Candidates*

“For these reasons, limitations upon the freedom of religious bodies to participate in public life are illegitimate and unconstitutional. The church is bound to reject any regulation limiting church advocacy or particular legislation or endorsement of candidates, or establishing religious qualifications for office holders” (*God Alone*, p. 50). Over the centuries, Presbyterians have stood up and spoken out against those who would silence the church and the faithful.

Internal Revenue Code provisions that limit tax-exempt religious organization from devoting “substantial” activity to attempts to influence legislation or participate or intervene in political campaigns on behalf of any candidate for public office, as well as recent public debate, heighten concerns about religious discourse about public life. There is a difference between discussion of issues and candidates, on one hand, and intervention in campaigns on behalf of specific candidates on the other” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

The 200th General Assembly (1988) specifically affirmed that: “We recognize that speaking out on issues will sometimes constitute implicit support or opposition to particular candidates or parties, where policy and platform differences are clearly drawn. Since such differences are the vital core of the political process, church participation should not be curtailed on that account; but we believe that it is generally unwise and imprudent for the church explicitly to support or oppose specific candidates, except in unusual circumstances” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

Each council should be mindful of these foundational principles and historical practice. “It is easy to step from advocating our vision to seeking to enforce it, from protecting religious liberty to requiring ‘right’ belief and action. The church must advocate its positions on public issues, but it should not seek to exercise political authority in its own right” (*God Alone*, p. 50).

#### Endnotes

1. *God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience* is a policy statement of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) adopted by the 200th General Assembly (1988), and affirmed or cited by numerous subsequent General Assemblies and entities of the church. Hereafter “God Alone.”

2. Section F-1.0301 states the “Calling of the Church” is to be a community of faith, a community of hope, a community of love, and a community of witness. “The Great Ends of the Church” (F-1.0304) include “the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.” Section F-1.0404 explains the “Church seeks a new openness to God’s mission in the world.”

3. See, e.g., the Theological Declaration of Barmen and the Confession of 1967, which can be found in the *Book of Confessions*.

4. “The church is always obliged to respect claims of conscience lest it frustrate efforts to obey the will of God. We need not agree with the specific dictates of another’s conscience to respect and support the right to exercise that conscience. Paul told Christians that they were freed from Jewish dietary laws, but if the conscience of another is offended by eating certain foods, ‘for conscience sake—I mean his conscience, not yours—do not eat it’ (1 Corinthians 10:28–29). The obligation to respect the exercise of conscience is not only a dynamic of life within the church; it is both a demand and a dilemma of the First Amendment’s protection of religious freedom” (*God Alone*, p. 18).

### **Advice from the Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy**

The Advisory Committee for Social Witness Policy advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve 06-16 with suggested amendment providing the following advice [edited].

The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) advises approval as amended below: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through and with brackets; text to be added or inserted is shown with an underline and with brackets.]

“~~No~~ [Except in cases of extreme danger to the common good, and even then with cautions against extreme partisanship, no] congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office.”

The substantial and generally fine General Assembly social witness policy on church/state relations, *God Alone Is Lord of the Conscience* (1988; <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/1-god-alone-is-lord-1988.pdf>) refuses to limit prophetic religious speech, but also recognizes the wisdom of our predominant practice. “The church is bound to reject any regulation limiting church advocacy or particular legislation or endorsement of candidates, or establishing religious qualifications for office holders.” But then, “There is a difference between discussion of issues and candidates, on one hand, and intervention in campaigns on behalf of specific candidates on the other.” And further, “... we believe that it is generally unwise and imprudent for the church explicitly to support or oppose specific candidates, except in unusual circumstances” (all three quotes from page 50).

The General Assembly spoke to the issues involved in the Tax Justice policy of 2014, reaffirming the principles behind the current 501.c.3 category, and further addressing the abuse of the 501.c.4 category of “social welfare institutions” for political purposes and personal enrichment:

Rules governing tax-exempt “social welfare organizations” (501(c)(4)s) should exclude or strictly limit the eligibility of donations for partisan political purposes, parties and candidates, and the individual and corporate donors to or through such organizations should be made public due to their influence on the political process ([http://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/acswp\\_tax\\_justice\\_42.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/acswp_tax_justice_42.pdf), p. 4).

