



Presbytery ^{OF}
Greater Atlanta

*Growing Healthy, Vital Congregations
Equipping Healthy, Innovative Leaders*

Commissioner Handbook

Stated Meeting

November 12, 2022
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Korean Central Presbyterian Church
4201 N. Peachtree Rd.
Atlanta, GA 30341

STRATEGIC PURPOSE

To be a catalyst, creator and equipper of healthy, vital and growing congregations and equip healthy, innovative leaders in all regions of the Presbytery.

Information for the November 12, 2022, Stated Meeting

The November Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta will be held on **Saturday, November 12, from 9:00am-1:00pm at Korean Central Presbyterian Church, 4201 N Peachtree Rd, Chamblee**. We are excited about this first fully in-person meeting of the presbytery in nearly three years!

Format: Upon the decision of the presbytery's Council, this meeting will be held fully in-person. A livestream of the meeting will be available on YouTube for those who wish to watch from elsewhere. Those joining via livestream will not be able to speak, vote, or have their attendance recorded.

Theme, Worship, and Business: Our theme will be *Empowered Servant Leadership*, the fourth mark of the Vital Congregations Initiative, and we will be celebrating the many servant leaders in our congregations and across our presbytery. Worship during the meeting will include our annual celebration and remembrance of the ruling elders and ministers who died during 2021, the installation of our new Stated Clerk Andy James, and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. A worship bulletin with these materials will be available at the meeting. The business of the meeting can be found in this Commissioner Handbook.

Pre-Registration: We ask that all who plan to attend the meeting [pre-register](#) by *Monday, October 31*, so that our hosts at Korean Central can prepare to welcome us. You may register one or more persons from the same congregation on the same pre-registration form.

Lunch: A Korean fusion lunch will be served by our hosts at Korean Central at the conclusion of the meeting. The cost is \$15. [Pre-registration \(including any special dietary requests\) and prepayment is required by Monday, October 31](#). If you do not pre-register for lunch, there is no guarantee that a meal will be available for you on the day of the meeting.

Childcare: Korean Central will provide childcare as needed for the meeting. Requests for childcare must be made by Monday, October 31, [through the pre-registration process](#).

Health and Safety: Health and safety protocols will be set based on the practices of the host church and current recommendations by the CDC and announced the week before the meeting. We encourage all attendees to use the time between now and the meeting to get current with covid and other vaccinations, and those who do not feel well on the day of the meeting should stay home.

Additional Special Event: You are [invited to the inauguration](#) of Columbia Theological Seminary's 11th president, Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, at 3pm on Saturday, November 12th at Decatur Presbyterian Church.

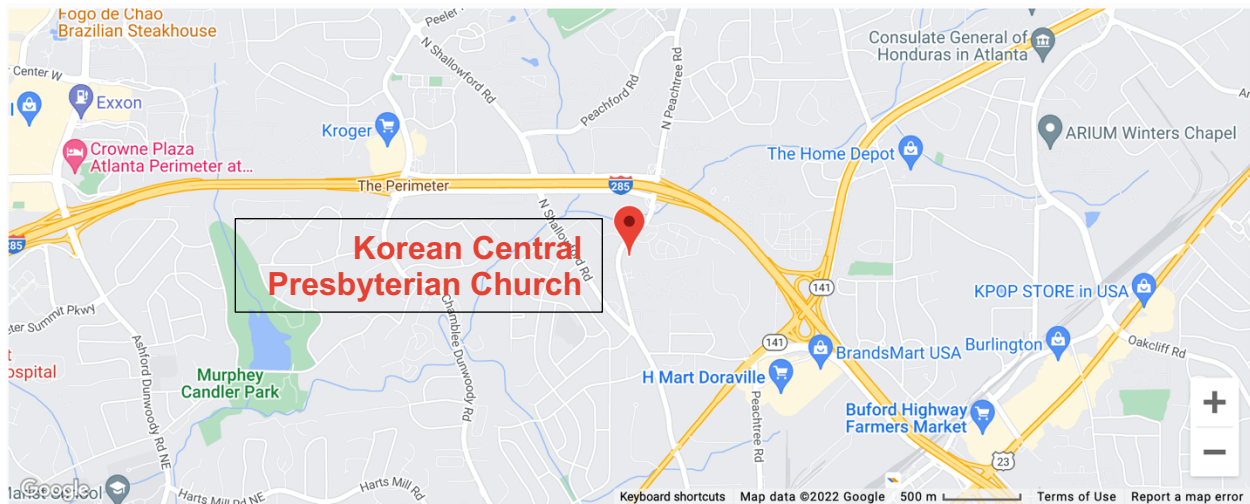
If you have any questions about the meeting, contact Stated Clerk Andy James at cajames@atlpcusa.org. We look forward to seeing you on November 12!

Day-of-Meeting Information

Korean Central Presbyterian Church is located just inside the I-285 Perimeter on N. Peachtree Rd. (exit 30). *Please plan to allow extra travel time due to construction on the North Side Perimeter.*



Directions: Use your preferred mapping service to get directions to 4201 N. Peachtree Rd., Atlanta/Chamblee.



Parking: About 175 parking spaces are available in the church's lot. Church members will be on-site to direct you. If on-site parking is full, a shuttle will be available to a nearby lot.

On-Site Registration: When you arrive, follow the signs to the registration area in the Narthex. Make your way to the appropriate table and check in there. Coffee and refreshments will be available prior to the meeting after you complete on-site registration.

Internet Access: The church's wifi connection will be reserved for streaming the meeting and other necessary work by Presbytery staff. Please download the Commissioner Handbook before you arrive.

Childcare: Childcare is available for those who pre-registered for it by October 31. Upon arrival, parents should drop off their children off at the indoor play room.

Lunch: Meal tickets will be issued on-site to those who pre-registered and pre-paid for lunch. Please visit the lunch tickets table in the registration area to pick up your ticket. Any additional lunches that are available for those who did not pre-register may be purchased at that time.

Health and Safety: Health and safety protocols will be set based on the practices of the host church and current recommendations by the CDC and announced the week before the meeting. Please visit the [Upcoming Stated Meeting page](#) of the Presbytery website after Wednesday, November 9, for any mask requirements or other precautions deemed necessary by the host church or Presbytery staff. Regardless of these decisions, all are welcome to wear a mask throughout the meeting if they feel more comfortable doing so.

PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA....

WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 PRESBYTERY AND PARTICIPATING IN THE VITAL CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE! (VCI)



Building Congregational Vitality

Dismantling Structural Racism

Eradicating Systemic Poverty



SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

Saturday, February 11, 2023 <i>in-person; location TBA</i>	9:00-12:30	VCI Mark Five: Spirit-Inspired Worship
Tuesday, May 2, 2023 <i>Zoom</i>	9:00-12:30	VCI Mark Six: Caring Relationships
Saturday, August 15, 2023 <i>in-person; location TBA</i>	9:00-12:30	VCI Mark Seven: Ecclesial Health
Saturday, November 4, 2023 <i>Zoom/hybrid</i>	9:00-12:30	VCI Celebration: Show Your Marks!

OFFERING INFORMATION

Today's offering supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in their ongoing response to this fall's hurricanes in Puerto Rico and Florida.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic event. The core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering, and its program work is additionally funded through designated gifts.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

- Focuses on the long term recovery of disaster impacted communities.
- Provides training and disaster preparedness for presbyteries and synods.
- Works collaboratively with church partners and members of the ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) internationally, and nationally with other faith based responders.
- Connects partners locally and internationally with key organizations active in the response — United Nations, NVOAD (National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster), World Food Program, Red Cross, FEMA and others.

To make a donation, use the QR code above, visit our website at www.atlpcusa.org and click on the green “Give” button found in the middle of the website, or use the link provided in the chat.

PASTORAL CARE CONCERNS

The Pastor-to-Pastor/Educator Team is available to minister to all clergy and educators. If you are sick or have any need to have a confidential conversation about personal matters, they will respond. Please contact any of the following people listed below. For more information about the Pastor-to-Pastor Team, visit www.atlpcusa.org/pastortopastor

To join email distribution of the monthly pastoral care reports, visit: www.atlpcusa.org/newsletter

Jane Hubbard, Coordinator	404-200-6283	Jonathan Ball	404-273-0979
Brian Daoust	303-475-3267	Laura Dorsey	678-793-1234
Richard Allen Farmer	469-951-6985	Jerry Leath	404-358-8002
Nicole Lock	678-628-4880	Catherine Lukens	404-285-4568
Sam Pope	501-984-1719	Steven Son	770-880-9485
George Tatro	404-784-0384	Scott Tucker	404-842-5800
Jill Ulrici	404-550-4812		
John Roark, Emeritus P2P Team Member			

STAY CONNECTED

If you would like to join the email distribution list for weekly pastoral care reports, the Presbytery newsletter or to download the Handbook, please send your email /contact information to Mark Sauls at msauls@atlpcusa.org and indicate which of the three publications you would like to receive. For more information, please visit our website at www.atlpcusa.org/newsletter. Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @atlpcusa and use #atlpcusa to join the conversation.

CHURCH CONFLICT PHONE CONSULTS

Are you a leader struggling to find an appropriate response to a sticky situation or challenging issue in your church? Did you know members of the Presbytery's Shalom Team are available to provide brief (45-50 mins) conflict consultations? In most cases, they offer strategic perspective to help leaders balance both situations and relationships in the church. If you could benefit from this confidential service, please contact any of the following Shalom Team members to arrange a phone consultation:

Jody Andrade, andradecon@mindspring.com
Joy Fisher, jfisher@atlpcusa.org
Diane Duane, duane.diane.l@gmail.com
Julie Ferguson, revjuliefeg@gmail.com
Sam Kim, sungwoo.samkim@gmail.com
Romona Lavender, rmlavender@bellsouth.net
Karen Mason, kmason55@gmail.com
Brady Radford, bradyradford@gmail.com
David York, yorkdav@gmail.com

DOCKET

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
November 12, 2022 | Korean Central Presbyterian Church
Theme: VCI Mark 4: Empowered Servant Leadership

8:30	On-Site Registration Opens	
8:50	Pre-Presbytery Music	Korean Central Musicians
9:00	Opening Prayer Welcome by Host Pastor Call to Worship Opening Hymn	Moderator Juan Herrera Byeong Cheol Han Korean Central Musicians
9:10	Declaration of Quorum Omnibus Motion (p. 9) Communications Report (p. 10-11)	Andy James
9:20	Executive Presbyter Report (p. 12)	Aisha Brooks-Johnson
9:30	2021 Necrology of Ruling Elders and Ministers (p. 13-14) Prayer and Litany	
9:50	Nominating Committee (p. 15-21)	Debbie Durden
9:55	Examinations Commission (p. 22-29)	Jeanne Simpson
10:10	Committee on Ministry (p. 30-34)	Ken Whitehurst
10:15	Scripture and Sermon	Ben Kane
10:35	Immigrants Creed	
10:40	New Church Development Commission (p. 35-37)	Lindsay Armstrong
10:50	Break Gathering Music	 Korean Central Musicians
11:05	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (p. 38-40)	Alex Rodgers
11:10	Council (p. 41) Operations (p. 41)	Russ Weekley Chip Blankinship
11:15	Installation of the Stated Clerk	Moderator Juan Herrera
11:35	Call for Offering Offertory Prayer of Dedication <i>Offering to Benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance work in Puerto Rico</i>	 Korean Central Musicians Juan Herrera

11:40 Communion

11:50 Book of Order Amendments: Rules of Discipline (p. 42-112)

Cheryl Hartman

12:10 Closing Hymn
Benediction and Blessing

Korean Central Musicians
Juan Herrera

12:15 Lunch

PROPOSED OMNIBUS MOTION

The following items are proposed for approval in the omnibus motion:

- Docket for the Meeting (pg. 8-9)
- Minutes of the Stated Meeting of August 16, 2022 ([available on the presbytery website](#))
- Admit to Record items in the Communications Report (pg. 10-11)
- Nominations from the Nominating Committee **in bold print** (pg. 15-21)
- Admit to Record items in the Committee on Ministry Report (pg. 30-34)
- Admit to Record items in the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report (pg. 38)
- Nominations from the Council **in bold print** (p. 41)



Preacher: Rev. Dr. Benjamin E. E. Kane

Ben is a spouse to Lydia, father to Margot and Phoebe, and leans heavily upon the truth from Christ's witness that he is a beloved child of God. He is the pastor of Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church in Tarboro, NC, a town that is often called "the crossroads of Western Civilization." Prior to that he was a pastor at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN, attended Columbia Theological Seminary for his DMin, Vanderbilt Divinity School for his masters and Pitzer College for his B.A. Ben loves to run, finds great joy in walking his kids to school each day, and reads both the greats from literature and Nicholas Sparks-like novels where everything ends on a happy note. He'll watch any action or rom-com movie, aims to write a winning caption for The New Yorker cartoon contest in each edition, and seeks to proclaim that God's love is for everyone.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

1. Minister members of the presbytery who desire to have a 2023 PCUSA Minister ID card should email the Stated Clerk at cajames@atlpcusa.org by December 1 to have your name included on the list. Cards will arrive in February.
2. Clerks of session should be on the lookout for the annual packet of statistics materials from the presbytery office in early January 2023. If you have not received it by January 15 or have questions about the information in it, please contact me at cajames@atlpcusa.org.

COMMUNICATIONS

For Information:

1. The offering from the August Presbytery meeting to support CHRIS 180 totaled \$845.32.
2. Our colleagues in Cherokee Presbytery report the dissolution of the Ray-Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church in Marietta on August 20, 2022. This congregation, originally known as Highlands Presbyterian Church, occupied a site on Sandy Plains Road at the intersection of Fulton, Cobb, and Cherokee counties. Because of this unique location, it was originally a joint project of Cherokee and Atlanta Presbyteries. Presbyterian ministry will continue at the site, as the Bethany Presbyterian Church, a congregation of the Atlantic Korean American Presbytery, has purchased the building. Together with Cherokee Presbytery, we give thanks to God for the faithful ministry of the Ray-Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church for over 40 years.

Admit to Record:

1. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **Melissa McNair-King** as designated pastor at **Fairview Presbyterian Church** on September 11, 2022, at 11:00 A.M.:
 - Rev. Catherine Foster, associate pastor at Shallowford
 - Rev. Rafael Viana, validated ministry at Casa Brazil/On the Way
 - Rev. Davis Bailey, member at large
 - Elder Chris Crooker, Fairview
 - Elder Trey Futch, Lawrenceville
2. That the minutes of the commission to install **Melissa McNair-King** as designated pastor at **Fairview Presbyterian Church** be admitted to the record.
3. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to ordain **Dana Gray** as minister of the Word and Sacrament at a service on September 11, 2022, at 4:00 P.M. at Emory Presbyterian Church:
 - Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter
 - Rev. Amanda Kemery, Morningside
 - Rev. Andy Acton, Emory
 - Elder Debbie Grosse, Emory
 - Elder Sue Sandell, Emory
 - Elder Scott Grosse, Emory

The following people were guests of the commission:

Rev. Nicole McDonald, Baptist, Chaplain at Children's Hospital of Atlanta
Rev. Camile Josey, Cherokee Presbytery

4. That the minutes of the commission to ordain **Dana Gray** as minister of the Word and Sacrament be admitted to the record.
5. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to ordain **Nell McNeely Herring** as minister of the Word and Sacrament at a service on September 16, 2022, at 3:00 P.M. at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky:

Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter
Elder Lisa Turney, Shallowford
Elder Hannah Collins, Shallowford
Elder Ken Whitehurst, Trinity Decatur
Elder Jane Hubbard, North Avenue

The following people were guests of the commission:

Elder Dave Doehnert, Mid-Kentucky Presbytery
Rev. Tyler Domske, Pittsburgh Presbytery
Rev. Edwin González-Castillo, Presbytery of San Juan
Rev. Jim Kirk, Peace River Presbytery
Rev. Laurie A. Kraus, Mid-Kentucky Presbytery
Elder Mark McNeely, Salem Presbytery
Elder Paul Stubbs, Presbytery of the Peaks
Rev. Jocelyn Wildhack, Presbytery of Arkansas

6. That the minutes of the commission to ordain **Nell McNeely Herring** as minister of the Word and Sacrament be admitted to the record.
7. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **Michael Andrew Sanchez** as associate pastor for youth ministry at **Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church** at a service on October 16, 2022, at 10:30 A.M.:

Rev. Rachel Breyer, validated ministry as chaplain
Rev. Tyler Brock, associate pastor at Newnan
Rev. Martha Moore-Keish, validated ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary
Elder Ray Johnston, Westminster (moderator of the commission)
Elder Julia Strickland, Saint Luke's
Elder Drew Wilmesherr, Decatur

8. The deaths of the following ministers may have never been previously reported to the presbytery:

Ernest Jones Arnold	September 17, 2009
Alan B. Wells	September 1, 2016

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT

Empowered Servant Leadership



The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors, and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. — Ephesians 4:11-13

The church of Jesus Christ is not short of leaders. The church of Jesus Christ is short of people who are willing to be servants. — Rodger Nishioka, Rooted in Love, page 70

Through our Vital Congregations Initiative, we have four cohorts, two elder/deacon cohorts and two pastor cohorts. Once a month our leaders have a time of Bible Study and reflection surrounding each of these marks. I am thankful for the scriptures and quotes offered in the materials that generate life-giving and soul stirring conversations. The passage in Ephesians 4 is a reminder that Christ has given each of us gifts so that we can be of service in the church and in the world. Each of our unique gifts cannot be compared to another. We need each other and we are a blessing to each other when we offer our gifts freely.

I love the language in this fourth mark. While we are all called to serve, it is important that each of us is *empowered* to serve. We must be reminded that Christ has given us everything we need to serve. We don't have to prove our worth. We aren't in competition with each other. There is no hierarchy of gifts. The power comes in knowing and trusting in Christ, who calls us and empowers us to grow in grace. We serve out of gratitude and in response to God's love and the Holy Spirit's invitation to build up God's kingdom.

I am also grateful for our final stated meeting of the year on November 12th at Korean Central Presbyterian Church. We will celebrate being together in person as well as affirming the gifts of Empowered Servant Leaders in our presbytery. We invite everyone to attend as we install our Stated Clerk, Andy James. We also invite you to attend the inauguration of Columbia Theological Seminary's new president, Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, that afternoon at Decatur Presbyterian Church.

Friends, we are blessed by your gifts, your leadership, and your willingness to reflect God's love and light in this world. May you experience God's presence this upcoming holiday season and always.

With much love and deep peace,
ABJ

A CELEBRATION OF THE SAINTS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

Giving thanks to God, we lift these names of Ruling Elders in grateful remembrance:

Atlanta Taiwanese	Chao-Kuang (Joe) Liang	September 17
Austell	Virginia Hearon Meldrum	February 16
Bethany	Charlotte Brandenburg	January 2021
	Emmett Chapman	May 5
	Sara Mote	May 9
Clairmont	Jack Rebhann	July 22
	Donald F. Smith	November 19
Columbia	Dorothy Smythe	June 9
Covenant	Nancy Elsea	July 22
Decatur	Gary A. Fleming	February 14
	C. David Holbrook	April 24
	Charles “Bud” Hutton	June 10
	Carolyn Sims Brooks	August 4
	Jeanie Cleveland Mehlhop	August 13
	Charles Floyd Scott	October 20
	Mitzi Lyons Kessler	December 18
Ebenezer	Martha Kirkland	July 23
	Ruth Martin	October 11
Emory	Libba Pendergrast	December 14
First Afrikan	Freddie B. Young	June 5
Good Shepherd	Ann Folger Hurford	February 6
Hamilton Mill	Dean Godfrey	April 3
Jackson	Calvin Walker	September 26
Johns Creek	Barbara Snelling	September 7
Jonesboro First	Emilie Christine Lasama	February 7
	Brian William Turner	November 21
Lawrenceville	Stephen Bartlett	March 12
	Janet Bruce	August 12
	Henry McGee	September 25
LaGrange First	William Elmo Bradfield	January 28
	Henry Paul Teaver	March 7
	Patricia Ann Fowler	September 18
	Jane Goolsby Teaver	December 6
Monroe First	Charles Hamm	January 2
New Life	Robert “Jack” Jackson	January 15
	April Elder	December 20
Norcross	Cynthia Jamison Correa	November 4
North Avenue	Ed Van Winkle	March 9
	Sara Anne Johnson	June 5
Northminster	Housh Rahimzadeh	June 12
Northwest	Gil Simonds	January 16
	James Caldwell, Jr.	July 17
	Bruce Hogg	August 13
	Meck Stockton	August 28

	Ann Vining	October 5
	John Sirockman	December 25
Oakhurst	Thelma Thomas	February 6
	Helen Toney	May 10
Oglethorpe	Brian Bielhy	December 9
Pleasant Hill	Leigh Ann Griswold	February 11
Radcliffe	Marshel Brown	January 18
	Morris Dillard	October 1
	Dorothy Pleasant	October 7
P.C. of the Resurrection	Jane McMillan	September 5
Rice Memorial	Etta Dubose Houston	November 24, 2020
	Jeanette Fye	April 12
	Rosetta D. Fears	May 22
St. Andrews	Clyde Wentz	June 30
	Jim Kaufman	July 5
	Loretta Parker	November 13
St. Luke's	Bob Smallwood	February 6
	Ellen Massey	July 6
	Stan Thornton	August 13
	James Schell	August 30
Shallowford	James M. (Mel) Brooks	January 31
	Suzanne Ginn	April 2
	Connie Atkins	June 1
	Harold F. Walker	September 7
Smyrna	Patricia H. Carter	June 26
Stockbridge	John Abbott	January 5
	Carlton Smith	January 16
	Tom Francis	July 19
Trinity Atlanta	Kathy Bernhardt	December 2, 2020
	Caroline (Calico) Perry	January 12
	Charles (Charlie) B. Bedford	January 23
	Lucinda Gibson	September 16
	James (Jim) B. Carson	October 31
	John Leigh Westney	November 10
	Richard (Dick) Almand Jr.	December 2
	Suzanne Brown	December 21
	Richard F. Mitchell	December 26
Trinity Decatur	Thomas Davis Brooks	September 7
Westhills	Willie E. Bowden, Sr.	June 9
Westminster	Debra Herman	September 19

Teaching Elders, Giving Thanks to God, 2021

Gloria Johnson	January 6
Richard Dodds	February 18
Robert Thomson, Jr.	May 30
Hyung Kyu Park	July 26
Jasper W. Keith	July 28

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

For Information:

The Nominating Committee strives to select those best able and available to perform the Presbytery’s work as it also endeavors to use the available talents of as many people as possible. Presbytery committees and commissions are composed of ruling elders, teaching elders and lay leaders who work together to support, strategize, research, plan, and make decisions that guide our presbytery in accomplishing its mission. Please think about joining God’s work at the presbytery level and complete a Volunteer Interest Form (VIF) found on the last page of this Handbook or online at <https://www.atlpcusa.org/committees>. By completing the VIF, you will help the Nominating Committee learn of your interests and special gifts. You will also find a list of committees and job descriptions at the link above. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Debbie Durden, dfdurden@gmail.com or Joy Fisher, jfisher@atlpcusa.org.

