

## ESSENTIALS OF BEING PRESBYTERIAN AND BEING A CLERK

The Presbyterian Form of government is one of most pure forms of democracy

The body elects its own officers.

The body elects commissioners to the next higher council.

Employed staff has virtually no authority and absolutely no dictating power.

Checks and Balances

Rotation of Ruling Elders on Sessions and Deacons

All other councils also have rotation for their committees and membership.

Ministers are members of a presbytery, not a congregation

All councils above the session are comprised of equal numbers of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders.

Each council elects its own moderator and clerk who must be eligible for membership in that body.

Each council has authority to determine its membership, contents of its minutes, and no person has more power than any other. Authority and responsibility rest in the office, not in the person.

Each council has the authority and responsibility of review for the body below it in both administrative and judicial functions.

All nominations from group to the body are subject to nominations from the floor.

Nominating committees always consist of more persons from the general membership of the body than from the elected officers.

Discipline of its members rests in the body or an elected committee of the body, never in one person.

Committees are created to carry out the mission of the body.

Conscience is very important, every member of a body and everyone commissioned to a higher council is to seek the will of Christ and follow it. There are NO delegated responsibilities.