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) addressed this matter even more directly, responding to Supreme Court decisions in the Citizens United and Voting Rights Act cases, which intensified the role of money in politics:

[The Assembly:] Endorses the continuing prohibition of partisan political endorsements by religious organizations or their leadership and other measures to respect both religious liberty and the separation of church and state. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) strongly supports the freedom of religious organizations to speak on matters of policy, but personal endorsements and partisan ties may present the appearance of or opportunity for collusion, special treatment, and the violation of nonprofit tax status. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/Election-Protection-and-Integrity-in-Campaign-Finance-2016-ACSWP.pdf>, pp. 2-3)

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The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 31/24. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 370/99. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 73, 611.)

For the full report of Item 06-16, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

## **18-D. Membership of Presbytery**

### **On Amending G-3.0306 (Item 06-05)**

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

**Shall the fourth paragraph of G-3.0306 of the Form of Government be amended by adding the following statement as follows? [Text to be added is shown as italic.]**

*“Every minister of the Word and Sacrament shall ordinarily be a member of the presbytery where his or her work is situated or of the presbytery where she or he resides. The presbytery may grant a minister permission to engage in work validated ministry that is outside its geographic bounds or which is not under its jurisdiction, but no presbytery shall permit a minister to engage in work that is within the geographic bounds of another presbytery and which is properly within the responsibility of another presbytery without consent of that presbytery. Such permission shall be obtained from both presbyteries and shall be reviewed and renewed annually.”*

#### **Rationale**

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Tropical Florida as Item 06-11. The Presbyteries of Central Florida, Greater Atlanta, Huntington, Wabash Valley and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of Tropical Florida provided the following rationale [edited].

The current Form of Government lacks clarity with regard to the seeking of and granting of permission for a minister member of a presbytery to labor beyond the geographic boundaries of the presbytery of membership. This overture provides clarity to the seeking of permission to labor within the geographic bounds of a presbytery beyond that of the minister of Word and Sacrament’s membership.

As “the presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district” (G-3.0301), the presbytery needs to have knowledge of and oversight for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) witness within its geographic district. Without the Form of Government making it clear that permission must be granted by the presbytery for all validated ministry taking place within its bounds, the particular corporate witness of a presbytery within a certain district may lack unity of strategy for mission under the Word. The addition of this paragraph to the Form of Government enhances the presbytery’s capacity for unity in its corporate witness as strategy for mission under the Word.

#### **Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution**

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-05 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

Item 06-05 seeks to return to the *Book of Order* the mechanism for seeking permission to labor beyond the geographic bounds of membership of the minister of the Word and Sacrament. The ... text ... is based on the language that was in the 2009–2011 edition of the *Book of Order*.

The Form of Government (G-3.0306) establishes that each presbytery determines the ministers who are its members and validates the ministries in which they are to be engaged, following the criteria of G-2.0503a(1)–(5) and the policy developed by the presbytery for validating the ministries of its members.

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The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 52/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 442/13. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 71, 571.)

For the full report of Item 06-05, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>.



## 18-E. Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors and Congregations

### On Amending G-3.0307 (Item 06-02)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0307 of the Form of Government be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

**“G-3.0307 Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its ~~Pastors~~ *Ministers of the Word and Sacrament* and Congregations**

**“Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations.**

**“Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor and counselor to its ~~pastors, both ministers of the Word and Sacrament, and ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service (also called commissioned pastors (also known as commissioned ruling elders)), as well as the~~ *and certified Christian educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, ~~pastors ministers of the Word and Sacrament, commissioned pastors,~~ and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient.”***

#### Rationale

The proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Santa Fe as Item 06-02. The Presbyteries of Grand Canyon, Muskingum Valley, Sierra Blanca, Southeastern Illinois, and de Cristo, concurred with Item 06-02. The Presbytery of Santa Fe provided the following rationale for Item 06-002 [edited].

The Presbytery of Santa Fe was one of the concurring presbyteries on the 2016 overture that became Amendment 16-C, Recommendations C.1 through C.8, ratified by a majority of the presbyteries. We are mindful of the valid criticism of Recommendation 16-C.6 (G-3.0307) raised by the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, as well as other concerns about repetitive wording. We believe this can be easily remedied by our proposed amendment.

#### **Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution**

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 06-02 as amended providing the following advice [edited]:

The rationale for Item 06-02 focuses on the issue of repetitive wording in this section, but there is a more important issue that is corrected by this amendment.