For Recommendation: (all names in **bold** are those that are being nominated)

Moderator of the Presbytery

Past Moderators			
2010	Dudley Rose	TE	
2011	Ramona Lavender	RE	
2012	Dana Hughes	TE	
2013	John Fountain	RE	
2014	Rob Sparks	TE	
2015	Mary Martin	RE	
2016	Ken Whitehurst	RE	
2017	Jihyun Oh	TE	
2018	Rick Neale	TE	
2019	Mardee Rightmyer	RE	
2020	Destiny Williams	RE	
2021	Russ Weekley	TE	
2022	Juan Herrera	TE	
2023	Iris Wallace	RE	Radcliffe
2024	Alex Rodgers	TE	Timberridge

Alex Rodgers is a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary who served churches and hospitals in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Kansas before coming to Georgia in 2016. Alex was Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Congregational Care for Decatur Presbyterian Church from January 2016 until January 2022 and currently serves as pastor of Timberridge Presbyterian Church. She has served two terms on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and is the current chair. She is also the current board chair for UKirk Atlanta. Alex is married to Keenan who is a Church Consultant with the Board of Pensions.

Committee on Ministry

Class of 2023

1. Mary Jane Cornell (2018)	TE	Honorably Retired
2. Sherri Bozardt (2021)	RE	Northminster
3. Craig Costen (2021)	RE	Church of the Master
4. Mary Smarr (2021)	RE	Oakhurst
5. Hodari Williams (2021)	TE	New Life
6. Nayoung Kim (2022)	TE	At Large

Class of 2024

1. Julie Ferguson (2019)	TE	At Large
2. Guerry Mashburn (2019)	RE	First Atlanta
3. Gretchen Turner (2019)	RE	St. Andrews
4. Brenda Gales (2021)	RE	Resurrection
5. Gad Mpoyo (2022)	TE	Validated
6. David Rogers (2022)	TE	Honorably Retired

Class of 2025

1. Kathy McCloud (2020)	RE	Central
2. Katie Owen Aumann (2023)	TE	Morningside
3. Jonathan Ball (2023)	TE	Validated
4. Steven Barnes (2023)	TE	Johns Creek
5. Gail Funderburk (2023)	RE	Pleasant Hill
6. Lucy Strong (2023)	TE	Trinity Atlanta

Committee on Representation

Class of 2023

1. Tully Fletcher (2021)	TE	Decatur
2. Zeena Regis (2021)	RE	Oakhurst

Class of 2024

1. Cynthia Smith (2019)	RE	North Decatur
2. Samuel Mwaniki (2022)	TE	North Avenue

Class of 2025

1. Sue Kim Park (2021)	TE	Validated
2. Gay Alston (2023)	LP	New Life

Council

Class of 2023

1. Cecelya Taylor (2018)	TE	Church of the Master
2. Byeong Cheol Han (2021)	TE	Korean Central
3. Robert Hay (2021)	RE	First Peachtree City

Class of 2024

1. Brady Radford	(2019)	TE	Trinity Decatur
2. Faye Cashwell	(2022)	RE	Saint Luke's
3. Nicole Lock	(2022)	TE	At Large

Class of 2025

1. Beverly Markham (2020)	TE	Alpharetta
2. Marthame Sanders (2020)	TE	Validated
3. VACANCY		

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2023

1. Hamilton Barnes	(2018)	TE	Validated
2. Brian Daoust	(2018)	TE	Johns Creek
3. Trace Haythorn	(2018)	TE	Validated
4. Beth Johnson	(2020)	TE	Honorably Retired
5. Jill Joyner	(2021)	TE	At Large
6. Mike Watson	(2021)	TE	Oglethorpe
7. VACANCY			
8. VACANCY			
9. VACANCY			

Class of 2024

1. Joannah Cook	(2019)	TE	Validated
2. Yeonkwon Jeong	(2019)	TE	Validated
3. Emma Neishloss	(2019)	TE	Morningside
4. Erin Morgan	(2021)	TE	Covington First
5. Gerald Aldridge	(2022)	RE	Saint Luke's
6. Davis Bailey	(2022)	TE	At Large
7. Rachel Breyer	(2022)	TE	Validated
8. Ann Hunter	(2022)	RE	Central
9. Karen Shim	(2022)	RE	Korean Community

Class of 2025

1. Barry Gaeddert (2020)	TE	At Large
2. David Lower (2020)	TE	Saint Luke's
3. Seung-eun Rhee (2020)	TE	Validated
4. Kristy Ray (2023)	TE	Stockbridge
5. Ken Whitehurst (2023)	RE	Trinity Decatur
6. VACANCY		
7. VACANCY		
8. VACANCY		
9. VACANCY		

Dismantling Racism Committee

Class of 2023

1. Chris Holmes (2022)	TE	First Atlanta
2. Lindsay Slocum (2022)	TE	Roswell
3. Betti Jo (BJ) Steele (2022)	RE	Norcross

Class of 2024

1. Elizabeth Acton (2022)	TE	Druid Hills
2. Andrew Esqueda (2022)	TE	Trinity Atlanta
3. Jasiel Hernandez-Garcia (2022)	TE	Central

Class of 2025

1. Tom Hagood (2022)	TE	Columbia
2. SungHee Han (2022)	TE	Validated
3. Carrell Kalland (2022)	RE	Resurrection

Examinations Commission

Class of 2023

1. Francis Githieya (2018)	TE	Validated
2. Alex Moses (2019)	TE	Fayette
3. Neeley Lane (2021)	TE	Covington First
4. Erin Noh (2021)	TE	Alpharetta
5. David York (2021)	RE	Central

Class of 2024

1. Joe Floyd (2019)	RE	Morningside
2. Cheryl Hartman (2019)	RE	Good Shepherd
3. Lativia Ray-Alston (2022)	RE	Pleasant Hill
4. Destiny Williams (2022)	RE	McDonough
5. Tom Whitworth (2022)	RE	First Bremen

Class of 2025

1. Martha Moore-Keish (2020)	TE	Validated
2. Jeanne Simpson (2020)	TE	Philadelphia
3. Andrew Esqueda (2021)	TE	Trinity Atlanta
4. VACANCY		
5. VACANCY		

Grants

Class of 2023

1. Richard Hill (2018)	TE	Honorably Retired
2. Jody Andrade (2021)	TE	Pleasant Hill

Class of 2024

1. Christine Roy Yoder (2019)	TE	Validated
2. Laverne Wyche (2022)	RE	Radcliffe

Class of 2025

1. Heidi Gleason (2020)	RE	North Decatur
2. Inho (Alex) Sunwoo (2023)	RE	Korean Community

New Church Development Commission

Class of 2023

1. Bill Drummond (2018)	TE	Validated
2. Rebecca Parker (2018)	TE	Validated
3. Hiram Perez-Cordero (2021)	RE	Shallowford
4. Steven Sankey (2021)	TE	At Large
5. Dan Walden (2021)	RE	Covington First

Class of 2024

1. Jenelle Holmes (2019)	TE	Ormewood (NCD)
2. Julian Wade (2019)	RE	Eastminster
3. Hasco Craver (2022)	RE	Newnan
4. Lauren Fields (2022)	RE	Church of the Master
5. Sun Ki Jeong (2022)	TE	Korean Community

Class of 2025

1. Sam Kim (2020)	TE	Validated
2. George Tatro (2022)	TE	At Large
3. Sandra Diaz (2023)	RE	El Nazareno
4. VACANCY		
5. VACANCY		

Operations Committee

Class of 2023

1. Brent Adams (2018)	RE	Covenant
2. Fred Bryant (2018)	RE	First Peachtree City
3. Mark Roberson (2020)	RE	Roswell
4. Gwynne Shepherd (2021)	LP	Northminster
5. Iris Wallace (2021)	RE	Radcliffe
6. Yvette Tuitt (2022)	LP	New Life

Class of 2024

1. Jerry Leath (2019)	RE	Church of the Master
2. Catherine Foster (2021)	TE	Shallowford
3. Paul Kwak (2022)	RE	Korean Community
4. Todd Speed (2022)	TE	Decatur

5. Cy Wolverton	(2022)	RE	Covington First
6. Esther Stokes	(2022)	RE	Trinity Atlanta

Class of 2025

1. Frans Christ	(2020)	RE	North Avenue
2. Chris Hooker	(2020)	TE	Validated
3. Alice Moore	(2020)	RE	Hillside
4. Ginger Jeffries	(2023)	RE	First Atlanta
5. Chris Keyser	(2023)	RE	Pleasant Hill
6. Mary Martin	(2023)	RE	Saint Luke's

Personnel Committee

Class of 2023

1. Jody Sauls	(2018)	RE	Decatur
2. Tony Sundermeier	(2018)	TE	First Atlanta
3. Jay Lanners	(2021)	RE	Covington First

Class of 2024

1. Paula Coleman	(2019)	RE	Radcliffe
2. Melissa Schmitz	(2019)	RE	Alpharetta
3. Julie Johnson	(2022)	TE	Validated

Class of 2025

1. Bobbie Wrenn Banks	(2020)	TE	Honorably Retired
2. Jay Hah	(2021)	RE	Korean Central
3. Beth Waltemath	(2023)	TE	North Decatur

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2024

1. Jane Fahey	(2019)	TE	Honorably Retired
2. Rosalind McIntyre	(2019)	RE	Hillside
3. Bob Riordan	(2019)	RE	Central
4. Rita Sheffey	(2019)	RE	Mt. Vernon

Class of 2026

1. Marva Bryan	(2021)	RE	Memorial Drive
2. Megan Johnson	(2021)	TE	Clairmont
3. David Lewicki	(2021)	TE	North Decatur

Class of 2028

1. Morgan Hay	(2023)	TE	First Peachtree City
2. Russ Weekly	(2023)	TE	Good Shepherd
3. VACANCY			

Synod

Class of 2024

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 1. Jeanne Simpson | (2020) | TE | Philadelphia |
| 2. Ken Whitehurst | (2020) | RE | Trinity Decatur |

Synod PJC

Class of 2028

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|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. Donna Wells | (2023) | TE | Honorably Retired |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|

Worship Committee

Class of 2023

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|--------------------------|--------|----|---------------|
| 1. Carlton Johnson | (2018) | TE | Validated |
| 2. D'Jaris Canty Wallace | (2018) | LP | Rice Memorial |
| 3. Charlton Allen | (2021) | RE | St. Andrews |

Class of 2024

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------|----|-----------------|
| 1. Shirley Davis | (2022) | RE | Trinity Decatur |
| 2. Brittany Fiscus-van Rossum | (2022) | TE | Validated |
| 3. Drew Wilmesherr | (2022) | RE | Decatur |

Class of 2025

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------|---------------------|
| 1. Andy Acton | (2020) | TE | Emory |
| 2. Jackie Randolph | (2020) | RE | Oakhurst |
| 3. Becky Loftis | (2021) | RE | Saint Luke's |

EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION REPORT

November 12, 2022

For Information:

The commission examined and received the following minister of the Word and Sacrament into membership on behalf of the presbytery. He will be introduced at the meeting.

- **Michael Sanchez** (Foothills Presbytery) has been called to serve as associate pastor at Saint Luke’s Presbyterian Church, effective September 12, 2022.

His faith journey and statement of faith follow this report.

For Action:

1. The commission examined the following candidates in the areas of polity, theology, and worship and sacraments and heard a brief sermon from each. Their faith journeys and statement of faith follow this report. The commission recommends the following persons be approved for ordination:

- **Jae Eun Hwang** (candidate of Coastlands Presbytery) has been called to a validated ministry as a Spiritual Health Resident at Emory DeKalb Hospital, effective upon his ordination.
- **Kyounghun Keum** (candidate of Greater Atlanta) has been called as contract call associate pastor at Korean Community Presbyterian Church, effective upon his ordination. His terms of call are as follows, for service 20 hours per week:

Cash salary	22,000
Board of Pensions Minister’s Choice	2,200
First Call Program	400
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	

2. The commission examined the following minister from another denomination in the areas of polity, theology, and worship and sacraments. He has successfully completed the PCUSA ordination examinations in all the standard areas. His faith journey and statement of faith follow this report. The commission recommends the following person be approved for transfer from another denomination:

- **Bruce McRae** (minister in the Presbyterian Church in America) has been called as designated pastor at Monroe First Presbyterian Church, effective December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2024. His terms of call are as follows:

Cash salary	62,000
Board of Pensions dues	22,940
SECA tax allowance	4,743
Continuing education	1,000

Cell phone	1,149
Mileage, vouchered	300
Dental	495
Book allowance	1,200
Professional expenses	956
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	

Statement of Faith — Jae Hwang

I believe in the triune God who is perfect and faultless. God is the creator of all of the world who loves me and knows me better than anyone. God reveals God's self to me, stays close, and calls my name. God's endless love endures forever.

I believe Jesus Christ is the son of the living God. Jesus is fully divine and fully human who died on the cross and was resurrected. In Jesus, two worlds meet: the world of God's grace and the world of human sin. In Jesus, God claims us and adopts us as children of God. Jesus is the gospel. Jesus is my savior and my Lord. Jesus is my true desire and becomes the priority of all my relationships.

I believe in the Holy Spirit as an active member of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is not limited to certain places, times, or people, but rather has a relationship with all creatures and works in them. The Holy Spirit leads us, gives us hearts to pursue justice, awakens our minds so that we live righteously. The Holy Spirit develops our relationship with God and empowers us as witnesses to the faith.

I believe that Scripture is the record of God's self-revelation through which the Holy Spirit speaks to bear witness to Jesus Christ and to give authoritative direction for the life of faith. The promises of the Old Testament find their fulfillment in the New Testament. Scripture teaches us of Christ's will for the Church and testify to Jesus Christ.

I believe the two sacraments of The Lord's Supper and Baptism are the strongest witness of the church community. Through the Lord's Supper, we recall Jesus' death and are challenged to live out his love in our world. As we partake of the bread and wine, we are united with Christ and our faith is nourished.

I believe Baptism is proclaiming our faith in front of the Church, the body of Christ, to enter into the covenant of membership. My identity, as a Christian, as part of the family of God, is declared in Baptism. My old self is dead, and Baptism is the beginning of a new life.

I believe Christian hope is based on the fact that we are united with Jesus Christ. Christ lives in us and we live by faith in the son of God and are united with him as the members of one body.

I believe the Church is and strives to be one in Christ. As the body of Christ, the Church is to be a community of love and faith, entrusting itself to God alone. The Church not only receives the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ but is sent into the world by Jesus Christ to exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Faith Journey—Jae Hwang

Background

I was born in South Korea, where my father has been a Presbyterian Pastor for over 30 years. He continued the legacy of my great grandfather's faith who was a missionary. He, as my faith mentor, taught me that we are debtors of the gospel and live by the wholly grace of God with the reformation theology. One of the most important values he taught me is to depend on and hold on to not himself, the physical father, but the God Father. This helped me to have a strong faith and a base to lean on as a pastor. Also, as they say, the pastor dies if he stops praying; it became natural for me to pray more when I am going through difficult and busy times. This prayer-centered life made me believe that it is necessary to have a Christian living in this world. In this faith-based background, I was never pressured to become a pastor, but was trained to ask, hold onto and thank the father God, for living.

Call to Ministry

I pondered questions about death more often than my peers ever since I was in elementary school. I often questioned life. I looked into the sky, and thought about the purpose and meaning of life, especially that humans are mortal. I believe that God asked me to examine my values, my identity, what I should believe and where I belong. Through the death of my beloved older brother, I thought more deeply about it and realized that we are just men and all authority over the world, including life, belongs to God. However, I was comforted by reading the Scripture and longed for heaven, which is beyond this world. The words that we are strangers in this land gave me solace. The fact that this world is not the end, but instead we have a homeland to go to, gave me a huge comfort and hope that I can meet my brother who has been living as a child of God in heaven. Then, this made me question if I am a child of God and if I accepted this into my heart reading John 1:12. Once I realized that we must receive first, to become a child of God, I voluntarily received the word and love of God and confessed to be obedient, follow God and become a child of God. Once I accepted and believed it, I was no longer sorrowful, but I considered how I should love others' souls before I go back to the heavenly homeland. I realized this is the heart that God wants me to have and it inspired me to dream to be a pastor.

Interests and Experiences

At Seminary, during my MDiv, the Clinical Pastoral Education program gave me an opportunity to examine what study is the best fit for me. From my experience, CPE helps people become aware and listen to their inner desire from their human behavior through pastoral counseling with a psychoanalytic perspective. During the session, I realized, through pastoral counseling, how spiritual care is important and necessary for those who face death. During the process of pastoral care, I witnessed people looking back on their lives, getting angry with themselves and others, forgiving, repenting, and reconciling with God and others. Although not every counseling process was smooth, it was worth it and I felt joy as I kept learning and experiencing patients' journeys. Moreover, I felt that God is pleased with my work. Thus, I wanted to learn more about this professionally and academically. I finished 3unit of CPE in Korea and 1 unit of CPE in the State. I am now taking my 5th unit in my full-time residency at Emory Decatur Operating Unit.

Statement of Faith (English)

I believe in the Triune God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe in God in three persons and their unity in the Trinity. The three persons of the Trinity are connected equally and eternally. God's eternal presence permeates through the life of the Son, Jesus Christ. I believe that the Holy Spirit continues to work in our world, and the Holy Spirit is the source of our new life in Jesus Christ.

I believe that God existed before the earth and time began. Not only God's power is limitless, but God is the source of all powers. Not only God has limitless knowledge of all things, but God is the source of all knowledge. Therefore, I affirm Calvin's theology in the absolute sovereignty of God. I believe that God created the universe and all things in it. God's creation reveals the greatness of God, our glorious maker.

I believe that Jesus Christ is our only way to salvation. Jesus is our only savior and redeemer. God became flesh and assumed human nature as a man without ceasing the nature of God. In other words, Jesus Christ was both fully human and fully divine in one person. Jesus bore our sin, died on the cross, and rose from the death in three days.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who lives and works among us. The Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts, revealing God's will and reminds us of Jesus' teaching. The Holy Spirit is the source of God's revelation, wisdom, and power. I believe that the Holy Spirit also intercedes for us with groanings deep for words when we pray for help. The constant presence of the Holy Spirit protects us and guides us to the truth in our journey.

I believe in the Bible that was inspired by the Holy Spirit. I also believe that the Bible is the foundation of our faith and life. It is the perfect final authority of God. The Bible cannot replace any traditions and ideologies. I believe that the Bible is the revelation of God and the word of God.

I believe in the reformed tradition of the Sacraments. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are signs of God's covenant with us. Baptism symbolizes the acceptance of Jesus Christ as the savior, allowing us to join the community of God's covenant. Lord's Supper is a seal of our communion with the crucified and risen Lord. I believe that God is at work in the acts of the Sacraments through the Holy Spirit to remind us of Jesus Christ, our savior.