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved Item 06-08 on amending the *Book of Order* to clarify titles to Ordered Ministry. Item 06-08 (2016) was a large amendment with seven recommendations, most which dealt with switching the default term for the ordered ministry of “teaching elder” to “minister of the Word and Sacrament.” In the process of approval, the 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved an amendment to G-3.0307 (sixth recommendation) to strike out the term “teaching elder” and insert not “minister of the Word and Sacrament,” but “pastor.”

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution called the attention of the assembly to an unintended consequence of this amendment, that by inserting the word “pastor” into the action defining who had access to the committee on ministry or its equivalent, the amendment was cutting off all ministers of the Word and Sacrament not serving as installed or temporary pastors from access to this committee or entity. Item 06-08 (2016) was approved and referred to the presbyteries without addressing this concern.

Item 06-02, if approved, will restore constitutional access to the committee on ministry or its equivalent to all minister members of the presbytery. It also deals with the issue of repetitive wording in this section with language that is clear and concise.

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The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 52/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 464/3. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 70, 565–66.)

For the full report of Item 06-02, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

## 18-F. Welcoming to the Table

### On Amending W-4.0202 (Item 14-03)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall W-4.0202 be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

**“W-4.0202 Welcoming to the Table**

**“In cases where baptized children who have not yet begun to participate in the Lord’s Supper express a desire to receive the Sacrament, ~~the session should provide an occasion to welcome them they shall be welcomed to the table in public worship. Their introduction to the Lord’s Supper should include and the session should ensure they receive~~ ongoing instruction or formation in the meaning and mystery of the Sacraments.”**

#### Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of Grace as Item 14-03. The Presbyteries of de Cristo, Grand Canyon, Huntingdon, Newton, and Palo Duro concurred. The Presbytery of Grace provided the following rationale [edited].

The current language “provide an occasion to welcome them” could be interpreted as the need to provide a “first communion” service for baptized children. If taken this way, the language could develop a mindset that baptized children must wait until a certain age or complete certain educational requirements before belonging at the table. This mindset would violate our understanding that the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are linked (W-3.0408 “Welcome”) and that “all who come to the table are to be offered the bread and cup regardless of their age or understanding,” (W-3.0409 “The Theology of the Lord’s Supper”).

Striking this phrase simplifies the wording while maintaining the intent—to welcome the baptized and provide them with ongoing instruction. The responsibility for instruction in baptismal identity and worship education and participation is addressed in W-4.0201 “Nurturing the Baptized,” W-2.0303 “Ruling Elders,” and W-2.0305 “Shared Responsibility and Accountability.” The issue of welcome to those not baptized is addressed in W-3.0409 “The Theology of the Lord’s Supper.”

#### **Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution**

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 14-03 providing the following advice [edited]:

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to approve Item 14-03.

This amendment seeks to clarify that when children receive the Lord’s Supper for the first time, the Directory for Worship is not suggesting a service such as “first communion.”

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution finds that the overture has identified a possible contradiction between W-3.0409 and the current language of W-4.0202 and has provided an amendment to W-4.0202 that would resolve that contradiction. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that the proposed language is clear and consistent with the stated intent of the overture.

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The Assembly Committee on Theological & Church Growth Issues and Institutions (14) voted to approve the proposed amendment with comment 50/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with a voice vote. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 17, 1205.)

For the full report of Item 14-03, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000016/business>.

## 18-G. Disciplinary Offense

### On Amending D-2.0203b (Item 06-04)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

**Shall D-2.0203b of the Rules of Discipline be amended as follows? [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]**

**“b. An offense is any act or omission by a member or a person in an ordered ministry of the church that is contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *Sexual abuse as defined in Section D-10.0401c shall be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules.*”**

#### Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Presbytery of North Alabama as Item 06-04. The Presbyteries of Albany, Boise, Grand Canyon, Huntington, and de Cristo concurred. The Presbytery of North Alabama provided the following rationale [edited].

A recent ruling by a synod permanent judicial commission effectively indicated that actions in violation of a council’s sexual misconduct policy are not under the jurisdiction of the Rules of Discipline unless those actions are explicitly specified as contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution. The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) requires “all councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and a child and youth protection policy” (*Book of Order*, G-3.0106). In order to meet this requirement, actions or omissions in violation of these policies must have the capacity to be addressed through our disciplinary process; otherwise the policies are unenforceable. Furthermore, it should be implicit that actions that violate constitutionally required policies are by their very nature contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution. Decisions in prior disciplinary cases have supported this concept.

The members and congregations of the Presbytery of North Alabama wish to stringently affirm that sexual misconduct is sin. We believe past failure to confront this behavior has led to injustice and discord within the church, and scrutiny and litigation from without. We humbly ask the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to take an unequivocal stand for justice by equating this sin as an implicit violation of scriptural norms and constitutional ordination vows.

#### **Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution**

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to disapprove Item 06-04 with comment. They provided the following advice [edited].

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to disapprove Item 06-04 with the following comment.

“While sexual misconduct is not condoned by Scriptures or the Constitution of the PC(USA), adding this language to the *Book of Order* is unnecessary. All councils and judicial commissions are admonished to consider sexual misconduct as contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution of the PC(USA).”

Scriptures and the Constitution do not condone sexual misconduct or the abuse and endangerment of children and youth. Many acts involve impermissible sexual overtures, force, and misconduct. The assembly is reminded that the Constitution is not an enumeration of specific permitted or prohibited conduct, but rather a guide for all councils in administering their mission. Each council should be mindful that any act of sexual misconduct or child abuse is in violation of the Constitution. By singling out a particular violation of a particular policy, an inference might be made that violations of other policies are not contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution.

Councils have the authority to establish and enforce their policies. Not all violations of a particular policy may be found to be contrary to Scripture or the Constitution. Violation of a council's sexual misconduct and/or child and youth protection policy may be procedural and may not rise to the level of a constitutional offense. The Rules of Discipline set forth the process for determining proof of an alleged offense, including sexual misconduct.

The assembly may consider admonishing all councils and judicial commissions that sexual misconduct is contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution and that all councils are required to adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy and/or child/youth protection policy (G-3.0106).

Alternatively, the assembly may consider referral of this item to the Task Force on the Rules of Discipline for report to the 224th General Assembly (2020).

### **Advice from the Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns**

The Advocacy Committee on Women's Concerns advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) approve Item 06-04 providing the following advice [edited].

The Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns (ACWC) agrees that any act or omission prohibited by the council of authority's duly adopted sexual misconduct policy and/or child and youth protection policy should be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules. ACWC agrees with this overture that past failure to confront sexual misconduct has led to injustice and discord within the church, and scrutiny and litigation from without.

Because all sexual abuse is, at the core, an abuse of power, certain populations are more vulnerable to such abuse. For instance, children and youth, developmentally disabled adults, and immigrant night shift workers are often the targets of sexual misconduct. Gender inequities rooted in theological misunderstandings based in patriarchy leave women within the church particularly vulnerable to sexual misconduct, not only from other clergy, but also to sexual harassment from male members of their congregations. It is essential that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) take an unequivocal stand for justice by equating sexual misconduct to be an implicit violation of scriptural norms and constitutional ordination vows.

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The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 53/0. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee's recommendation with amendment 416/13. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 70, 570.)

For the full report of Item 06-04, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>.

## 18-H. Time Limit

### On Amending D-10.0401 (Item 06-24)

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

#### 18-H.1.

**Shall D-10.0401b of the Rules of Discipline be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]**

***“b. For instances of sexual abuse of another person, the five-year time limit shall not apply. There is also no time limit for charging that a person who knew or reasonably should have known of the reasonable risk of sexual abuse of another as defined in D-10.0401c(1) or (2) failed to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk. Both charges may be brought regardless of the date on which an offense is alleged to have occurred.”***

#### 18-H.2.

**Shall D-10.0401c(1) of the Rules of Discipline be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]**

***“(1) any person under the age of eighteen years or anyone ~~over the age of eighteen years~~ without the mental capacity to consent; or”***

### Rationale

This proposed amendment originates from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution comment on a referral from the 222nd (2016) General Assembly to the Office of the General Assembly. The original item before the 222nd (2016) General Assembly originated from the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns.

### **Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution**

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advised the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to refer Item 06-24 to the Rules of Discipline Task Force or approve as amended. They provided the following advice [edited].

[b.] The ACWC proposed and ACC recommended languages both impose a level of responsibility on persons that is not currently part of the Rules of Discipline. The ACC recommendation imposes a negligence standard for failure to respond to situations involving a reasonable risk of sexual misconduct, including the failure to report appropriately.

[c.1)] This language recognizes that minor persons cannot consent. The second clause clarifies that sexual abuse includes persons who lack of the capacity to consent for any reason whatsoever.

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The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve the proposed amendment as amended 47/1. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the committee’s recommendation with amendment 455/16. (See *Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 73–74, 631–32.)

For the full report of Item 06-24, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000008/business>

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