Faith Journey

Growing up, my parents led family worships at home every day and my mother would not miss a day for the early morning prayers. When things were tough, they taught me to pray hard. I was born and raised in a devoted Christian family, but it was not until returning from the military that I met Jesus Christ.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV)

I believe pastors and Marines have two things in common: persistence and perseverance. As a struggling young man, I held tightly to the verse above and joined the Republic of Korean Marine Corps (ROKMC). The Marine Corps training was beyond anything I had ever experienced. I still cannot forget the dreadful image of myself being suspended by a rope high off the ground during the rappel trainings. Because of my fear of height, it was indescribably scary. But how could I give up? I had to persevere through the training and conquered the fear gradually. I do not regret the trainings because the brutal military discipline has helped me build physical, mental, and moral strengths to high standards. There was more to it. The Marine Corps assigned me to serve in the military ministry where I began to develop my spiritual disciplines in an orderly environment. It was a unique experience that eventually led me to accept Jesus Christ as my personal savior and to receive God's calling in the ministry.

God has called me to love God's people. As Jesus said, a single soul is truly worth more than the whole world. During the mission trip in Haiti, witnessing the children eating mud cookies broke my heart deeply. I was compelled to not only feed and nourish their bodies but also to feed their spiritual hunger. After each mission trip, my heart gripped with a longing to be with the people who need the Gospel. This carried on into my ministry. My heart aches for the those not knowing God and those backing away from God.

Pursuing the path of ministry in America has been like a winding road, facing language barriers and financial instability. However, what I learned from the Marine Corps pushed me through all the hardships. This road too, was part of God's discipline that taught me to look beyond the situations and seek God in peace. I have learned the virtue of persistence and patience. Proverbs 3:5-6 has been a constant reminder to such values. I am confident that God will guide my steps according to God's plans and God will equip me in all circumstances. As a servant of God, I am here to submit to God's will no matter what.

Statement of Faith by Rev. Dr. Bruce McRae

I believe in the authority of Holy Scripture. Jesus Christ is God's ultimate revelation, and in Scripture we encounter the living Christ. God's revelation points us to the work of the Triune God, and to what to believe and how are to live in light of his grace. In Scripture men and women spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. God continues to speak to us as we reflect on his word and on his work in community in the church. Creeds are helpful reflections of how to understand God's revelation.

The eternal God is one God, who exists in three persons: Abba Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Creator, Redeemer, Life-Giver. The Father is Creator and Sustainer of all creation and all living beings. He created everything that is, and he sustains all things by his careful direction and providence.

Jesus Christ is the God-Human, who became one with us through his incarnation. That he is human means he fully understands humanity, he is able to "sympathize with our weaknesses" (Heb 4:15). He served, empathized, suffered, went to the cross, rose from the dead, and ascended into heaven. His life, death, resurrection, and ascension provide reconciliation for the world, and grant forgiveness of sins.

The Holy Spirit is the life giver. He grants rebirth and renewal and enables his people to come to Christ in faith. Those in Christ are children of God, there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, but all are equal heirs in Christ. As they walk in the Spirit, they bear the fruit of love, serve the disenfranchised in humility, and they are equipped with gifts to serve the church and world.

Humans are made in the image of God and have utmost dignity. But because of sin they also need forgiveness and renewal. The cross provides forgiveness, the Spirit produces new life, through the washing of regeneration which comes from being incorporated in Christ through faith and baptism. God's children are justified by grace through faith, and not by works of righteousness of their own.

Those in Christ abide in him through the means of grace: The word of God, prayer, worship, community, and the sacraments. In baptism, we are incorporated into Christ and the church, baptism is our entry into Christ's kingdom. Baptism is for those who confess Christ, and their children/households, it seals our incorporation into Christ and his church. At the Lord's Table, Christ is spiritually present, imparting his grace as we partake of the bread and wine. Through it Christ strengthens his people to bear the fruit of love and service to God and others. Baptism and the Lord's table represent Christ's life-giving presence.

Sanctification is the renewal of the new humanity produced through union with Christ. God's children grow in Christ as they abide in him like branches on the vine (John 15:1-7), not by "trying harder." We are trained by grace, to renounce sin and to live our new life in Christ. As we "live by the Spirit" (Galatians 5:13-26), we defeat the desire of the flesh and bear the fruit of the spirit, namely love.

The church is God's presence on earth, the redeemed community that shows God's love to the world. In the church, we worship, encourage, teach, build one another up, and serve. The church is to be a place of welcome and inclusion for people of all genders, races, classes, vocations, gender identifications, etc. The church is the household of faith, the supporter of all in need, the community which proclaims liberty for the captives, and which works for the dismantling of all systemic sinful structures in our world.

Regarding the future. The victory of Christ has come; the power of the resurrection is unleashed on the world and is restoring all things to their original design. Jesus' ministry marks the beginning of his liberating the captives and proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor. Christ will return to finalize his restoring work, to bring all people to himself, and to renew all creation to worship and serve in the new heavens and earth, the home of righteousness. This blessed hope puts us to work, we proclaim liberty to the captives through the gospel and we work to release the captives from sin and sinful structures.

Faith Journey by Rev. Dr. Bruce McRae

I have been a Christian for as long as I can remember. Both of my parents were committed Christians, church members, and church deacons, who came to America from Vancouver, Canada, having grown up in the Presbyterian Church of Canada. I grew up in Philadelphia and on the coast of Maine. As a very young person, I put my trust in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of my sin. I love the gospel of grace. I love that I am reconciled to God by no works of my own, but through faith in Christ alone.

My spiritual formation taught me to rely on the grace of Christ and the Holy Spirit, and not on myself. An older writer named Walter Marshall said that when we grow in Christ, half of the battle is “unlearning” unhealthy spiritual beliefs and practices-- ideas that constantly push you to put your trust in yourself and your own religious efforts rather than in Christ. I was not indoctrinated with unhealthy beliefs that I had to “unlearn.” My church was affiliated with a small Presbyterian denomination that was part of the separatist tradition – but my pastor was open-minded and winsome, and he loved the gospel.

Galatians frames Christian spirituality as the Cross and the Spirit. Through union with Christ, I am an heir of God, walking in the Spirit. Growing as a Christian is not “do it yourself religion.” I am accepted because of the cross, and I grow as I walk in the Spirit. Galatians 5:13-26 has been so formative for me. “Live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” In the power of the Spirit, I bear the fruit of love, and I also use my gifts to serve others in love with the gifts I have been given to serve.

I went to college at Washington University in St Louis, thinking I might want to go into vocational ministry. After college I went to Westminster Seminary in Philadelphia. During that time, I married Katie Robertson, and she and I have been married for 37 years. We have three children.

For the first fourteen years of my ministry, I was pastor of two different churches that were in decline. As a result, I did my Doctor of Ministry in Church Revitalization at Fuller Seminary. I grew captivated with the book of Revelation, which is about church revitalization. In chapters 1-3, the risen, glorified Christ is walking in the midst of the candlesticks, the churches, calling them to corporate repentance and renewal. My ministry passion is to see churches that have “stalled out” in some way spiritually thrive once again.

For the next 16 years, I worked in various corporate, denominational, executive pastor and teaching roles. Then, I took an interim pastorate in 2016. In 2017, I took a church that needed significant spiritual and organizational revitalization. We essentially “relaunched” Christ Presbyterian Church in 2021, after the pandemic. God gave the church the new start it needed and gave me a path for my future ministry.

During 2020-2022, the Lord did deep work in my life. I had more time for reflection and therapy. God taught me more deeply how to walk in dependence and trust, rather than rely on myself. That the work of the church is his work, not mine. I also moved deeper into the love of historical liturgy for worship, which God used to bring even more spiritual growth. I am grateful to the Episcopal Church which kindled this love and pushed me into the PCUSA Book of Common Worship for private and public worship.

Regarding my church affiliation. I have been in the PCA my entire ministry, but I have always been more fluid and willing to live with mystery, diversity, and disagreement than the PCA. I have also always believed in full female leadership and social justice. The PCA and I have simply diverged even more over time. It has not budged on its patriarchal view of gender, but the “egalitarian gospel” is non-negotiable for me (Gal 3:26-29). The gospel welcomes everyone into God’s kingdom and proclaims that everyone can serve in every way in the church by the Spirit of God. This is massively important in the local church. So, in 2013 I began my journey to the PCUSA, and the Lord has opened the door to serve as Designated Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Monroe, Georgia. I hope to use my gifts of pastoral leadership to bring PCUSA churches to spiritual health, and to be safe spaces of worship and service for everyone.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

For Action:

1. The Committee on Ministry recommends that the Presbytery approve **Lucy Strong** as Associate Pastor for Mission and Engagement at **Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta**, effective November 12, 2022, under the terms of call listed below. *Since Rev. Strong is currently serving as a contract call associate pastor at Trinity Atlanta, approval of this call requires a three-fourths majority vote of the presbytery to move her from a temporary pastoral position to an installed pastoral position in the same church under G-2.0504c.*

Cash salary	37,000
Housing allowance	37,000
Board of Pensions dues	29,355
SECA allowance	5,661
Continuing education	1,000
Professional expenses	4,100
Dental (clergy only)	
Cell phone	
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Eight days sick leave	

For Information:

1. The Committee on Ministry has approved updates to the following policies since the Presbytery's last stated meeting. The current version of all COM policies can be found on the Presbytery website at www.atlpcusa.org/com.
 - Policy 3: Ethical Guidelines Between Departing Pastors, Incoming Pastors, Pastors Succeeding Pastors (both temporary and permanent pastoral positions), and Their Congregations (Based on G-2.0905)
 - Policy 6: Examination for Suitability of the Match Between a New Pastor and Calling Church
 - Policy 12: Minimum Compensation Standards
 - Policy 14: Pastoral Designations

Admit to Record:

1. Appoint **Scott Weimer** as pastor emeritus of **North Avenue Presbyterian Church**, effective January 22, 2022.
2. Approve the relocation of **Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church** from Stone Mountain to Duluth, effective March 6, 2022.
3. Validate the ministry of **Sharon Junn** as Associate Director for Spirituality Programs at the Center for Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary, effective July 1, 2022.
4. Approve **Jasmine Evans** as associate pastor of young adults at **North Avenue Presbyterian Church**, effective July 11, 2022.

Cash salary	34,000
Housing allowance	36,000
Board of Pensions dues (with Pathways to Renewal)	27,881
SECA allowance	5,355

Continuing education	1,000
Actual moving expenses	
First Call Program	800
Professional Expenses	4,100
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Sabbatical after seven years	
Paid family leave for six weeks	
5. Validate the ministry of Songyin “John” Paik , moving to serve as CPE Certified Educator Candidate at Northside Hospital, effective July 11, 2022.	
6. Change Leanne VanDyk to member-at-large, effective August 1, 2022.	
7. Appoint Scott Weimer as contract call associate pastor for congregational care at Roswell Presbyterian Church , effective August 1, 2022, through July 31, 2023.	
Annual cash salary	40,000
Board of Pensions post-retirement dues	4,800
SECA allowance	3,060
Continuing education	1,000
Cell phone	480
Mileage/auto expenses	1,500
Professional expenses	1,000
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
8. Renew the interim pastor relationship between John Semmes and Central Presbyterian Church for a six-month period, effective August 2, 2022, through January 31, 2023. (These amounts are prorated for this period from an annual salary.)	
Cash salary	40,500
Housing allowance	22,500
Board of Pensions dues	23,310
SECA allowance	4,820
Continuing education	1,500
Cell phone	600
Business/professional expenses	4,000
Dental (family)	816
Two weeks vacation	
One week continuing education	

9. Upon conclusion of his three-year designated pastor term, appoint **Brady Radford** as contract call pastor at **Trinity Presbyterian Church, Decatur**, effective September 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

Cash salary	8,333
Housing allowance	10,000
Board of Pensions Pastor’s Participation	6,783
SECA allowance	1,402
403b match	up to 1,650
Dental	400
Continuing education	500
Cell phone	400
Mileage/auto expenses	800
Professional expenses	500

10. Change **Elizabeth DeSouza** to member-at-large, effective September 3, 2022.

11. Dissolve the pastoral relationship between **Amantha Barbee** and **Oakhurst Presbyterian Church** and dismiss her to Charlotte Presbytery so that she can take up a call as pastor of Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church, effective September 4, 2022.

12. Validate the ministry of **Anne Fyffe** in the Placement for Supervised Familiarisation with the Church of Scotland, effective September 4, 2022.

13. Appoint **Jan Tolbert** as pulpit supply and moderator of session at **Loyd Presbyterian Church**, effective September 4, 2022, for two months, renewable.

14. Appoint **Heather Chase** as moderator of session at **Oakhurst Presbyterian Church**, effective September 5, 2022.

15. Dismiss **Kimberly Clayton** to the Presbytery of the James, effective September 8, 2022.

16. Approve **Leigh Bonner** to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery so that she can serve as interim associate pastor at Athens First Presbyterian Church in Northeast Georgia Presbytery, effective September 12, 2022, through September 11, 2023.

17. Appoint **Kate Colussy-Estes** as interim pastor at **Carrollton Presbyterian Church**, effective September 12, 2022, through September 11, 2023.

Cash salary	40,000
Housing allowance	35,000
Board of Pensions dues	27,750
SECA allowance	5,738
Continuing education	1,000
Cell phone	600
Mileage/auto expenses	4,800
Professional expenses	1,000
Hotel expenses (vouchered)	800
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Five days sick/personal leave	

18. Approve **Michael Sanchez** as associate pastor at **Saint Luke’s Presbyterian Church**, effective September 11, 2022.

Cash salary	55,000
Board of Pensions dues	20,625
SECA allowance	4,208
Continuing education	1,000
First Call Program	800
Additional continuing education	1,100
Cell phone	960
Dental (through Board of Pensions)	1,609
Auto allowance	4,200
Vision/eyewear (through Board of Pensions)	157
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Sabbatical after seven years	

19. Dissolve the associate pastor relationship between **Jody Andrade** and **Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church** and move her to the member-at-large roll, effective September 19, 2022.
20. Grant permission to **Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church** to invite Pastor **Tommy Tsai** as a guest preacher for the months of October-December 2022.
21. Dissolve the pastoral relationship between **Timothy Boggess** and **Northwest Presbyterian Church** and dismiss him to Peace River Presbytery so that he can take up service as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, Florida, effective October 1, 2022.
22. Approve **Davis Bailey** as designated pastor at **McDonough Presbyterian Church**, effective October 3, 2022, for a three-year term.

Cash salary	48,000
Housing allowance	42,000
Additional contribution to retirement	3,000
Board of Pensions dues	34,410
SECA allowance	7,115
Continuing education	3,000
Professional expenses	5,550
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Sabbatical after seven years	
One week leave to serve the broader church	

23. Conclude the contract call pastor relationship between **George Tatro** and **McDonough Presbyterian Church** and move him to the member-at-large roll, effective October 3, 2022.
24. Dissolve the associate pastor relationship between **Jamie Butcher** and **Atlanta First Presbyterian Church** and move her to the member-at-large roll, effective October 16, 2022.
25. Validate the ministry of **Nayoung Kim**, member-at-large, serving as Pastor for Children’s Ministry and Women’s Ministry at Vision Presbyterian Church (KPCA), effective October 20, 2022
26. Validate the ministry of **Jae Hyoung Lee**, member-at-large, serving as Pastor for Media and Tech Production at Vision Presbyterian Church (KPCA), effective October 20, 2022.
27. Validate the ministry of **Beth Waltemath**, currently serving as co-pastor of North Decatur Presbyterian Church, moving to serve as Communications Associate for the Presbyterian Mission Agency, effective October 31, 2022.

28. Appoint **Pam Driesell** as interim pastor at **Kairos Presbyterian Church**, effective November 1, 2022, through June 15, 2023. (Amounts are prorated for this period from an annual salary.)

Cash salary	40,789
Housing allowance	19,500
Board of Pensions dues	paid in full at current rate
SECA allowance	4,612
Continuing education	1,000
Dental	635
Additional continuing education	635
Business expenses	1,904
2.5 weeks of vacation	
One week continuing education	

29. Approve **Jamie Butcher** as pastor at **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, effective November 9, 2022.

Housing allowance	85,000
Board of Pensions dues	31,450
SECA allowance	6,503
Continuing education	1,000
Additional continuing education	2,000
Book allowance	1,200
Four weeks of vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Sabbatical after seven years	
Four weeks paid family leave	

30. Conclude the interim pastor relationship between **Leigh Campbell-Taylor** and **Covenant Presbyterian Church** and move her to the member-at-large roll, effective November 9, 2022.

31. Conclude the contract call pastor relationship between **Sam Sungwoo Kim** and **Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church**, effective November 13, 2022.

32. Approve **Julie Ferguson** to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery so that she can serve as temporary pastor of Heritage Presbyterian Church in Acworth, Georgia, in Cherokee Presbytery, effective November 27, 2022, through February 26, 2023.

33. The following list contains the annual report of those ministers shown as not engaged in a validated ministry nor classified as members-at-large or honorably retired (G-2.0508), along with the date that they began that status:

Kevin Knab	January 23, 2020
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New Church Development Commission (NCDC)

For Information:

As your PGA Start-Up Studio, the NCDC is pleased to report that demand continues to be strong for the work of unleashing the potential of church-based social enterprise and new churches.

Year to date, you have equipped new ventures and their leaders to thrive by providing the following essential startup **LINCSS**:

L – Leadership Coaching: 239 hours

I – Infrastructure Development Support

- Obtain **501c3 status:** 6 New Worshiping Communities (NWCs)
- NWCs with a current 501c3 letter on file: 18 NWCs
- Establish and Manage **Online Giving Links:** 9 NWCs
- Provide **Financial Oversight:** 14 NWCs
- Startup **Payroll Services:** 31 NWC leaders
- Homeland Security **Visas:** 9
- Financial **Policy Development:** 3 NWCs
- Open **Bank Accounts:** 3 NWCs
- Receive and Process **Tax Deductible Contributions:** 14 NWCs
- **Insurance** quotes, acquisition, renewals, and/or verification: 8 NWCs
- NWC leaders in the **ordination process:** 4
- **Incorporation:** 18 NWCs
- Crafting **By-Laws:** 1 NWC
- **Chartering:** 1 NWC

N - Networking Events: 3

- Additionally, 3 new church partner relationships brokered

C – Church Consulting: 125 hours

S - Startup Training

- 29 workshops, 2 retreats offered

S - Strategic Grants

- # of NCDC grants awarded: 17, totaling **\$249,400**
- # of additional facilitated grants: 29, totaling \$419,200
- **Total Number of Grants: 46**
- **Total Grant Money: \$668,600**

New Worshiping Community (NWC) and NWC Leader Grant Recipients:

Adore Brazilian PC
Atlanta Oikos
Atlanta Good Church
Casa Brasil PC
Convergence Church
El Buen Pastor
El Nazareno PC

Faith Studio
Iglesia Horeb PC
Junction Ministries
La Esperanza PC
On the Way PC
Ormewood
WAYS

Angela Wyatt
Armandee Drew
Benjamin Reyes
Chris Drew
Corey Lee
Eben Alonge
Fabiana Araujo
Gina Brown
Jade Lee

Jenelle Holmes
Liz Johnson
Nick Johnson
Noemi Reyes
Rafael Viana
Ricardo Lira
Sam Kim
Wilson Fernandez Junior
Yeonkwon Jeong

Admit to Record:

As of October 19, 2022 (the handbook deadline):

1. The following 2022 annual reviews are complete:

- 4Pointes
- Adore Brazilian PC
- aijcast
- Atlanta Good Church
- Atlanta Oikos
- Atlanta Mizo Christian Fellowship
- Centro Familiar Cristiano
- Convergence
- David's Court
- El Buen Pastor PC
- Junction Ministries
- La Esperanza PC
- Soul Soup
- Spiritual Wellness Center
- Transformation Covenant
- Zo PC

2. The following 2022 annual reviews are underway:

- Casa Brasil
- Crossings Community PC

- Faith Studio
 - Iglesia Presbiteriana Horeb
 - On the Way
 - Ormewood
 - Rize
3. The following 2022 annual reviews are still expected:
- Chin PC
 - Church in Motion
 - Faith Ghanaian PC
 - Shalom International
 - WAYS
 - Zo American PC
4. Early Stage Discerners, with no 2022 annual review:
- Breathing Space/Sum Teo
 - New Jerusalem Church
 - Pistus Fellowship

Upcoming Highlights:

1. *Celebrate **Christmas** with the NCDC! When you donate a minimum of \$25 to the NCDC between now and Christmas, **you will receive a limited edition NCDC Christmas Ornament!** Designed by NWC leaders and crafted by NCDC Board member Lauren Fields, these handcrafted ornaments make a great addition to your Christmas tree at home, OR an additional ornament for your church's Hanging of the Green service.*
2. *Atlanta is hosting the denomination for a national PCUSA **conference: What's the Secret Sauce?** a conference on welcoming new immigrant churches and leaning into the opportunities God is bringing us as partners, colleagues, and coworkers. Join us *April 25-27, 2023 at North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. It'll be three days of listening to some of Atlanta's immigrant church leaders, sharing our own stories of inclusion, challenge, and call, worshiping, and imagining ways forward.**

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Mission Agency, 1001 NWC, the NCDC, and the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, this event will be heavy on inspiration, practical insight, and life-giving next steps forward into God's unfolding future.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Admit to Record:

- The following persons were enrolled as inquirers as of the date shown:
 - a. Asia Lerner, Shallowford, July 28, 2022
 - b. Jina Myungjin Kim, Korean Community, August 25, 2022

- The following churches had Session orientations:
 - a. Crossroads
 - b. Mt. Vernon
 - c. North Avenue

- The committee joins the congregation of Korean Community Presbyterian Church in grieving the death of candidate Eun Ja Kim on September 17, 2022.

For Recommendation:

1. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the following inquirers be enrolled as candidates as of the date shown:

Kevin Lacson, Trinity Atlanta, August 25, 2022
Morgan Burge, North Avenue, September 22, 2022

A brief statement of the inquirer's faith journey is attached.

Faith Journey — Kevin Lacson

My name is Kevin Lacson. I am the son of Filipino immigrants, a younger brother, and an uncle. I played with Legos as a child and took electronics apart: I wanted to be an engineer. I studied Philosophy in college and then worked in a restaurant, as one does as a Philosophy graduate. Kidding aside, it was this work in the service industry that opened my eyes to relating with other people. Perhaps these biographical points loosely represent the most prominent theme one could use to summarize my identity: the dialogue between left brain and right brain, head and heart. As far back as I can remember, I perceived life through the relatively certain structure of logic and rationality on the one hand, and on the other, less calloused hand, was sensitive to the pangs and pleasures of a bare heart. The only variable throughout my life was with which I used to make sense of God, of love, of life. This oscillation continued into my teenage years.

In my early teens, I was very involved in my home church's youth group and praise band. Looking back, it was this community as well as my parent's encouragement that shaped my sense of call into ministry. My pastor at the time and a deaconess that worked with our praise band been enthusiastic supporters of this path and have advocated for me ever since. This church family nurtured my spiritual growth as a teen.

In high school, I was diagnosed with depression. From this point forward, my natural inclination toward introspection fostered (or perhaps necessitated) an ability for me to work toward becoming more emotionally robust and better able to address my ponderings on life. As a consequence, depression has proven to be an apt companion as I have developed mentally and spiritually. In light of faith, these experiences have illuminated the terrain of what it means to be human and its inherent fragility. My sense of call to ministry is stirred toward this existential territory and has been further affirmed in my work of hospital chaplaincy where I am able to sit with the sick and suffering and their families and support the staff that I work alongside.

Growing up in the United Methodist church, my denominational journey to Presbyterianism was formative. Throughout my time at Union Presbyterian Seminary, I worked to delineate what it meant to be United Methodist while I was surrounded by Presbyterians. This environment fostered a dialogue between my own budding personal theology and my denominational theology and asked how they relate to one another. Ultimately, it was not a decision that happened overnight. Looking back now, my conscious decision to join the Presbyterian church was nothing short of providential. However, it took some growth and discernment to regard myself as actually more aligned with the Presbyterian denomination and then to settle in.

Faith Journey Statement- Morgan Burge

I grew up as an on-and-off churchgoer, watching ministers from afar with admiration. However, for much of my life, I did not think there were pathways to Christian leadership for me as a Black woman. As a young child, I felt God’s love and care for me, offering me peace in times of chaos and forgiveness in times of misbehavior. I believed and often prayed, but God seemed like a distant, unknowable being. As I grew older, so did my understanding of the Sovereign love of God, the saving work of Christ, and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

God began feeling closer and more knowable and, simultaneously, more mysterious and vast as I entered my teenage years. Through mentorship in youth group, conversations with friends, missions and service experiences, and time spent praying and studying Scripture, I grew in my faith significantly. I decided at age 16 to take ownership of my faith and make a total commitment to following Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I did this by getting baptized in the presence of my family and friends. I knew I wanted to grow in maturity as a believer, so I prioritized spending time in community, studying the Bible, seeking discipleship from older believers, serving in church, and sharing my faith with friends at school. By the grace of God, I listened to the Holy Spirit’s urge to invite my best friend to my youth group. She later dedicated her life to Christ! Seeing her transformation in high school filled me with the belief that stepping out of my comfort zone to share the Gospel would yield powerful results. This began a journey to ministry leadership for me. Just as God reaches out to humanity, I felt called to share this pursuing love of God with those in my life and in my community.

As a freshman in college, I joined InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, a campus ministry where I grew in faith, evangelism, and leadership. Being discipled through InterVarsity was where I found my voice as a Black female ministry leader. Jesus felt close to me in college—he was a friend when hard times came, He was there when I sinned and fell short of whom I knew God had called me to be, and He stood as the distinction between Christianity and other religions when I was asked tough spiritual questions by my peers. As a student leader, I saw that my passions were bent toward spiritual formation, leadership development, evangelism, and teaching. I felt called to cross-cultural ministry and contextualizing the Gospel to help others learn about Christ’s saving work. Ministry made me come alive, but it felt impossible to imagine myself pursuing it vocationally. I wondered if it was even possible to be a Black female minister in Georgia because I had not seen it before.

As a junior in college, I prayed that if I said “yes” to Jesus’ call to vocational ministry, He would use me to forge the path for future Black women in my position. Then, I interviewed to become a full-time InterVarsity campus minister. My nine years of ministry have given me abundant opportunity to lean on God’s grace and explore my call to ordained ministry.

As a young girl, never in a million years would I have dreamt it possible to end up where I am now. But as I begin my third year at Columbia Theological Seminary pursuing the Dual Degree program—Master of Divinity/ Master of Arts in Practical Theology with a concentration in Pastoral Care—under care with North Avenue Presbyterian Church, I feel confident in my call to pursue ordination with the PC(USA), and I look forward to the ways the Lord will continue to use me to serve the Church with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

COUNCIL

For Information:

1. The Council approved the following dates and formats for Presbytery stated meetings in 2023:

Saturday, February 11, 2023: in-person
Tuesday, May 2, 2023: Zoom (leadership in-person)
Tuesday, August 15, 2023: in-person
Saturday, November 4, 2023: Zoom/hybrid

Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend! If your congregation would like to host an in-person or hybrid meeting, please contact the Stated Clerk.

2. The Council approved issuing an invitation to the Co-Moderators of the 225th General Assembly (2022) to join the Presbytery in October or November 2023 in our celebration of two years of work in the Vital Congregations Initiative.
3. The Council approved an application from the Central Outreach and Advocacy Center to be named an affiliated organization of the presbytery.

For Action:

1. The Council recommends election of the following persons to the indicated classes of the Nominating Committee (all names in **bold** are those that are being nominated):

Class of 2023

1. Debra Durden	(2021)	RE	Philadelphia
2. Kyung-Hwa Kim	(2021)	RE	Korean Central
3. Emily Wilmesherr	(2021)	TE	Decatur

Class of 2024

1. Barbara Leath	(2022)	RE	Church of the Master
2. Karen Turney	(2022)	RE	Covenant
3. Billy Wade	(2020)	TE	Honorably Retired

Class of 2025

1. Kate Colussy-Estes	(2023)	TE	Carrollton
2. Davis Bailey	(2023)	TE	McDonough
3. VACANCY			

OPERATIONS

For Action:

1. The Operations Committee and the Presbytery Council recommend that the presbytery portion of the per capita rate for 2023 be set at \$17.00 per active member, for a total per capita of \$28.35.

This represents a 3% increase from 2022. The per capita of \$28.35 would be paid on membership on record as of December 31, 2021. The total includes \$1.50 in synod per capita (unchanged from 2022) and \$9.85 in General Assembly per capita (a 9.7% increase from 2022). Synod and general assembly numbers are established by the respective bodies and are not subject to our approval. This would be the first increase in presbytery per capita approved since 2018.

BILLS & OVERTURES COMMITTEE REPORT

For Information:

The Bills & Overtures Committee met on October 10, 2022, to review the amendments to the Book of Order proposed by the 225th General Assembly (2022) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and prepare for the Presbytery's action on them. Thirty-three amendments were sent to the presbyteries for their consideration and vote by the deadline of July 9, 2023. Because of the large number of amendments, the committee strongly encourages presbyters to review [the full book of proposed amendments](#) well in advance of upcoming meetings to vote on them.

The committee plans to present the amendments as follows:

- *November 12, 2022, Stated Meeting:* Amendment 22-GG (New Church Discipline section)
- *February 11, 2023, Stated Meeting:* Amendments 22-A through 22-BB
- *May 2, 2023, Stated Meeting:* Any amendments postponed from the February Stated Meeting and Amendments 22-CC through 22-FF (This final set of amendments would make changes to the existing Rules of Discipline and so are moot if a majority of presbyteries vote in the affirmative to Amendment 22-GG. The committee plans to present these amendments for action only if Amendment 22-GG has not been approved by a majority of presbyteries prior to the May 2, 2023, Stated Meeting.)

The Stated Clerk will present information regarding these amendments at various Conversations with the Clerk gatherings via Zoom. [The recording of the October 24, 2022, Conversations with the Clerk to review the new Church Discipline section \(Amendment 22-GG\) is available on YouTube.](#) The other amendments will be discussed on Saturday, January 7, 2023, at 9:00 A.M.

For Action:

The committee recommends (by a unanimous vote) the approval of Amendment 22-GG, a new Church Discipline section of the Book of Order. (The full text of this amendment follows this report and cannot be amended as part of the Presbytery's consideration.)

As commissioners to the 225th General Assembly that considered this important amendment, the committee unanimously commends this important revision to the Presbytery for approval. This new Church Discipline section does not represent fundamental changes to the church's disciplinary process but rather seeks to make it easier to use and more accessible to the church.

As the opening chapter of this section reminds us, "Church discipline is the church's exercise of authority given by Christ, both to guide, control, and nurture its members, and for the correction and restraint of wrongdoing." This work is not about punishment but rather focuses on restoration and reconciliation. The processes described in this section clarify how the church goes about this important work, and we believe that these changes will help the church to be more faithful in our care for one another and particularly for those entrusted to us by God in our ministry.

22-GG — CHURCH DISCIPLINE SECTION

REPLACING THE CURRENT “RULES OF DISCIPLINE” WITH A NEW “CHURCH DISCIPLINE” SECTION (ROD-03)

The 225th General Assembly (2022) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the current Rules of Discipline be replaced with Church Discipline as follows?

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

CHAPTER I

PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH DISCIPLINE

PREAMBLE

D-1.01 Power Vested in Christ’s Church

The power that Jesus Christ has vested in his Church, a power manifested in the exercise of church discipline, is one for building up the body of Christ, not for destroying it, for redeeming, not for punishing. It should be exercised as a dispensation of mercy and not of wrath, so that the great ends of the Church may be achieved, that all children of God may be presented faultless in the day of Christ.

D-1.02 Church Discipline Defined

D-1.0201 Church Discipline Defined

Church discipline is the church's exercise of authority given by Christ, both to guide, control, and nurture its members, and for the correction and restraint of wrongdoing. The church's judicial process does not exist as a substitute for the secular judicial system, but to do what the secular judicial system cannot do. The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is infused with principles and standards to which all active members of congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament voluntarily submit.

D-1.0202 Limits of Church Discipline

Church discipline alone is not adequate to mediate intrinsic differences of theology, polity, policy, power, or trust. Broader issues of conflict are also addressed by constitutional amendment, mediation, administrative review, and administrative commissions. Church discipline through the judicial process shall be used when individuals or councils of the church are unable to bring about settlement of issues or when such settlement would be unwise, unjust, or ineffective, and have determined after prayerful deliberation that judicial process is necessary to ensure that individuals or councils are held accountable for their actions or inactions.

D-1.03 Purpose of Church Discipline

D-1.0301 Purpose of Church Discipline

Thus, the purpose of church 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 pursue and reveal the truth;
- 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 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-1.0302 Due Process

In all respects, participants are to be accorded procedural safeguards and due process consistent with these Principles of Church Discipline.

D-1.04 Conciliate and Mediate

The traditional biblical obligation to conciliate, mediate, and adjust differences without strife is not diminished by church discipline. Although these rules describe the way in which judicial process within the church shall be conducted, it is not their intent or purpose to encourage judicial process or to make it more expensive or difficult. Those contemplating the use of judicial process shall recall the biblical duty to “come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are on the way to court . . .” (Matthew 5:25). They shall attempt prayerfully and seriously to bring about an adjustment or settlement of the issue asserted and avoid formal proceedings under judicial process unless after prayerful deliberation, it is determined to be necessary to preserve the peace, unity, and purity, or accomplish the purposes of the church. Nor shall this duty to consider other forms of resolution end upon the commencement of judicial process.

CHAPTER II

JUDICIAL PROCESS DEFINED

D-2.01 Judicial Process

D-2.0101 Processes of Accountability

Church discipline in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is accomplished through judicial processes of accountability. Accountability of councils is accomplished through remedial process. Accountability of individuals is accomplished through disciplinary process.

D-2.0102 Councils of the Church

The councils of the church are sessions, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly. Sessions conduct trials of church members in disciplinary processes. Presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly conduct trials and appeals of both remedial and disciplinary processes through permanent judicial commissions.

D-2.02 Remedial Process

D-2.0201 Accountability of Councils

Remediation is the process by which councils are held accountable to the church, to their members, and to each other. Through remediation, actions or omissions contrary to the Constitution by a lower council or an entity of the General Assembly may be corrected by a higher council.

D-2.0202 Irregularities and Delinquencies

As defined in D-4.0201, actions contrary to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are known as “irregularities,” while omissions contrary to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are known as “delinquencies.”

D-2.03 Disciplinary Process

D-2.0301 Accountability of Individuals

Disciplinary process is the process by which active members of congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament are held accountable to the church and to each other, and may be censured for an offense for the purpose of restoring the wholeness of the body of Christ.

D-2.0302 Definition of an Offense

An offense as defined in D-7.0103 is any act or omission by a member of a congregation or a minister of the Word and Sacrament that is contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

D-2.04 Standards and Process

Standards and procedures used in judicial processes are those contained in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

CHAPTER III

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSIONS

D-3.01 Election

D-3.0101 Composition

The General Assembly, each synod or set of cooperating synods, and each presbytery shall elect a permanent judicial commission from the ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders subject to its jurisdiction. Each permanent judicial commission shall be composed of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible, nominated in accordance with the principles for the election of a nominating entity required by G-3.0111 and in conformity to the church’s commitment to unity in diversity (F-1.0403). When the permanent judicial commission consists of an odd number of members, the additional member may be either a minister of the Word and Sacrament or a ruling elder.

a. The General Assembly commission shall be composed of one member from each of its constituent synods.

b. Synod commissions shall be composed of no fewer than eleven members distributed equally, insofar as possible, among the constituent presbyteries. In those synods with fewer than eleven presbyteries, each presbytery shall have at least one member. When a set of two or more synods form a shared permanent judicial commission, the commission shall be composed of no fewer than twelve members, with each synod in the set electing members proportional to the number of the presbyteries in each synod, insofar as possible. The cooperating synods shall designate between them one stated clerk to process the cases filed with the shared permanent judicial commission.

c. Presbytery commissions shall be composed of no fewer than seven members, with no more than one of its ruling elder members from any one of its constituent congregations.

D-3.0102 Reviewers and Effect on Quorum

The moderator of the permanent judicial commission shall designate a special committee of three persons to review any petition for review of the procedures of the investigating committee while the investigation in a disciplinary case is in process (D-7.11), to review any petition for review of the decision not to file charges (D-7.1402), and to determine the need for administrative leave (D-7.0902). The special committee shall be composed of at least one current member of the permanent judicial commission, and may include up to two former members of the permanent judicial commission from the list of former commissioners required by D-3.0602b. The members of the special committee shall not take part in any subsequent trial. When a case proceeds to trial after a review, the quorum of the permanent judicial commission shall be a majority of its members who did not participate in the review, but in no case shall a quorum be fewer than five members (D-3.0602). A session shall refer any petition for review to the presbytery stated clerk, who shall follow this process for the creation of a special committee.

D-3.02 Service

D-3.0201 Classes and Terms

Permanent judicial commissions shall be arranged in three classes of six years each, with each class as equal as possible in size and with one class completing its term every two years.

D-3.0202 Vacancies

Vacancies on permanent judicial commissions shall be addressed as follows:

a. A vacancy on any permanent judicial commission due to resignation, death, or any other cause may be filled by the electing council, which may elect a person to fill the unexpired term at any future meeting.

b. In each even-numbered year, the General Assembly shall elect members for the next class of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission and fill any vacancies then occurring. Such members' terms of office will begin with the dissolution of the General Assembly at which they are elected.

D-3.0203 Eligibility

Eligibility for service on a permanent judicial commission is subject to the following additional conditions:

a. In filling vacancies for unexpired terms, a member who has served more than half a term is considered to have served a full term, and is ineligible for immediate re-election.

b. No person who has served on a permanent judicial commission for a full term shall be eligible for reelection until two years have elapsed after the expired six-year term. No person shall serve on more than one permanent judicial commission at the same time. No person who is a member of any other entity elected by the General Assembly shall serve on the permanent judicial commission of the General Assembly until that person shall have resigned such membership. The moderator, stated clerk, or any member of the staff of a council or the staff of any of its entities shall not serve on its permanent judicial commission.

c. Continuing membership on a presbytery permanent judicial commission is dependent on membership in a congregation of the presbytery or in the presbytery.

d. Continuing membership on a synod permanent judicial commission is contingent on membership in a congregation or presbytery of the synod and in the case of synods with a shared permanent judicial commission (G-3.0404), in accordance with the rules of representation agreed upon by the cooperating synods.

e. Continuing membership on the General Assembly permanent judicial commission shall end when that member transfers membership to a church or presbytery outside the synod from which nominated.

D-3.03 Commission Expenses

All necessary expenses of a permanent judicial commission shall be paid by the electing council or councils. A set of cooperating synods shall pay the necessary expenses of its shared permanent judicial commission equally; however, each synod in such a set shall pay the necessary expenses for processing a particular judicial case arising within its bounds.

D-3.04 Officers

Each permanent judicial commission shall meet and elect from its members a moderator and a clerk, according to its rules or the rules of the council or councils electing its members. A permanent judicial commission may also provide by rule for additional officers.

D-3.05 Powers

In the cases transmitted to it, the permanent judicial commission shall have only the powers prescribed by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and shall conduct its proceedings accordingly.

D-3.06 Meetings

D-3.0601 Times and Places

The meetings of the permanent judicial commission shall be held at such times and places as the electing council or councils shall direct, or, if no directions are given, at such times and places as the commission shall determine.

D-3.0602 Quorum

The quorum of a permanent judicial commission shall be a majority of its members, except that the quorum of a presbytery commission for a disciplinary case shall be a majority of the membership other than those currently serving members assigned responsibilities under D-3.0102. In no instance shall the quorum be fewer than five members. The quorum of a session for judicial process shall be the moderator of the session and a majority of the ruling elder members.

a. Who Shall Not Participate

When a church is a party to a case, members of a permanent judicial commission who are members of that church or persons in permanent or temporary pastoral relationships with that church shall not participate in the case in any way. When a council is a party to a case, members of that council or of churches within that council shall not participate in the case in any way. Members designated under D-3.0102 shall not otherwise participate in the case.

b. Roster of Former Members

The stated clerk shall keep a current roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years. The names shall be arranged alphabetically within classes beginning with the most recent class. The stated clerk shall report the roster annually to the council or councils.

c. Ensuring a Quorum

Whenever a permanent judicial commission is required to meet for a hearing or trial, the stated clerk shall recruit a sufficient number of additional members by rotation from the roster of former members to ensure that a quorum will not be lost during the course of the proceeding. Councils may provide by rule for the method of rotation to incorporate the principles of participation and representation in accordance with G-3.0111 and F-1.0403.

d. Inability to Reach a Quorum

If, through absence, disqualification, or recusal, a sufficient number of members of a permanent judicial commission is not present to constitute a quorum, the permanent judicial commission shall recess until such time as a quorum can be ensured as stated above.

e. Participant Expenses

If a permanent judicial commission is unable to try a case for lack of a quorum, the council in whose geographic boundary the case arose shall reimburse the expenses reasonably incurred by those persons required to be present.

CHAPTER IV

REMEDICATION

D-4.01 Remedial Process

D-4.0101 Purpose

The purpose of remediation is to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church by ensuring that the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is upheld, and that disputes regarding its requirements are addressed in a manner that is both fair and just to all concerned.

D-4.0102 Limitations of Judicial Process

While a remedial complaint may be filed *by* individuals, it can never be filed *against* individuals. Nor may a remedial complaint be filed against a congregation or a committee or commission of a council below the General Assembly. A session is responsible for correcting constitutional errors or omissions by its congregation in accordance with G-3.0201. As explained below, complaints may only be filed against sessions, presbyteries, synods, and entities of the General Assembly, and only by one or more individuals or councils of the church who have standing to complain.

D-4.0103 Deadlines and Filings

a. Deadlines

In determining whether or not a document is timely filed, the day following the event giving rise to the time limit begins the count as day one (for example, the day following the date on which a council action is taken, or on which a party receives a decision). All seven days of every week are included in the count, including holidays, and the document shall be deemed timely filed if it is received by the person or persons to whom it is required to be sent on or before the final day of the count. When the final date of the count falls on a weekend or holiday, the document shall be deemed timely filed if it is received on the next business day after the final day of the count.

b. Methods of Filing

Any document required to be filed may be sent or delivered by United States Postal Service certified mail, return receipt requested; commercial courier, with delivery receipt requested; personal delivery; or electronically when so permitted in these rules.

D-4.02 Filing a Complaint

D-4.0201 Initiation

Remedial process is initiated by the filing of a complaint with the stated clerk of the council having jurisdiction. A complaint shall allege one or more specific irregularities or delinquencies of a council.

a. A decision or action contrary to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is known as an irregularity.

b. The omission or failure to act on a constitutional requirement is known as a delinquency.

D-4.0202 Stated Clerk Responsibility

The stated clerk shall immediately transmit copies of the complaint to the party against whom the complaint is filed and to the officers of the council's permanent judicial commission. If a different clerk has been designated to process judicial cases for a shared judicial commission, the stated clerk having jurisdiction shall immediately transmit the complaint to that clerk.

D-4.0203 Parties

The parties in a case of remedial process are known as the complainant or complainants (the person or persons who file the complaint) and the respondent(s) (the council(s) complained against).

D-4.0204 Committees of Counsel

a. Composition

When a council or an entity of the General Assembly becomes either a complainant or a respondent, it shall designate no more than three persons to be a committee of counsel. This committee shall represent that complainant or respondent in the case until final decision is reached in the highest council to which the case is appealed. All members of a committee of counsel shall be members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

b. Provide by Rule

A council or an entity of the General Assembly may provide by rule for the appointment of a committee of counsel. The membership of the committee of counsel, as well as any changes to its composition that may occur, shall be promptly reported to the stated clerk of the council having jurisdiction, who will notify the other party and the permanent judicial commission.

c. Who Shall Not Serve

Clerks of session or stated clerks shall not serve on a committee of counsel for the council they serve. Employees of the council hearing a case or of a higher council that would have jurisdiction in any appellate proceeding shall also not serve on a committee of counsel.

D-4.0205 Time Limits

In regard to filing a complaint in a remedial case, the following time limits apply:

a. In the case of an alleged irregularity, if a stay of enforcement is also sought, (as described below in section 4.04), then a complaint of an alleged irregularity shall be filed no later than thirty (30) days after the council's action being complained against (or in the case of an appeal, from the date on which the appealing party was notified of the decision of the permanent judicial commission). If no stay of enforcement is being requested, then a complaint of an alleged irregularity shall be filed no later than ninety (90) days after the council's action.

b. In the case of an alleged delinquency, a complaint shall be filed no later than ninety (90) days after the failure or refusal of the council to cure the alleged delinquency at its next meeting, provided that a written request to do so has been made prior to said meeting.

D-4.0206 Standing and Jurisdiction in Remedial Cases

Standing to file a complaint and jurisdiction to deal with a complaint are as follows:

- a. Councils may file complaints against any other council of the same level, to the council immediately higher than the council complained against and to whose jurisdiction the latter council is subject.**
- b. Members of a congregation may file complaints against their session, to the presbytery.**
- c. Ruling elder commissioners to a presbytery may file complaints to the synod alleging irregularities or delinquencies that occurred during presbytery meetings at which they were present and enrolled.**
- d. Minister members of a presbytery and ruling elders elected by and enrolled with the presbytery for terms of service in accordance with G-3.0301 may file complaints against the presbytery to the synod regardless of whether or not they were in attendance when the alleged irregularity or delinquency occurred.**
- e. Sessions may file complaints against their presbytery, to their synod.**
- f. Commissioners to a synod may file complaints to the General Assembly alleging irregularities or delinquencies that occurred during synod meetings at which they were present and enrolled.**
- g. Ministers and ruling elders elected by and enrolled with the synod for terms of service in accordance with G-3.0401 may file complaints against the synod to the General Assembly regardless of whether or not they were in attendance when the alleged irregularity or delinquency occurred.**
- h. Presbyteries may file complaints against their synod, to the General Assembly.**
- i. Sessions, presbyteries, and synods may file complaints against entities of the General Assembly, to the General Assembly.**
- j. When the council of jurisdiction as defined in this section fails to act in a particular remedial case for a period of sixty days after the filing of a complaint or thirty days after the filing of a complaint with a request for a stay of enforcement, the next higher council, at the written request of any party, may assume jurisdiction in the case. It may then either return jurisdiction to the lower council with specific instructions on how to proceed, or it may retain jurisdiction and conclude the matter itself.**

D-4.0207 Effects of Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction in remedial process has the following particular effects:

- a. Each council shall recognize and enforce the judgments, decisions, and orders of higher councils which have jurisdiction over them under the provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).**
- b. Decisions of the permanent judicial commissions of synods and presbyteries are binding on the parties to the particular cases in which the decisions are rendered unless overturned**

on appeal. No synod or presbytery permanent judicial commission is able to make its decisions binding beyond the parties to the particular case by simply declaring it to be so.

c. Only the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission has the power to render decisions that are authoritative interpretations binding on the entire church (G-13.0103r).

D-4.03 Contents of a Complaint

D-4.0301 Items to be Included

Items to be included in a complaint are as follows:

- a. The name of the complainant(s) and the name of the respondent(s).
- b. The particular irregularity including the date, place, and circumstances thereof; or the particular delinquency including the dates of the written request to cure the delinquency and of the next meeting at which the respondent(s) failed to do so.
- c. The reasons for complaint of the irregularity or delinquency.
- d. A statement of facts demonstrating that the complainant(s) may file the complaint in accordance with D-4.0206 above.
- e. The remedy or correction requested (called “relief”), which must be within the authority of the council receiving the complaint to grant.

D-4.0302 Method of Filing

The complaint shall be sent or delivered by United States Postal Service certified mail, return receipt requested; commercial courier, with delivery receipt requested; or personal delivery in accordance with D-4.0103b. The complainant(s) shall then file with the stated clerk a receipt signed by the addressee or an affidavit of personal service. At the written agreement of both parties, all further communication may be handled electronically.

D-4.04 Request for a Stay of Enforcement

D-4.0401 Requesting a Stay of Enforcement

A stay of enforcement is a written instruction from the permanent judicial commission having jurisdiction that orders suspension of a decision or an action until a complaint (or appeal) is finally determined. Any such request for a stay of enforcement shall be filed along with the complaint (or notice of appeal) as described above. The request must be made in one of the following forms:

- a. A request signed by one-third of the members recorded as present when the decision or action was taken by the council,
- b. A request signed by one-third of the members of the permanent judicial commission that decided a remedial case that is being appealed, or

c. A request signed by a complainant or appellant requesting that at least three members of the permanent judicial commission having jurisdiction to hear the complaint or appeal sign the stay of enforcement.

D-4.05 Preliminary Ruling

D-4.0501 Examination of Papers

The complaint (or appeal for purposes of processing a request for a stay of enforcement on appeal) shall be promptly transmitted by the stated clerk along with the request for a stay of enforcement, if one has been received, to the permanent judicial commission moderator and clerk for their preliminary determination as to the following questions:

a. For the complaint, whether:

- (1) The council has jurisdiction,
- (2) One or more of the complainants has standing to file the case,
- (3) The complaint was timely filed,
- (4) The complaint alleges facts that if proved true would constitute an irregularity or delinquency, and

(5) The complaint states a claim upon which relief can be granted. Permanent judicial commissions may, but shall not be required, to proceed to trial when they determine that the relief requested cannot be granted but that there is potential relief, declaratory or otherwise, that could potentially be granted. Relief that a council may not grant includes but is not limited to:

- i. Relief that is not within the authority of the council to grant,
- ii. Monetary awards other than those that require councils to honor existing contracts,
- iii. Relief that has been rendered moot,
- iv. Relief that is contrary to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

b. For the request for a stay of enforcement if made under D-4.0401a or b, whether the request is complete and timely filed.

D-4.0502 Preliminary Ruling

A preliminary ruling is a decision by the moderator and clerk of a permanent judicial commission either to accept a case for trial or to dismiss the case because one or more of the five questions in D-4.0501a is answered in the negative.

a. If a request for a stay of enforcement is made under D-4.0401a or b, a stay of enforcement may be entered immediately by the moderator and clerk if they determine that the request is complete and timely and the preliminary issues are met for the complaint or appeal.

b. In their consideration of the preliminary questions in D-4.0501a, the officers shall assume the truth of the facts alleged.

c. Within ten (10) days after their receipt of the complaint, the officers shall report their determinations to the stated clerk of the council in a preliminary ruling. The stated clerk shall immediately distribute the preliminary ruling to the parties, and to the members of the permanent judicial commission along with the complaint (or appeal, for purposes of processing a request for a stay of enforcement on appeal) and the request for a stay of enforcement, if one has been received.

D-4.06 Processing a Request for a Stay of Enforcement If Made Under D-4.0401c.

D-4.0601 Consideration of Request

If a request for a stay of enforcement is made under D-4.0401c, a stay of enforcement may be entered by three members of the permanent judicial commission that will hear the case within ten (10) days of receiving the request, the complaint (or in an appeal, of the notice of appeal), and the preliminary ruling. Each permanent judicial commission member affirming the request shall include a summary of the specific council action(s) or decision(s) being stayed, and a statement that in their judgment:

a. Substantial harm will occur if the action or decision is not stayed, and

b. Probable grounds exist for finding the decision or action erroneous.

D-4.0602 Determination and Filings

In determining whether to grant a stay of enforcement, the following applies:

a. The statements of members of the permanent judicial commission shall be filed with the stated clerk of the council that has jurisdiction to hear the case.

b. If the stated clerk receives three or more statements from members of the permanent judicial commission, the stay shall be granted, and the stated clerk shall send a copy of the stay of enforcement to the parties and to the permanent judicial commission members.

c. The stay of enforcement shall be effective until the permanent judicial commission having jurisdiction has decided the case, except as hereafter provided.

d. If a stay of enforcement is not granted, the stated clerk shall so notify the parties and the permanent judicial commission members.

D-4.07 Response and Next Actions

D-4.0701 If the Preliminary Ruling Accepts the Case

If the officers initially accept the case, the respondent council(s) shall prepare and file its answer as described in D-4.0703 below. When the answer has been received, the officers shall review the answer and may either affirm their preliminary ruling as filed or modify it in light of the new information received. The affirmed or modified preliminary ruling shall then be filed with the stated clerk who shall distribute it to the parties and the permanent judicial commission members, and the answer shall also be distributed to the permanent judicial commission.

a. If the preliminary ruling to accept the case is affirmed, the respondent(s) or a member of the permanent judicial commission may challenge the determination within fifteen (15) days of receiving the notification, in which case the matter proceeds as described in D-4.0704 below.

b. If the modified preliminary ruling dismisses the case, then the case proceeds as described in D-4.0702 below.

D-4.0702 If the Initial or Modified Preliminary Ruling Dismisses the Case

In dealing with a preliminary ruling that dismisses the case, the following applies:

a. Within fifteen (15) days of notification that the officers have dismissed the case, one or more of the complainants or a member of the permanent judicial commission may file a challenge to the dismissal, in which case the respondent(s), if it has not already done so, shall prepare and file its answer as described in D-4.0703 below, which shall be distributed to the permanent judicial commission, and the challenge shall be processed in accordance with D-4.0704 below.

b. If no challenge is received within fifteen (15) days, the case is dismissed and any stay of enforcement is lifted.

D-4.0703 Answer to Complaint

The committee of counsel of the respondent(s) shall file with the stated clerk of the higher council a concise answer within thirty (30) days of its notification of either acceptance of the case by the officers of the permanent judicial commission or receipt of a challenge to the officers' dismissal of the case. The answer shall admit those facts alleged in the complaint that are true, deny those that are not true or are mistakenly stated, and present other facts that may explain the situation identified as an irregularity or delinquency.

a. The answer may also raise any issues related to the determinations contained in D-4.0501a and may include a motion to dismiss the complaint.

b. If a stay of enforcement has been entered, the respondent(s)'s answer may also challenge the stay of enforcement, in which case the matter shall proceed as described in D-4.0704.

c. The stated clerk shall distribute the answer to the complainant(s) and to the permanent judicial commission.

D-4.0704 Challenge to Preliminary Ruling and Stay of Enforcement

If a preliminary ruling or a stay of enforcement is challenged under the provisions of this chapter, opportunity shall be provided to present evidence and argument on the determination(s) in question, or on the stay of enforcement. The parties shall be invited to submit briefs, and may agree to allow the permanent judicial commission to decide the matter on the basis of those briefs in place

of a hearing. The permanent judicial commission shall then enter a final ruling on the matter either dismissing the case or accepting it for trial, and either affirming or lifting the stay of enforcement, if one has been entered.

CHAPTER V

TRIAL IN A REMEDIAL CASE

D-5.01 Pretrial Procedures

D-5.0101 Duties of Respondent Stated Clerk

In pretrial procedures, the duties of the respondent stated clerk are as follows:

a. Within forty-five (45) days after the receipt of a complaint, the clerk of session or stated clerk of the respondent council(s) shall submit in writing to the parties a list of all of the papers and other materials pertaining to the case.

b. Within thirty (30) days thereafter, the complainant may request in writing that the respondent clerk file additional minutes or papers pertaining to the case. Questions as to the relevance or reasonableness of requests shall be decided by the officers of the permanent judicial commission or their designees.

c. Upon notification by the stated clerk of the higher council of jurisdiction that the case has been accepted, the clerk of session or stated clerk of the respondent council(s) shall transmit to the stated clerk of the higher council without delay the minutes and papers pertaining to the case, along with the list of the record.

D-5.0102 Record of the Case

When the minutes and papers have been filed with the stated clerk of the higher council, the stated clerk shall organize and transmit them to the parties and to the permanent judicial commission and give notice to the parties of an estimated date for trial.

D-5.0103 Additional Filings

The permanent judicial commission may require the parties to file statements, also known as briefs, outlining the evidence to be offered at trial and the theories of the parties' respective claims and defenses.

D-5.0104 Pretrial Conference

At any time after a case is received by a permanent judicial commission, the commission may provide for the parties or their counsel, if any, to explore settlement possibilities; or, in a pretrial conference, to seek agreement on a statement of facts and disputed issues, to exchange documents and other evidence, and to take other action which might reasonably and impartially narrow the dispute and expedite its resolution. The moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission, or their designees, shall set a date, time and place for the pretrial conference, and conduct it on the commission's behalf.

D-5.02 Conduct of Trial

The trial of a remedial case shall be conducted by a permanent judicial commission. The trial shall be conducted formally with full decorum in a neutral place suitable to the occasion. Except for the provision of electronically received testimony contained in D-5.04 trials should be held in person. When necessary, and at the sole discretion of the permanent judicial commission, trials may be held electronically in accordance with G-3.0105 and provided that the technology employed allows witnesses and parties as well as members of the permanent judicial commission to be seen and heard clearly.

D-5.03 Citations and Testimony

D-5.0301 Citation of Parties and Witnesses

Citations to appear at trial for parties or such witnesses as either party may request shall be signed by the moderator or clerk of the permanent judicial commission and served by the stated clerk of the council. Witnesses may be either fact witnesses or expert witnesses (see D-5.0703b). Fact witnesses in remedial process should have firsthand knowledge.

D-5.0302 Who May Be Cited

Only members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may be cited to appear. Persons who are not members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and expert witnesses (regardless of their denominational membership) may only be requested to appear.

D-5.0303 Witnesses from Another Council

When it is necessary to summon witnesses who are under the jurisdiction of another council of the church, the clerk or stated clerk of the other council shall, on the application of the permanent judicial commission trying the case, through the stated clerk of its council, issue a citation to the witnesses to appear at the place of trial and give evidence as may be required.

D-5.0304 Expenses

Any witness shall be entitled to receive from the party calling the witness reimbursement of actual expenses incurred in attendance at the trial.

D-5.0305 Service of Citation

A citation shall be delivered in accordance with D-4.0103b, or by electronic delivery acknowledged by the recipient within seven (7) days. The moderator or clerk of the permanent judicial commission trying the case shall keep a record of the date of service or delivery. If a party or a witness who is a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) fails to obey a citation to appear or having appeared, refuses without good cause to testify, and after warning continues to refuse, the party or witness shall be considered guilty of disobedience and contempt, and for such offense may be subject to disciplinary action by the person's council of jurisdiction.

D-5.04 Electronically Received Testimony

Witnesses may be granted permission by the permanent judicial commission to appear electronically if unable to attend a trial that is held in person, in accordance with the provisions of G-3.0105 and D-5.02.

D-5.05 Procedures in Trial

D-5.0501 Counsel

Each of the parties in a remedial case shall be entitled to appear and may be represented by counsel. Counsel need not be a paid representative or an attorney. Counsel shall be a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). No member of a permanent judicial commission shall appear as counsel before that commission while a member.

D-5.0502 Circulation of Materials and Communication

With regard to materials pertaining to the case and communication regarding the case, the following rules apply:

a. Any materials pertaining to the case shall be filed with the stated clerk of the council hearing the case. Parties to a remedial case, their counsel, or any other person shall not circulate or cause to be circulated directly to the members of the permanent judicial commission any written, printed, electronic, or visual materials of any kind upon any matter pertaining to the case before its final disposition. Notwithstanding this prohibition, the permanent judicial commission may request, or grant leave to file, additional materials.

b. Parties or their counsel shall not communicate with members of the permanent judicial commission regarding any matter related to the case unless the other party and their counsel, if any, are included.

D-5.0503 Control of Conduct of Trial

The moderator of the permanent judicial commission shall have full authority and power to control the conduct of the trial and of all parties, witnesses, counsel, and the public, including removal of them, to the end that proper dignity and decorum shall be maintained. Rulings of the moderator related to control of the trial are subject to appeal to the full commission by any member of the commission, which shall decide the question by majority vote.

D-5.0504 Procedural Questions

Questions as to procedure or the admissibility of evidence arising in the course of a trial shall be decided by the moderator after the parties have had an opportunity to be heard. A party or a member of the permanent judicial commission may appeal from the decision of the moderator to the commission, which shall decide the question by majority vote.

D-5.0505 Absences

Members of a permanent judicial commission must be present in person at trials. The absence of any member of the permanent judicial commission after a trial has commenced shall be recorded. That member shall not thereafter participate in that case.

D-5.0506 Loss of Quorum

Loss of a quorum shall result in a mistrial and the case shall be tried again from the beginning at a time and place to be determined by the permanent judicial commission.

D-5.06 Trial

D-5.0601 Announcement by the Moderator

The trial of a remedial case shall be opened with prayer, after which the moderator shall read aloud the preamble to Church Discipline (D-1), shall announce that the council is about to proceed to trial, and shall enjoin the members to recollect and regard their high character as judges of a council of the Church of Jesus Christ and the solemn duties they are about to undertake.

D-5.0602 Objections of Parties

The parties or their counsel may object and be heard on the organization and jurisdiction of the permanent judicial commission.

a. A member of a permanent judicial commission is disqualified if the member has a material interest in the outcome of the case, is related by family relationship to any party, has been active for or against any party, or is a member of a church or council which is a party.

b. Any member of a permanent judicial commission may be challenged by any party for conflict of interest, and the validity of the challenge shall be determined by a majority vote of the remaining members of the permanent judicial commission.

D-5.0603 Preliminary Determinations and Objections

The permanent judicial commission shall place all preliminary determinations and any objections on the record and shall decide all such matters by majority vote. Any objections to the preliminary determinations and any other objections affecting the order or regularity of the proceedings shall also be made part of the record and shall be decided by majority vote. A final decision on the merits of the complaint is not permissible until the permanent judicial commission has heard the evidence and arguments of the parties, unless the parties have agreed in writing or at a pretrial conference on certain stipulated facts or about issues on which there is no dispute, and waive their right to present additional evidence at a trial, and are willing to have the dispute settled on the basis of their briefs and written submissions.

D-5.0604 Amendment of Complaint

The complainant shall be permitted to amend the complaint at the time of the trial, provided that the amendment does not change the substance of the complaint or prejudice the respondent(s).

D-5.0605 Opening Statements

The parties shall be given an opportunity to make opening statements.

D-5.07 Evidence

D-5.0701 Definition

The complainant and respondent(s) shall be accorded the opportunity to present evidence on their behalf. Evidence, in addition to oral testimony of witnesses, may include records, writings,

material objects, or other items presented to prove the existence or nonexistence of a fact. Evidence must be relevant to be received. No distinction should be made between direct and circumstantial evidence as to the degree of proof required.

D-5.0702 Records as Evidence

Written records of a council or permanent judicial commission and authenticated records of testimony are admissible as evidence.

a. The authenticated written records of a council or permanent judicial commission shall be admissible in evidence in any proceeding.

b. An authenticated record or transcript of testimony taken by a council or permanent judicial commission shall be admissible in any proceeding in another council.

D-5.0703 Witnesses

With regard to witnesses, the following applies:

a. Any party may challenge whether a witness may testify, and the moderator of the permanent judicial commission shall determine the competence of the witness. The ruling of the moderator may be appealed by any party or a member of the permanent judicial commission and decided by majority vote of the permanent judicial commission.

b. Each witness called to testify must be competent to testify. To be received by the permanent judicial commission, any testimony from any witness must be relevant and must have a proper foundation. An expert opinion or other testimony may be offered by any witness upon adequate proof of the qualifications of the witness as an expert in the field of such testimony and that such opinion or other testimony will assist the resolution of the case.

c. No counsel for a party involved may be compelled to testify about any confidential matter, nor may any such counsel testify concerning any matter without the express permission of the party they represent.

d. Credibility means the degree of belief that may be given to the testimony of a witness. In determining the credibility of a witness, the permanent judicial commission may consider any matter that bears upon the accuracy of the testimony or the truthfulness of the witness.

D-5.0704 Testimony

Receiving the testimony of witnesses shall proceed as follows:

a. At the direction of the moderator or on the request of either party, no fact witness shall be present during the examination of another witness. This shall not limit the right of any party, counsel, or witness previously designated to offer only expert testimony, to be present.

b. Witnesses shall be examined first by the party producing them, and then they may be cross-examined by the opposing party. The moderator may permit additional questions from the parties (including both re-examination, followed by re-cross-examination) if so requested. Thereafter, any member of the permanent judicial commission may ask additional questions.

c. Prior to giving testimony, a witness shall make an oath by answering the following question in the affirmative: “Do you solemnly swear that the evidence you will give in this matter shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?”

d. If a witness objects to making an oath, the witness shall answer the following question in the affirmative: “Do you solemnly affirm that you will declare the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in the matter in which you are called to testify?”

e. The testimony of each witness shall be accurately and fully recorded by a qualified reporter or other means that can be accurately transcribed, including digital voice recording.

f. Witnesses may appear electronically if unable to attend the trial in person, in accordance with the provisions of D-5.04.

g. A member of the permanent judicial commission before which the case is pending may testify, but thereafter shall not otherwise participate in the case.

D-5.08 Final Statements

The parties shall be given an opportunity to make final statements, the complainant having the right of opening and closing the argument, after which the trial shall be closed with prayer.

D-5.09 Decision

D-5.0901 Deliberation

The following considerations apply in deliberations:

a. At the close of the trial, the permanent judicial commission shall then meet privately to deliberate. All persons not members of the commission shall be excluded.

b. No complaint in a remedial case shall be sustained unless it has been proved by a preponderance of the evidence. Preponderance means such evidence as, when weighed with that opposed to it, has more convincing force and the greater probability of truth. After careful deliberation the permanent judicial commission shall vote by counted vote on each alleged irregularity or delinquency accepted for trial and record the vote in its minutes. A majority vote is required to sustain each irregularity or delinquency.

D-5.0902 Decision

Decisions of permanent judicial commissions are reached and communicated as follows:

a. The permanent judicial commission shall then decide the case. If the complaint is sustained either in whole or in part, the commission shall order such action as is appropriate.

b. The questions presented for decision shall be fully debated and voted upon while all participating permanent judicial commission members are present. A written outline of a decision shall be prepared and adopted while in session. A written decision shall be reviewed by all participating members of the permanent judicial commission, which may take place either while

the participating permanent judicial commission members are present or by meeting within ten (10) days of the close of the trial, either in person, or electronically in accordance with G-3.0105.

c. The decision shall become the final decision of the permanent judicial commission when a copy of the written decision is signed by the moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission. A copy of the written decision shall immediately be delivered to the parties in accordance with D-4.0103b, or electronically, if agreed upon in advance by the parties.

d. Within thirty (30) days of the conclusion of the trial, the decision shall be filed with the stated clerk of the council that appointed the permanent judicial commission.

e. The moderator or clerk of the permanent judicial commission shall disseminate the decision as the permanent judicial commission may direct.

D-5.0903 Effect of Decision

Decisions of the permanent judicial commissions of presbyteries and synods are binding on the parties to the particular cases in which the decisions are rendered unless overturned on appeal. No decision of a permanent judicial commission of a presbytery or synod is binding beyond the parties to the particular case.

D-5.0904 New Evidence

New evidence can be considered either prior to an appeal or following the filing of an appeal.

a. Prior to filing a notice of appeal, but without extending the time for appeal, any party against whom an order or decision has been entered may apply for a new trial on the basis of newly discovered evidence. The permanent judicial commission – when it is satisfied that such evidence could reasonably have resulted in a different decision and that in the exercise of reasonable diligence it could not have been produced at the time of trial – may grant such application. An appeal filed while such an application is pending shall be held in abeyance until such time as the permanent judicial commission that conducted the trial has made its determination. The higher council shall be notified of the determination by the stated clerk of the lower council.

b. If, subsequent to the filing by any party of a notice of appeal, new evidence is discovered which in the exercise of reasonable diligence could not have been discovered prior to the filing of the notice of appeal, the permanent judicial commission receiving the appeal may remand the case for a new trial, in which case the appeal shall be stayed until the permanent judicial commission that conducted the trial reports its decision in the new trial.

c. The application for admission of newly discovered evidence shall be made to the permanent judicial commission with copies to the other party. That application shall be accompanied by a summary of the evidence. The permanent judicial commission shall conduct a hearing on the application for admission of newly discovered evidence not less than thirty (30) days after the application.

D-5.0905 Appeal

Rules of appeal are found in D-6. The following applies to time limits and standing to file an appeal:

a. For each party, the time for filing an appeal shall run from the date the decision is delivered to, or refused by, that party.

b. An appeal may be initiated only by one or more of the original parties.

D-5.10 Record of Proceedings

D-5.1001 Duties of the Clerk of the Permanent Judicial Commission

The clerk of the permanent judicial commission shall do the following:

a. Arrange in advance for the accurate verbatim recording of all testimony and oral proceedings (which may be accomplished through a digital voice recording);

b. Identify and maintain all exhibits offered in evidence (noting whether or not they were accepted as evidence) and keep a list of all exhibits;

c. Record minutes of the proceedings, which shall include any actions or orders of the permanent judicial commission relating to the case with the vote on each;

d. Prepare the record of the case, which shall consist of:

(1) The complaint and the answer;

(2) All minutes and papers filed in the case;

(3) A certified transcript, if requested;

(4) All properly marked exhibits, records, documents, and other papers;

(5) The written decision; and

(6) Any actions or orders of the permanent judicial commission relating to the case with the vote on each.

e. Within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final, certify and transmit the record of the case to the stated clerk of the electing council, who shall preserve it for at least five years, and in accordance with the policy of the council for the preservation of records;

f. Upon the request, and at the expense of any requesting party, the clerk shall cause to be prepared, as promptly as circumstances permit, a true and complete transcript of all the testimony and oral proceedings during the course of the trial. When the person making the transcript has certified it to be true and complete, a copy shall be delivered to each party requesting one upon satisfactory arrangement for payment, and one additional copy shall be made for inclusion in the record to be sent forward upon any appeal pursuant to D-6.0802.

D-5.1002 Additions to the Record

No person may supplement or add to the record in a case except for good cause as determined by the moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission responsible for

conducting the trial. No request to supplement the record shall be considered until received in writing by the stated clerk of the council conducting the trial, who shall transmit it to the moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission. A copy of the request shall be delivered to all parties and every party shall have ten (10) days to respond in writing.

D-5.1003 Duty of the Stated Clerk

If the council is meeting when the decision is received from the clerk of the permanent judicial commission, the stated clerk shall report the decision immediately and enter the full decision upon the minutes of the council. If the council is not meeting, the stated clerk shall report the decision to the council at its first stated or adjourned meeting or at a meeting called to hear the decision, whichever comes first, and enter the full decision upon the minutes of the council.

CHAPTER VI

REMEDIAL APPEALS

D-6.01 Filing an Appeal

D-6.0101 Definition

An appeal of a remedial case is the transfer to the next higher council of a case in which a decision has been rendered in a lower council, for the purpose of obtaining a review of the proceedings and a decision to correct, modify, set aside, or reverse the decision.

D-6.0102 Initiation of Appeal

Only the parties to an original complaint (one or more of the complainants or the respondent(s)) may appeal a ruling of a permanent judicial commission.

a. The ruling must be the permanent judicial commission's final order disposing of the complaint, whether that order is a dismissal in accordance with D-4.0702b, or a written decision in accordance with D-5.09.

b. The parties in a remedial appeal are the appellant or appellants, and the appellee or appellees.

D-6.02 Notice of Appeal

D-6.0201 Notice Filed

A written notice of appeal shall be filed with the stated clerk of the next higher council within forty-five (45) days after a copy of the final order was received by the appealing party. The written notice may be delivered by means of electronic communication, provided that the stated clerk certifies receipt of the notice, which may also be communicated electronically. If filing the notice electronically, care should be taken to deliver the notice in a manner that can clearly demonstrate timely filing. By written agreement of the parties, all additional filings may be electronic. The appealing party shall provide a copy of the written notice of appeal to the stated clerk of the council whose permanent judicial commission issued the ruling, as well as to the stated clerk of the council that would hear the appeal, who shall distribute the notice to the other party or parties.

D-6.0202 Items to be Included

The items to be included in a notice of appeal are as follows:

- a. The name of the party filing the appeal (the appellant or appellants) and their counsel, if any;
- b. The name of the other party (the appellee or appellees) and their counsel, if any;
- c. The council from whose decision the appeal is taken;
- d. A copy of the ruling;
- e. A statement and description of the errors alleged to have been made in the ruling that are the grounds for the appeal. The grounds for which an appeal may be filed are:
 - (1) Irregularity in the proceedings;
 - (2) Refusing a party reasonable opportunity to be heard or to obtain or present evidence;
 - (3) Receiving improper, or declining to receive proper, evidence or testimony;
 - (4) Hastening to a decision before the evidence or testimony is fully received;
 - (5) Manifestation of prejudice in the conduct of the case;
 - (6) Injustice in the process or decision; and
 - (7) Error in constitutional interpretation.
- f. A certification that a copy of the notice of appeal is being sent as required by D-6.0201 to the stated clerk of the council from whose decision the appeal is taken, which may be in the form of an electronic communication if agreed upon in advance by the parties.

D-6.03 Duty of Stated Clerk

Upon receipt of the written notice of appeal, the stated clerk of the council that will hear the appeal shall transmit it to the officers of that council's permanent judicial commission and the other party.

D-6.04 Effect of Appeal

D-6.0401 If No Stay of Enforcement

The filing of a notice of appeal shall not suspend any action of a council taken to implement the ruling being appealed unless a stay of enforcement was obtained with the original complaint, or one is obtained as described in the next paragraph, in which case the implementation of the ruling being appealed is stayed until the appeal is finally disposed of.

D-6.0402 Seeking Stay of Enforcement

If no stay of enforcement was in place when the ruling being appealed was rendered, one may be requested by means of a request filed along with the notice of appeal in any of the methods described in D-4.04, and processed as described in D-4.05 or D-4.06.

D-6.05 Withdrawal of Appeal

The parties in a remedial appeal are encouraged to seek resolution of their differences in a manner acceptable to all parties and consistent with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If at any time in the appeal process the parties to a remedial appeal jointly file with the stated clerk of the council hearing the appeal a petition for the withdrawal of the appeal, the stated clerk shall inform the members of the permanent judicial commission that the appeal has been withdrawn, which shall end the judicial process unless within seven (7) days any member of the permanent judicial commission challenges the withdrawal. If the withdrawal is so challenged, a majority of the commission at a duly constituted meeting may conclude that the withdrawal would defeat the ends of justice or conflict with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and deny the request.

D-6.06 Preliminary Process

D-6.0601 Examination of Notice of Appeal

Upon receiving the notice of appeal, the moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission of the council that will hear the appeal shall promptly examine the notice of appeal to determine whether:

- a. The council has jurisdiction;
- b. The appellant has standing to file the appeal;
- c. The appeal was timely and properly filed; and
- d. The appeal states and describes one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in D-6.0201d.

D-6.0602 Preliminary Ruling

The officers of the permanent judicial commission shall report their determinations to the parties and to the members of the commission in a preliminary ruling.

D-6.0603 Challenge to Preliminary Ruling

Within thirty (30) days after their receipt of the preliminary ruling, the parties and members of the permanent judicial commission may challenge the determination, in which case opportunity shall be provided for the parties to present evidence and argument on the determination(s) in question. A hearing may be requested either by a party or by a member of the permanent judicial commission for the purpose of hearing the challenge, or if all parties agree, the matter may be decided by the permanent judicial commission on the basis of documents submitted by the parties. If a hearing is requested, it should be held at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing on the appeal, unless the officers of the permanent judicial commission determine that the

circumstances, including expenditures of time and resources, warrant disposition of the challenge immediately prior to the hearing on the appeal. If the permanent judicial commission determines the answer to any of the four preliminary questions has been answered in the negative, the commission shall dismiss the appeal.

D-6.0604 When No Challenge is Received

When there are no challenges to the determination in the preliminary ruling, the following shall apply:

a. If no challenge is made to the determinations of the officers that one or more of the requirements in D-6.0701 are answered in the negative, the case shall be dismissed without further action or order of the permanent judicial commission.

b. If no challenge is made to the determinations of the officers that all of the points in D-6.0601 are answered in the affirmative, the stated clerk of the council shall schedule a hearing at a time acceptable to the parties and at which a quorum of the permanent judicial commission can be present.

D-6.0701 List of Papers

Within forty-five (45) days after receipt of a notice of appeal, the stated clerk of the lower council shall list in writing to the parties all of the papers and other materials that would constitute the record of the case (see D-5.1001d & e). Within fifteen (15) days thereafter, either party may challenge the completeness or accuracy of the record as listed by the stated clerk. The stated clerk may, but is not required, to amend the list at the request of a party; however, any such challenge shall be added to the record when it is filed.

D-6.0702 Filing of Record on Appeal

Upon notice by the stated clerk of the council whose permanent judicial commission will hear the appeal that the case has been accepted, the stated clerk of the council from which the appeal is taken shall compile and file the record of the case with the stated clerk of the higher council, who shall distribute it to the members of the permanent judicial commission.

D-6.0703 Correction of the Record

If anything material to either party is omitted from the record by error or accident, or is misstated therein, the omission or misstatement may be corrected. The parties may stipulate to the correction, or the stated clerk of the lower council may certify and transmit a supplemental record, or the permanent judicial commission of the higher council may direct that the omission or misstatement be corrected. All other questions as to the form and content of the record shall be presented to the permanent judicial commission of the higher council, which shall be decided by majority vote at a duly constituted meeting at least forty-five (45) days prior to the hearing on the appeal, which may be held electronically in accordance with G-3.0105.

D-6.08 Briefs

D-6.0801 Filing of Appellant Brief

Within thirty (30) days after the date of receiving the record on appeal, the appellant shall file with the stated clerk of the higher council a written brief containing specifications of the errors alleged in the notice of appeal and arguments, reasons, and citations of authorities in support of the appellant's contentions. Copies of the brief shall be distributed by the stated clerk to the members of the permanent judicial commission and to the other party.

D-6.0802 Failure of Appellant to File Brief

Failure of the appellant to file a brief within the timeline allowed, without good cause, shall be deemed by the permanent judicial commission as an abandonment of the appeal.

D-6.0803 Filing of Appellee Brief

When an appellant files a brief, the appellee can respond as follows:

a. Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the appellant's brief, the appellee shall file with the stated clerk of the council whose permanent judicial commission will hear the appeal a brief in response to the appellant's brief.

b. In its brief, an appellee may raise additional issues related to the decision being appealed. Copies of the brief shall be distributed by the stated clerk to the members of the permanent judicial commission and to the other party.

D-6.0804 Failure of Appellee to File Brief

Failure of the appellee to file a brief within the time allowed, without good cause, shall constitute waiver of the rights to file a brief, to appear, and to be heard.

D-6.0805 Appellant Supplemental Brief

If additional issues are raised by the appellee, then the appellant may file within thirty (30) days a supplemental brief in response to those issues, in the same manner as its original brief was filed. Copies of the supplemental brief shall be distributed by the stated clerk to the members of the permanent judicial commission and to the other party or parties.

D-6.09 Extensions

For good cause shown, the stated clerk of the higher council may extend any of the time limits contained in D-6.07 or D-6.08 for a reasonable period.

D-6.10 Transmittal of Record and Briefs

Upon receipt of the record and the briefs, or upon the expiration of the time for filing them, the stated clerk of the council hearing the appeal shall transmit the record and briefs to the clerk of the permanent judicial commission.

D-6.11 Prehearing Conference

At any time after an appeal has been received by a permanent judicial commission, the commission may determine or may provide by rule for the parties or their counsel, if any, in a prehearing conference, to seek agreement on any of the disputed issues in the appeal, and to take

other action which might reasonably and impartially narrow the dispute and expedite its resolution. Such conference may also result in a settlement agreement including a request for withdrawal of the appeal, which is then processed in accordance with D-6.05.

The moderator or clerk of the permanent judicial commission shall notify the parties of the date when they may appear in person or by counsel before the permanent judicial commission to present the appeal. Failure of a party to appear in person or by counsel shall constitute a waiver of participation in the hearing of the appeal. At the hearing, the permanent judicial commission shall give opportunity to be heard on the grounds of the appeal to those parties who have not waived that right. The appellant has the right of opening and closing the argument.

D-6.13 Decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission

D-6.1301 Standard of Review

Factual determinations by the permanent judicial commission that tried the case shall be accorded a presumption of correctness in appeals. Factual determinations are not to be disturbed unless they are plainly wrong, without supporting evidence, or manifestly unjust. Determinations related to the correct interpretation and application of provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are not accorded the same presumption of correctness.

D-6.1302 Voting Procedure

After the hearing and after private deliberation, the permanent judicial commission shall vote separately on each specification of error alleged. The vote, which shall be by counted vote, shall be on the question, "Shall the specification of error be sustained?" The minutes shall record the vote on each specification of error. A majority vote sustains each specification of error.

D-6.1303 Decision

The decision of the permanent judicial commission shall include the determination of errors specified, and state the remedy as provided in D-6.0101. The permanent judicial commission may prepare its decision in a manner that will dispose of all substantive questions without redundancy. It should include an explanation of its determinations.

a. Decisions of permanent judicial commissions other than the General Assembly's Permanent Judicial Commission are binding only on the parties to the case.

b. If none of the specifications of error is sustained, and no other error is found, the decision of the lower council shall be affirmed.

c. If one or more errors are found, the permanent judicial commission may conclude that despite the errors found, the decision of the lower council is affirmed. Alternatively, it may reverse the decision of the lower council either completely or in part, and if reversed in part, it may determine whether the decision of the lower council shall be modified or set aside, or the case remanded for a new trial.

d. The questions presented for decision shall be fully debated and voted upon while all participating permanent judicial commission members are present. A written outline of a decision shall be prepared while in session. A written decision shall be reviewed by all participating members of the panel, which may take place either while the participating commission members

are present or by meeting within ten (10) days either in person, or electronically in accordance with G-3.0105.

e. The decision shall become the final decision when a copy of the written decision is signed by the moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission. A copy of the decision shall immediately be delivered to the parties to the case in accordance with D-4.0103b, or electronic communication if agreed upon in advance by the parties.

CHAPTER VII

DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

D-7.01 Disciplinary Process

D-7.0101 Purpose

The disciplinary process provides for the accountability of individuals to the church. When it is alleged that trust is broken by an individual, it is important to restore that trust within the community of faith. Church discipline is not punishment; rather, it is the exercise of authority given by Christ, both to guide, control, and nurture the church's members and for the correction and restraint of wrongdoing. The purpose of the discipline is to honor God by making clear the significance of membership in the body of Christ, to achieve justice and compassion for all participants involved, to correct or restrain wrongdoing in order to bring members to repentance and restoration where possible, to restore peace and unity in the body of Christ, and to secure the just, speedy, and economical determination of proceedings.

D-7.0102 Initiation

The disciplinary process begins when a written statement alleging that an active member of a congregation or a minister of the Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has committed an offense is submitted to the clerk of session or stated clerk of the presbytery having jurisdiction over the member. If, after investigation by an investigating committee and trial by a session or permanent judicial commission, the offense is proved true, the person found guilty is subject to censure by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

D-7.0103 Definition of an Offense

An offense is any act or omission by a member of a congregation or a minister of the Word and Sacrament that is contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The mere act of participating in decisions ultimately made by a committee, a commission, or by a council is not an offense.

D-7.0104 Deadlines and Filings

The method of determining filing deadlines and methods of filing are as follows:

a. Deadlines

In determining whether or not a document is timely filed, the day following the event giving rise to the time limit begins the count as day one (for example, the day following the date of the first meeting of an investigating committee, or on which a party receives a decision). All seven days of

every week are included in the count, including holidays, and the document shall be deemed timely filed if it is received by the person or persons to whom it is required to be sent on or before the final day of the count. When the final date of the count falls on a weekend or holiday, the document shall be deemed timely filed if it is received on the next business day after the final day of the count.

b. Methods of Filing

Any document required to be filed may be sent or delivered by United States Postal Service certified mail, return receipt requested; commercial courier, with delivery receipt requested; personal delivery; or electronically when so permitted in these rules.

D-7.02 Filing an Allegation

D-7.0201 Allegation

For filing an allegation in a disciplinary matter, the following applies:

a. Time Limit

No written allegation shall be filed later than five years from the time the alleged offense was discovered except in cases of sexual abuse of another person as defined in D-7.0901, in which case the five-year time limit shall not apply. There is also no time limit to file an allegation that a person who knew or reasonably should have known of the reasonable risk of sexual abuse of another as defined in D-7.0901 failed to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk.

b. Who May File

Any member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may file a written allegation against a member of a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) or a minister of the Word and Sacrament. Anyone who is not a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may request that a member file a written allegation on their behalf.

c. Contents of Allegation

The allegation shall include:

- (1) A written statement of the alleged offense or offenses; and
- (2) Facts which, if proved true, would likely result in censure.

d. Submitting an Allegation

An allegation shall be submitted in writing to the clerk of session or stated clerk of the council with jurisdiction over the individual who is accused.

(1) If the allegation is against a member of a congregation not serving as a commissioned pastor at the time of the alleged offense, the allegation shall be sent to the clerk of session with jurisdiction over the accused member.

(2) If the allegation is against a minister member of a presbytery or a commissioned pastor in a validated ministry at the time of the alleged offense, the allegation

shall be sent to the stated clerk of the presbytery with jurisdiction over the accused member of the presbytery or commissioned pastor.

e. Members Receiving Allegations from Any Source

Members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who receive an allegation from any source against a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) should file a written allegation with the clerk of session or stated clerk of the council with jurisdiction over the individual who is accused. Clerks of session and stated clerks who receive a written statement of offense from a non-member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) that contains sufficient information to allow an investigation and to suggest that an offense has been committed, should file a written allegation on behalf of the non-member. In this case they shall not be considered to be disqualified from continuing to serve in their role as the clerk of session or stated clerk. Councils may provide by rule for who shall fulfill the role of the “accuser” in such cases.

f. Self-Accusation

A member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may self-accuse by filing an allegation with the clerk of session or stated clerk of the council with jurisdiction over the individual member.

D-7.0202 Initiating a Request for Vindication

A member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) who feels injured by a rumor or gossip which is from an unidentified source or is from a source not accountable to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may request an investigation for the purpose of vindication. Requests for vindication should not be used for matters that can be resolved by filing an allegation.

a. A member requesting vindication shall submit a written statement of the rumor or gossip to the clerk or stated clerk of the council with jurisdiction over the member.

b. The council shall appoint an investigating committee in accordance with its rule as defined in D-7.0501a.

c. The investigating committee shall conduct an inquiry to ascertain the facts and circumstances and shall:

(1) Report its determinations in writing to the council within one year of its first meeting. The council will include the written report in its minutes and that will conclude the matter,

(2) File charges as described in D-7.15 with the session or permanent judicial commission against the individual who initiated the investigation if the investigating committee finds that a comparison and consideration of all the evidence compels an abiding conviction that the material facts necessary to prove the charge are true that the individual has committed an offense contrary to Scripture or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or

(3) Determine that one or more other individuals who are members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may have committed an offense, and file one or more written allegations against those individuals with appropriate clerks of session or stated clerks.

D-7.03 Jurisdiction

D-7.0301 Primary Jurisdiction

Each council is responsible for the discipline of its members and has primary jurisdiction over any allegation against one of its members including any trial, except as provided in D-7.0201d(2).

D-7.0302 Exceptions to Primary Jurisdiction

Exceptions to Primary Jurisdiction as described in D-7.0301 are as follows:

- a. Ruling elders commissioned to service by presbyteries are accountable as provided in D-7.0201.
- b. When ministers of the Word and Sacrament are engaged in work or reside within the geographic bounds of a presbytery other than the presbytery of membership, the presbytery of membership may request the presbytery within whose bounds the member works to investigate any allegation and file a report of the investigation with the stated clerk of the presbytery of membership and cooperate with the presbytery of membership in any disciplinary inquiry, alternative resolution, or trial. If the councils involved appoint a joint investigating committee, the expenses of that committee shall be shared. Jurisdiction for trial remains with the council of membership.
- c. If an allegation involves events that originated within a council other than the council with jurisdiction over the individual who is accused, the clerk of session or stated clerk of the council of jurisdiction shall report to the clerk of session or stated clerk of the other council or councils if charges are filed, and of the outcome of any trial.
- d. If the council of jurisdiction fails to act in a particular case for a period of sixty (60) days after the filing of charges in a disciplinary case, the next higher council, on the request of any party, may assume jurisdiction in the case. It may either issue specific instructions to the lower council as to its disposition or conclude the matter itself.
- e. Jurisdiction in a disciplinary process ends when a church member or a minister of the Word and Sacrament against whom an allegation has been filed renounces the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in accordance with G-2.0407 or G-2.0509. In this case, the clerk of session or stated clerk of the presbytery shall report to the council both the renunciation and the status of the matter at that time, including the name of the accused, the date and fact of renunciation during an investigation or trial, and the charges, if filed. If no charges have been filed, the report shall include the nature of the alleged offense.
 - (1) A person alleged to have been harmed may make the request for a pastoral inquiry in accordance with G-3.0109b(6) at any time to the clerk of session or stated clerk, and it shall be brought to the council for consideration. In the interest of continuity, the council by its rules may appoint members of a former investigating committee to the membership of any subsequent committee or commission appointed to make inquiry into the matter.
 - (2) If an accused has died or is no longer under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the investigating or prosecuting committee shall ask the

accuser, and if reasonably possible, those alleged to have been harmed, if they request the council to continue a pastoral inquiry under the provision in G-3.0109b(6) or to undertake a separate pastoral inquiry for other offense(s). If they choose to make that request, or if the investigating or prosecuting committee deems it necessary, the investigating or prosecuting committee shall communicate it to the clerk of session or stated clerk, who shall bring the matter before the council for consideration. Any information collected in the course of such a pastoral inquiry shall be retained by the council and shall be made available as evidence if at some point the circumstances related to D-7.1501c apply.

f. A minister of the Word and Sacrament transferred from one presbytery to another presbytery shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the first until received by the second. A minister of the Word and Sacrament transferred by the presbytery to another denomination shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the presbytery until received by the new denomination.

g. When a congregation is dissolved, the presbytery shall determine any case of discipline begun by the session and not concluded.

D-7.04 Reference

D-7.0401 Definition of Reference

A reference in a disciplinary process is a written request, made by a session or a permanent judicial commission of a presbytery or synod to the permanent judicial commission of the next higher council to assume jurisdiction of the case, for:

- a. Investigation of an alleged offense and all subsequent proceedings (D-7.05 and following),
- b. Proceedings subsequent to the filing of charges (D-7.15 and following), or
- c. A hearing on the appeal of a disciplinary case from a lower council.

D-7.0402 Duty of Lower Council

With its written request for reference to a higher council, the lower council shall specify its reasons for the request and transmit the entire record of proceedings in the case and shall take no further action thereon, unless the higher council's permanent judicial commission returns the matter as provided in D-7.0404b. If the reference is accepted, all proceedings, including the trial or hearing on appeal, shall thereafter be held in the higher council.

D-7.0403 Duty of Higher Council

Upon receipt of a request for reference, the stated clerk of the higher council shall transmit the request to the permanent judicial commission for a decision whether or not to accept the case.

D-7.0404 Action on Request

In taking action on a request for reference, a permanent judicial commission may take either of the following actions:

a. If the permanent judicial commission decides to accept the reference, it shall instruct the stated clerk to proceed with the appointment of an investigating committee, if needed. The permanent judicial commission shall conduct the trial or hearing on appeal.

b. The higher council's permanent judicial commission may decline to accept the case for reference and return it to the lower council, stating its reasons. The session or permanent judicial commission of the lower council shall conduct the investigation, trial, or hearing on appeal and proceed to a decision.

c. While a request for reference is pending, and until the higher council acts to accept or decline to accept the reference for the case, any pending deadlines or periods of time for action by a council, a party, or an investigating committee shall be suspended.

D-7.05 Investigation

D-7.0501 Referral to Investigating Committee

When a clerk of session or the stated clerk of a presbytery receives an allegation, without undertaking further inquiry, that clerk shall then report to the council only that an offense has been alleged without naming the accused or the nature of the alleged offense and refer the statement of allegation promptly to an investigating committee, which shall conduct an inquiry as defined below. The clerk of session or stated clerk shall also inform the accuser of the disciplinary process and their rights and responsibilities in the process.

a. Sessions may and councils above the session shall provide by rule for the appointment of an investigating committee.

b. If a session is notified of the receipt of an allegation, it shall determine whether to proceed with an investigation or request a reference to the presbytery (D-7.04).

c. When an allegation is received by a clerk of session or a stated clerk other than the one of the council having jurisdiction over the member, it shall be the duty of the clerk of that session or the stated clerk of that presbytery to submit the written statement of allegation to the clerk of session or the stated clerk of the presbytery having jurisdiction over the member. The involved councils shall proceed in accordance with D-7.0301c.

D-7.0502 Transfer of Membership

A session shall not grant a transfer of membership to a member, nor shall a presbytery grant transfer of membership to a minister of the Word and Sacrament, while an inquiry or charges are pending. The reasons for not granting transfer of membership may be communicated by the clerk of session or the stated clerk of the presbytery to the appropriate persons.

D-7.06 Membership of the Investigating Committee

An investigating committee shall have no more than five but no fewer than three members, and may include members from another council. Sessions shall not appoint elders currently on the session to an investigating committee. All members of an investigating committee shall be members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

D-7.07 Expenses of the Investigating Committee

The expenses of an investigating committee shall be paid by the council which designates it. In cases where the investigation is shared in accordance with D-7.0301c, expenses shall be shared.

D-7.08 Assisting Roles

The following persons may assist in the disciplinary process as described in this section.

D-7.0801 Counsel

Where counsel is referred to in this section, counsel need not be a paid representative or an attorney. Counsel shall be a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). No member of a permanent judicial commission shall appear as counsel before that commission while a member of that commission.

D-7.0802 Advocate

The role of advocate is to provide support, consultation, and pastoral care for the accuser, those alleged to be harmed, or those accused. Advocates need not be members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

D-7.0803 Mediator

Mediators, if utilized, should be persons known for calm, wise counsel, qualification of diverse cultural competence, and need not be attorneys or certified mediators. Mediators need not be members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); however, they should be familiar with Section D of the *Book of Order*. Presbyteries may identify in advance potential mediators. Any fees for mediation shall be negotiated in advance and paid for by the council of jurisdiction.

D-7.09 Allegations of Sexual Abuse

D-7.0901 Definition

Sexual abuse is any offense involving sexual conduct in relation to any person under the age of eighteen years or anyone without the capacity to consent, or any person when the conduct includes force, threat, coercion, intimidation, or misuse of ordered ministry or position. Sexual abuse is contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and is therefore always an offense for the purpose of discipline.

D-7.0902 Administrative Leave

In dealing with an allegation against a minister of the Word and Sacrament, the following considerations regarding administrative leave or other restrictions apply:

a. When an allegation of sexual abuse as defined in D-7.0901 has been received against a minister of the Word and Sacrament, the stated clerk receiving the allegation shall immediately communicate the allegation to the three members designated in accordance with D-3.0102.

b. Regardless of the employment status of the minister of the Word and Sacrament, the members designated in accordance with D-3.0102, shall determine as quickly as possible, after reviewing the written allegations and providing the accused the opportunity to be heard, whether

the risk to a congregation and/or to other potential victims of abuse requires administrative leave or other restrictions upon the minister's service, when considered in light of the nature and probable truth of the allegations. Such administrative leave or restrictions will continue until either the matter is resolved in one of the ways prescribed in the disciplinary process or until the leave or restrictions are altered or removed by the members of the commission.

D-7.0903 Effect of Administrative Leave

While administrative leave is in effect, the minister of the Word and Sacrament shall not perform any pastoral, administrative, educational, or supervisory duties, and shall not officiate at any functions such as the administration of Sacraments, funerals, or weddings. The effect of administrative leave for a minister of the Word and Sacrament in a validated ministry beyond the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the suspension of the validation of the ministry until the matter is resolved, which shall be communicated to the employer by the stated clerk of the presbytery.

D-7.0904 If Leave is Not Required

If the members of the permanent judicial commission designated in accordance with D-3.0102 determine that no administrative leave or restriction is required, the investigating committee appointed to investigate the allegations shall be free at any point in its investigation to present additional evidence to the designated members supporting the imposition of administrative leave or other restrictions.

D-7.0905 Presbytery Policies on Administrative Leave

Nothing in this section shall preclude a presbytery from establishing its own rules for administrative leave or other restrictions on a minister's service.

D-7.10 Rights and Responsibilities of the Persons in a Disciplinary Process

D-7.1001 Rights of the Accuser

The investigating committee shall inform the person submitting the allegation of the following rights:

- a. The right to be treated with fairness and respect.
- b. The right to be accompanied by an advocate whenever asked to meet with the investigating committee, the prosecuting committee, and the session or permanent judicial commission. The role of the advocate is to provide support and pastoral care. The advocate shall not be permitted to address the committees, session or permanent judicial commission on behalf of the accuser.
- c. If charges are filed, the right to reasonable and timely notice of, and to be present at, all public proceedings related to the charges, unless the prosecuting committee determines that testimony by the accuser would be materially affected if they heard other testimony at trial.

D-7.1002 Rights of Those Alleged to Have Been Harmed

When it is possible to do so while also maintaining appropriate confidentiality, the investigating committee shall notify individuals named in the allegation who are alleged to have been harmed by the offense of the following rights:

- a. The right to be treated with fairness and respect.
- b. The right to be accompanied by an advocate whenever asked to meet with the investigating committee, the prosecuting committee, and the session or permanent judicial commission. The role of the advocate is to provide support and pastoral care. The advocate shall not be permitted to address the committees, session or permanent judicial commission on behalf of those alleged to have been harmed.
- c. If charges are filed, the right to reasonable and timely notice of, and to be present at, all public proceedings related to the charges, unless the prosecuting committee determines that testimony by those alleged to have been harmed would be materially affected if they heard other testimony at trial.

D-7.1003 Rights of the Accused

At the beginning of each and every conference with an investigating committee, the prosecuting committee, and the session or permanent judicial commission, the person against whom an allegation has been made shall be informed by the investigating committee of the following rights:

- a. The right to remain silent throughout the entire disciplinary process,
- b. The right to be treated with fairness and respect.
- c. During the investigation, the right to be represented by counsel at their own expense and to be accompanied by an advocate. The role of the advocate is to provide support and pastoral care. The advocate, if not also counsel, shall not be permitted to address the committee, session, or permanent judicial commission.
- d. If charges are later filed, the right to reasonable and timely notice of, and to be present at, all public proceedings related to the charges, to be represented by counsel (D-7.0104), and to have counsel appointed if unable to afford counsel.

D-7.1004 Responsibilities of All Participants

All participants in an investigation have the responsibility to work cooperatively in the investigation. This includes, but is not limited to, the preservation of records which may be pertinent, and maintaining appropriate confidentiality throughout the process (see D-7.1003).

D-7.11 Investigating Process

D-7.1101 Preliminary Review

The investigating committee shall hold its first meeting within sixty days of its appointment to review the allegation and determine whether it alleges any facts that, if true, constitute an offense, as defined in D-7.0103.

a. If no offense is alleged, the investigating committee shall report this fact to the clerk of session or stated clerk of the council and shall end its inquiry.

b. If the investigating committee determines that the allegation repeats allegations previously made against the accused, it shall report to the clerk of the council that it will not file charges unless the allegation contains new information warranting investigation or is the subject of an investigation that has not been concluded, and shall end its inquiry.

c. The clerk shall communicate the decision not to move to an investigation to the person who filed the allegation and to the person against whom the allegation was filed.

d. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the report, the person who submitted the allegation may petition the session or permanent judicial commission for a review of the decision of the investigating committee not to file charges (D-7.1402).

D-7.1102 Notification to Participants

If the investigating committee determines that an offense as defined in D-7.0103 is alleged, the investigating committee shall, as quickly as it is practical,

a. Notify the accused in writing of:

(1) The date of the investigating committee's first meeting, which begins the one-year timeline for filing charges (D-7.1501);

(2) The reason for the investigation, including a copy of the statement of alleged offense, excluding the name of the accuser at the discretion of the investigating committee;

(3) The confidentiality of the investigating process; and

(4) The rights and responsibilities of the accused defined in D-7.1003 and D-7.1004.

b. Notify the person making the allegation in writing of:

(1) The date of the investigating committee's first meeting which begins the one-year timeline for filing charges (D-7.1501);

(2) The confidentiality of the investigating process;

(3) The rights and responsibilities of the accuser and of those alleged to have been harmed, if known, as defined in D-7.1001, D-7.1002, and D-7.1004; and

(4) The investigating committee's commitment to keep the person making the allegation informed as the investigation proceeds including, whenever possible, if charges will be filed.

D-7.1103 Conduct of Investigation

The investigating committee shall make a thorough inquiry into the facts and circumstances of the alleged offense. The investigation is presumed to be confidential. Information is shared only

on a need to know basis as determined by the investigating committee in consultation with the clerk or stated clerk of the council. In the event that information is shared, it shall be stated that the accused is presumed innocent. The investigating committee shall keep the clerk or stated clerk of the council informed of its progress in the process.

The investigating committee shall:

- a. Examine all relevant papers, documents, and records available to it;
- b. Ascertain all available witnesses who have knowledge of the alleged offense and inquire of them;
- c. Determine, in accordance with G-3.0102 and D-7.0103, whether there are reasonable grounds to believe that an offense was committed by the accused;
- d. Decide whether the offense alleged can be proved so that the comparison and consideration of all the evidence compels an abiding conviction that the material facts necessary to prove the charge are true.
- e. Report to the council having jurisdiction over the accused, or in the case of a joint investigation, report to both councils, only whether or not the investigating committee will file charges;
- f. If charges are to be filed, prepare them in accordance with the procedures described in D-7.1503 and designate one or more of its members to prosecute the case; and
- g. Determine if alternate resolution to a trial on the charges should be pursued (see D-7.16).

D- 7.1104 Request for Reference

If within sixty (60) days of its first meeting the investigating committee determines that it is unable for any reason to conduct a thorough and fair investigation, it may ask the council to request a reference in accordance with D-7.04.

D-7.12 Review of Investigating Procedures

At any time during the course of the investigation, the person against whom an allegation has been made may petition the session or permanent judicial commission to review procedures of the investigating committee.

D-7.1201 Subject of Review

The subject of such a petition for review shall be limited to whether the committee has followed the procedures required by D-7.1003, whether the committee has followed a proper trail of evidence, whether the evidence being considered is properly in the hands of the investigating committee, and whether the committee has examined relevant evidence proposed by the accused.

D-7.1202 Conduct of Review

The review shall be conducted by the three members designated in accordance with D-3.0102. The review may include a hearing at the discretion of the three designated members at which the investigating committee and the accused may appear. The review shall be completed within forty-five (45) days of the filing of the petition, and the decisions shall be communicated to the investigating committee, the accused, the moderator and the clerk of the permanent judicial commission, and the clerk of the council.

D-7.13 Investigating Committee Conclusion

The investigating committee may determine:

- Not to file charges (D-7.14),
- To file charges and proceed to trial (D-7.15), or
- To file charges together with an alternative resolution (D-7.16).

D-7.14 If Charges Are Not Filed

D-7.1401 Written Report

If no charges are filed, the investigating committee shall file a written report of that fact alone with the clerk of session or stated clerk of the presbytery. The clerk of session or stated clerk of the presbytery shall notify the person who submitted the allegation and the accused that charges will not be filed.

D-7.1402 Review of Decision

Review of a decision not to file charges shall proceed as follows:

- a. Within thirty (30) days of receipt of the report, the person who submitted the allegation may petition the session or permanent judicial commission to review the decision of the investigating committee not to file charges.
- b. The petition shall allege those instances in which the investigating committee has not fulfilled the duties specified in D-7.10.
- c. The investigating committee shall submit a written response to the facts alleged in the petition within thirty (30) days.
- d. The members of the permanent judicial commission designated in accordance with D-3.0102 shall consider the petition and the response, giving attention to the duties specified in D-7.10 and to the question of whether the purposes of the disciplinary process will be preserved by the decision of the investigating committee not to file charges. The decision of the designated members of the permanent judicial commission upon the petition and response shall be rendered within ninety (90) days.
- e. If the designated members sustain the petition, a new investigating committee shall be appointed by the session or presbytery. The new investigating committee shall have until the original deadline or until six (6) months from its first meeting, whichever is later, to determine whether to file charges.

f. If the designated members do not sustain the petition, or if a second investigating committee determines not to file charges, the disciplinary process is concluded. The investigating committee's records shall be preserved in accordance with session or presbytery policy for a minimum of ten years.

D-7.15 If Charges Are Filed

D-7.1501 Time Limits for Filing Charges

Once a written allegation has been submitted, no charges shall be filed later than one year from the date of the investigating committee's first meeting, except as noted below.

a. In those instances where secular proceedings against the accused pertinent to the subject of the investigation have commenced, the investigating committee may request of its session or permanent judicial commission and may receive an extension of its time for filing charges of up to six months from the conclusion of any investigation or resulting trial undertaken by the civil authorities. The clerk of session or stated clerk of the council shall maintain contact with civil authorities to determine when such secular proceedings have concluded.

b. For instances of sexual abuse of another person as defined in D-7.0901 the five-year time limit for filing an allegation shall not apply. There is also no time limit for alleging that a person who knew or reasonably should have known of the reasonable risk of sexual abuse of another as defined in D-7.0901 failed to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk. Charges in these instances may be brought regardless of the date on which an offense is alleged to have occurred.

c. When a former minister of the Word and Sacrament or a former active member of a congregation again becomes an active member of a congregation (G-1.0402) or a member of a presbytery (G-2.0502, G-2.0503) after having renounced jurisdiction while in the disciplinary process, allegations shall be brought forward again. The process would then begin anew with the one-year time limit in effect. The time limit begins on the date when the stated clerk or clerk of session becomes aware that the renounced member has rejoined the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If charges had been filed at the time of renunciation, the prosecuting committee shall have at least six months to proceed forward before trial. If a new prosecuting committee must be formed, it shall have at least nine months to proceed forward before trial. The accused shall not serve in an ordered ministry of the church while an investigation or trial is pending.

D-7.1502 Duties of the Investigating Committee

If the investigating committee decides to file charges, it shall:

- a. Inform the accused in writing that charges will be filed, and list each charge separately;
- b. Include a summary of the facts it expects to prove at trial to support the charges; and
- c. Designate one or more of its members to serve as the prosecuting committee. The prosecuting committee shall prosecute the case and represent the church during any appeals. The prosecuting committee may include additional members at the council's discretion.

D-7.1503 Charges

Each charge shall state only one offense.

a. An offense is any act or omission by a member of a congregation or a minister of the Word and Sacrament that is contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as defined in D-7.0103.

b. Each charge shall state the specific provision or provisions of Scripture and/or the Constitution that have been violated.

c. Each charge shall be numbered, and state (as far as possible) the time, place and circumstances of the commission of the offense. Multiple occurrences of the same offense may be consolidated in one charge.

d. Each charge shall be accompanied by a summary of the facts expected to be proved at trial.

e. The investigating committee shall file the charges with the clerk of session or the stated clerk of the presbytery.

(1) If the charges are filed with the clerk of session, upon its receipt, the clerk shall present the charges to the session at its next meeting and determine whether it will try the case or request a reference to the presbytery (D-7.04).

(2) If the charges are filed with the stated clerk of the presbytery, the stated clerk shall immediately forward the charges to the permanent judicial commission.

D-7.16 Alternative Resolution

D-7.1601 Initiation of Alternative Resolution

If it deems appropriate, the investigating committee may initiate alternative resolution after the investigation has been completed and the charges have been drafted, but before the charges have been filed.

The investigating committee shall report any agreement for alternative resolution to the session or permanent judicial commission for its approval together with the charges to be filed. The outcome of any alternative resolution shall be a signed agreement between the accused and the investigating committee, to be filed together with the charges with the session or the permanent judicial commission. Terms of an alternative resolution shall be agreed upon and submitted within the one-year time limit for filing charges, except as provided in D-7.1603 for Restorative Justice. By mutual agreement the investigating committee and the accused may petition the permanent judicial commission for an extension of the deadline to file charges of up to 60 days while efforts at alternative resolution are being pursued.

Should efforts at alternative resolution fail, or the agreement is not accepted by the session or permanent judicial commission, no statements, written or oral, made at or in connection with this process, shall be admissible in evidence at a subsequent investigation or trial.

Any fees for mediation or for facilitating restorative justice processes shall be negotiated in advance and paid for by the council of jurisdiction.

D-7.1602 Forms of Alternative Resolution

Alternative resolution may take one of three forms: restorative justice, mediation, or other negotiated agreements.

D-7.1603 Restorative Justice

At the discretion of the investigating committee, in those instances where the accused will plead guilty and take responsibility for harm done, and those alleged to have been harmed are willing to find outcomes that repair damage and address the reasons for the offense, the investigating committee may initiate a process of restorative justice to bring closure to the persons involved and restoration to the community of faith.

When a process of restorative justice is initiated, an investigating committee may request of its session or permanent judicial commission one or more extensions of time to file charges to determine if justice for all can be achieved within a reasonable period.

a. The Purpose of Restorative Justice

(1) Restorative justice is a process by which both those alleged to have committed an offense and those alleged to have been harmed seek to restore the wholeness of the Body of Christ. Restorative justice may be employed prior to trial, or as part of a process of healing after an accused has been found guilty, when the guilty party has had time to accept responsibility and those harmed have had time for personal healing. Should restorative justice not be employed as an alternative resolution prior to trial, the council shall be open to the process at any time if those harmed request and are willing to engage the process.

(2) Restorative justice is not primarily about forgiveness or reconciliation. There should be no pressure on those harmed to forgive or be reconciled. The decision to forgive or be reconciled must be made by the participants at their own initiative.

b. The Practice of Restorative Justice

Restorative justice is guided by four basic questions:

- Who has been harmed?**
- What needs do they have?**
- Who shares the responsibility to address the needs, to repair the harm, and to restore relationships?**
- What is needed to restore wholeness to the community?**

The process should be facilitated by a person trained in restorative justice, and shall respect the needs and roles of each participant, including:

(1) Those who have been harmed, who have a need for real information through facilitated direct or indirect contact with offenders; the opportunity for truth-telling by sharing their stories; empowerment by having a voice in the process of justice; support for personal healing from trauma; and vindication through acts of symbolic restitution, which may include a public statement of apology by the offender and/or from the community.

(2) Offenders, who have a need for accountability that focuses on the harm done, encourages compassion, and transforms shame; support for personal healing from trauma, addictions, or other issues that may have contributed to the harmful actions; the development of personal capabilities and boundaries; encouragement and support for restoration to the community; and when necessary, temporary or permanent restrictions or removal to prevent future offenses.

(3) Communities, who have a need to attend to the harm and trauma experienced; to employ resources and opportunities to rebuild communal accountability and trust; to honor their obligation to care for their members including those harmed and offenders; to have reasonable assurance that offenders will not offend again; and to take preventative measures to protect others in the future.

D-7.1604 Mediation

In those instances where the accused will plead guilty and takes responsibility for harm done, but a process of restorative justice is not possible or appropriate, the investigating committee may initiate an alternative resolution process of mediation in the hope of achieving justice and compassion for all involved and repentance and restoration to the accused. It shall also take into consideration the broken trust in the larger community of faith, and the time and energy that will be necessary for its trust to be restored. Mediators and facilitators utilized in this process should be persons known for calm, wise counsel, and need not be attorneys or certified mediators. Anyone serving as a mediator or facilitator must be familiar with Section D of the *Book of Order*. Where harm has been done to another person, presbyteries should utilize persons who have specialized training and skills. Any mediated agreement shall include a specification of charges to which the accused will plead guilty, together with a recommendation for censure.

D-7.1605 Other Negotiated Agreements

When the interests of justice demand it, an investigating committee may submit a negotiated agreement as part of an alternative resolution. All such agreements shall include a specification of charges to which the accused will plead guilty, together with a recommendation for censure. Prior to entering into any negotiation with the accused or counsel for the accused, the investigating committee shall consult with the accuser and those alleged to have been harmed, if known, regarding reasons for a negotiated agreement. Ordinarily, negotiated agreements should not be used to resolve allegations of sexual abuse.

D-7.1606 Session or Permanent Judicial Commission Action

Upon receipt of a signed alternative resolution, the session or permanent judicial commission shall convene to:

a. Receive the agreement and the charges together with a statement of the investigating committee's rationale for adoption of the agreement;

- b. Vote to approve it by at least two-thirds of the members eligible to vote (D-3.0602);
- c. Make a record of its proceedings according to the provisions of D-8.1201d, including the name of the accused, the substance of the charge(s), and censure if any; and
- d. Transmit its decision to the clerk of session or the stated clerk, who shall report it according to the provisions of D-9.0102.
- e. If the session or permanent judicial commission does not approve the alternative resolution agreement by a two-thirds vote, the investigating committee may seek another alternative resolution to present to the session or the permanent judicial commission within the one-year deadline, or
- f. If an alternative resolution agreement is not reached, the investigating committee shall designate a prosecuting committee and the matter shall proceed on the charges filed.

CHAPTER VIII

TRIAL IN A DISCIPLINARY CASE

D-8.01 Pretrial Procedures

D-8.0101 Parties

All disciplinary cases shall be filed and prosecuted by a council through a prosecuting committee in the name of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The prosecuting committee is the representative of the church and, as such, has all of the rights of the appropriate council in the case. The only parties in a disciplinary case are the prosecuting committee and the accused.

D-8.0102 Circulation of Materials and Communication

With regard to materials pertaining to the case and communication regarding the case, the following rules apply:

a. Any materials pertaining to the case shall be filed with the clerk of session or stated clerk of the presbytery hearing the case. Parties to a disciplinary case or their counsel or any other person shall not circulate or cause to be circulated directly to the members of the session or permanent judicial commission any written, printed, electronic, or visual materials of any kind upon any matter pertaining to the case before its final disposition. Notwithstanding this prohibition, the session or permanent judicial commission may request, or grant leave to file, additional materials.

b. Parties or their counsel shall not communicate with members of the session or permanent judicial commission regarding any matter related to the case unless the other party and their counsel, if any, are included.

D-8.0103 Pretrial Conference

A pretrial conference shall be scheduled, which may be held electronically in accordance with G-3.0105.

a. The session or permanent judicial commission which is to try the case shall hold a pretrial conference no later than forty-five (45) days after confirmation of the receipt of the charge(s). The moderator and clerk of the session, or their designees, or the moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission, or their designees, shall set a date, time and place for the pretrial conference, and conduct it on the session's or commission's behalf.

b. The clerk of session or the stated clerk shall notify the accused, the counsel for the accused, if any, and the prosecuting committee of the date, time and place of the pretrial conference and request their presence.

c. The accused is expected to attend the pretrial conference. If the accused is unable or unwilling to attend, the pretrial conference shall proceed regardless of the accused's absence.

d. At the pretrial conference, the moderator or the moderator's designee shall:

(1) Read aloud the Preamble to Church Discipline (D1);

(2) Inform the accused of the right to counsel and the right to remain silent throughout the process;

(3) If the accused is unable to afford counsel, the session or permanent judicial commission shall review the financial records of the accused, and if it determines that financial need exists, shall appoint counsel for the accused. Fees, if any, for this representation at the expense of the council shall be agreed upon in writing.

(4) Read the charges to the accused, and;

i. Determine with the accused and the prosecuting committee those charges that are not in dispute and discuss alternatives to a full trial;

ii. Hear any challenges to the appropriateness of charges, make recommendations to dismiss some of the charges, consolidate the charges, or permit amendments to the charges. The moderator and clerk of the session, or their designees, or the moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission, or their designees, shall refer all disputes of fact to the trial.

iii. Ask the accused to plead guilty or not guilty to each charge for the record.

(5) Furnish the accused with a description of the records and documents that may be offered to support each charge, and a list of witnesses then known and their relevance to the matter at trial; and

(6) Review any reports of petitions for review conducted in accordance with D-7.10.

(7) The session or permanent judicial commission may consult with the parties and their counsel on any other pending or anticipated pretrial motion or matter that will need to be addressed before the commencement of the trial. The session or permanent judicial commission should establish deadlines and a trial date accordingly.

All actions taken at the pretrial conference are preliminary and shall be referred to the session or permanent judicial commission for approval at trial.

D-8.0104 Between the Pretrial Conference and the Trial

In regard to actions to be taken between a pretrial conference and a trial, the following applies:

a. The moderator of the session or permanent judicial commission shall schedule a trial, to be held no sooner than sixty (60) days following the pretrial conference. If the accused pleads guilty to all charges, no trial shall be held and a censure hearing shall be held no sooner than thirty (30) days following the pretrial conference.

b. At least forty-five (45) days in advance of the trial, the prosecuting committee shall provide the clerk of session or clerk of the permanent judicial commission and the other party with their list of witnesses and an outline of the evidence to be presented at trial. The accused shall provide the clerk of session or clerk of the permanent judicial commission and the other party with a preliminary list of witnesses. Parties or their representatives shall not contact the other party's witnesses prior to the trial.

c. At any time, the session or permanent judicial commission shall be open to alternative resolution between the parties and at its sole discretion may continue the trial to allow for an alternative resolution process as described in D-7.16.

D-8.02 Conduct of Trial

D-8.0201 Trial of a Disciplinary Case

The trial of a disciplinary case shall be conducted by a session or permanent judicial commission of a presbytery.

a. The trial shall be conducted formally with full decorum in a neutral place suitable to the occasion.

b. Except for the provision of electronically received testimony contained in D-8.04, trials should be held in person. When necessary, and at the sole discretion of the session or permanent judicial commission, trials may be held electronically in accordance with G-3.0105 and provided that the technology employed allows witnesses and parties as well as members of the session or permanent judicial commission to be seen and heard clearly.

c. The accused in a disciplinary case is presumed to be innocent unless a determination of guilt is rendered by two-thirds of the session or permanent judicial commission eligible to vote (see D-3.0602).

D-8.03 Citations and Testimony

D-8.0301 Citations

Citations to appear at trial for parties or such witnesses as either party may request shall be signed by the moderator or clerk of the session or the permanent judicial commission and served by the clerk of the council. Witnesses may be either fact witnesses or expert witnesses (see D-8.0704b).

D-8.0302 Who May Be Cited

Only members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may be cited to appear. Persons who are not members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and expert witnesses (regardless of their denominational membership) can only be requested to attend.

D-8.0303 Witnesses from Another Council

When it is necessary to summon witnesses who are under the jurisdiction of another council of the church, the clerk or stated clerk of the other council shall, on the application of the session or permanent judicial commission trying the case, through the clerk of the council, issue a citation to the witnesses to appear at the place of trial and give evidence as may be required.

D-8.0304 Expenses

Any witness shall be entitled to receive from the party calling the witness reimbursement of actual expenses incurred in attendance at the trial.

D-8.0305 Service of Citation

A citation shall be delivered in accordance with D-7.0104b, or by electronic delivery acknowledged by the recipient within seven (7) days. The moderator or clerk of the session or permanent judicial commission trying the case shall keep a record of the fact and date of service or delivery. If a party or a witness who is compelled to attend (D-8.0302) fails to obey a citation to appear or having appeared, refuses without good cause to testify, and after warning continues to refuse, the party or witness shall be considered guilty of disobedience and contempt, and for such offense may be subject to disciplinary action by their council of jurisdiction.

D-8.04 Electronically Received Testimony

Witnesses may be granted permission by the session or permanent judicial commission to appear electronically if unable to attend a trial that is held in person, in accordance with the provisions of G-3.0105 and D-8.02.

D-8.05 Procedures in Trial

D-8.0501 Counsel

Each of the parties in a disciplinary case shall be entitled to appear and may be represented by counsel. Counsel need not be a paid representative or an attorney. Counsel shall be a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). No member of a permanent judicial commission shall appear as counsel before that commission while a member.

D-8.0502 Control of Conduct of Trial

The moderator of the session or permanent judicial commission shall have full authority and power to control the conduct of the trial and of all parties, witnesses, counsel, and the public, including removal of them, to the end that proper dignity and decorum shall be maintained. Rulings of the moderator related to control of the trial are subject to appeal to the full

session or permanent judicial commission by any member of the session or permanent judicial commission, which shall decide the question by majority vote.

D-8.0503 Procedural Questions

Questions as to procedure or the admissibility of evidence arising in the course of a trial shall be decided by the moderator after the parties have had an opportunity to be heard. A party or a member of the session or permanent judicial commission may appeal from the decision of the moderator to the body, which shall decide the question by majority vote.

D-8.0504 Absences

Members of a session or permanent judicial commission must be present in person at trials. The absence of any member of the session or permanent judicial commission after a trial has commenced shall be recorded. That person shall not thereafter participate in deliberation and decision in the trial.

D-8.0505 Closed Proceedings

The proceedings shall ordinarily be conducted in open session; however, at the request of any party, or on its own initiative, the session or permanent judicial commission may determine at any stage of the proceedings, by a vote of two thirds of the members present, to exclude persons other than the parties and their counsel.

D-8.0506 Loss of Quorum

Loss of a quorum shall result in a mistrial and the case shall be tried again from the beginning at a time and place to be determined by the session or permanent judicial commission.

D-8.06 Trial

D-8.0601 Announcement by the Moderator

The trial of a disciplinary case shall be opened with prayer, after which the moderator shall read aloud the Preamble to Church Discipline (D-1), shall announce that the council is about to proceed to trial, and shall enjoin the members to recollect and regard their high character as judges of a council of the Church of Jesus Christ and the solemn duties they are about to undertake.

D-8.0602 Objections of Parties

The parties or their counsel may object and be heard on the organization and jurisdiction of the session or permanent judicial commission.

a. A member of a session or permanent judicial commission is disqualified if the member is personally interested in the outcome of the case, is related by family relationship to any party, or has served as counsel for or against any party.

b. Any member of a session or permanent judicial commission may be challenged by any party for conflict of interest, and the validity of the challenge shall be determined by majority vote of the remaining members of the session or permanent judicial commission

D-8.0603 Preliminary Determinations and Objections

The session or permanent judicial commission shall place all preliminary determinations and any objections on the record and shall decide all such matters by majority vote. Any objections to the preliminary determinations and any other objections affecting the order or regularity of the proceedings shall also be made part of the record and shall be decided by majority vote. A final decision is not permissible until the session or permanent judicial commission has heard the evidence and closing arguments.

D-8.0604 Plea

The accused shall be called upon to plead “guilty” or “not guilty” to each charge. The plea shall be entered on the record. If the accused declines to answer or pleads “not guilty,” a plea of “not guilty” shall be entered on the record and the trial shall proceed. If the accused pleads “guilty” to all charges, the council shall proceed in accordance with D-8.0903 unless the parties request an opportunity to seek an alternative resolution in accordance with D-7.16.

D-8.0605 Opening Statements

The parties shall be given an opportunity to make opening statements, beginning with the prosecuting committee.

D-8.07 Evidence

D-8.0701 Definition

The parties shall be accorded the opportunity to present evidence on their behalf. Evidence, in addition to oral testimony of witnesses, may include records, writings, material objects, or other items. Evidence must be relevant to be received, and may include evidence that lays a foundation for the admissibility of other evidence. Relevant evidence is evidence that tends to prove or disprove a fact necessary to determine the outcome of a case. Laying a foundation means presenting preliminary evidence to show the authenticity and relevance of the evidence proposed. Evidence of authenticity goes to show the item is what the proponent claims it is. No distinction should be made between direct and circumstantial evidence as to the degree of proof required.

D-8.0702 Records as Evidence

Written records of a council or permanent judicial commission and authenticated records of testimony are admissible as evidence.

a. The authenticated written records of a council or permanent judicial commission shall be admissible in evidence in any proceeding.

b. An authenticated record or transcript of testimony taken by a council or permanent judicial commission shall be admissible in any proceeding in another council.

D-8.0703 Hearsay Evidence

Hearsay is a statement made outside the presence of the session or permanent judicial commission hearing the case, whether written or oral, and which is offered to prove the truth of whatever it asserts. Because of the limitations of a council’s authority to compel witnesses to testify

in a disciplinary process, as well as the limitations of resources in investigations, hearsay evidence is allowed. The session or permanent judicial commission shall determine the credibility or weight of hearsay evidence.

D-8.0704 Witnesses

With regard to witnesses, the following applies:

a. Any party may challenge whether a witness may testify, and the moderator of the session or permanent judicial commission shall determine the competence of the witness. The ruling of the moderator may be appealed by any party or a member of the session or permanent judicial commission and decided by majority vote of the session or permanent judicial commission.

b. Each witness called to testify must be competent to testify. To be received by the session or permanent judicial commission, any testimony from any witness must be relevant. An expert opinion or other testimony may be offered by any witness upon adequate proof of the qualifications of the witness as an expert in the field of such testimony and that such opinion or other testimony will assist the resolution of the case.

c. No counsel for a party involved may be compelled to testify about any confidential matter, nor may any such counsel testify concerning any matter without the express permission of the party they represent.

d. A person duly appointed by a council to provide counseling services for persons within the jurisdiction of the council shall not testify before a session or permanent judicial commission, except that the restriction may be waived by the person about whom the testimony is sought.

e. Credibility means the degree of belief that may be given to the testimony of a witness. In determining the credibility of a witness, the session or permanent judicial commission may consider any matter that bears upon the accuracy of the testimony or the truthfulness of the witness.

f. A married person, otherwise competent to testify, may be a witness for or against the spouse, but shall not be compelled to testify against the other.

g. The session or permanent judicial commission may recognize other privileges including, but not limited to therapist-patient, doctor-patient, pastor-penitent, and attorney-client privileges as a basis for not compelling the testimony of a witness.

D-8.0705 Testimony

Receiving the testimony of witnesses shall proceed as follows:

a. At the direction of the moderator or on the request of either party, no fact witness shall be present during the examination of another witness. This shall not limit the right of any party, counsel, or witness previously designated to offer only expert testimony to be present.

b. Witnesses shall be examined first by the party producing them, and then they may be cross-examined by the opposing party. The moderator may permit additional questions from the parties (including both re-examination, followed by re-cross-examination) if so requested.

Thereafter, any member of the session or permanent judicial commission may ask additional questions.

c. Prior to giving testimony, a witness shall make an oath by answering the following question in the affirmative: “Do you solemnly swear that the evidence you will give in this matter shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?”

d. If a witness objects to making an oath, the witness shall answer the following question in the affirmative: “Do you solemnly affirm that you will declare the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in the matter in which you are called to testify?”

e. The testimony of each witness shall be accurately and fully recorded by a qualified reporter or other means that can be accurately transcribed, including digital voice recording.

f. Witnesses may appear electronically if unable to attend the trial in person, in accordance with the provisions of D-8.04.

g. A member of the session or permanent judicial commission before which the case is pending may testify, but thereafter shall not otherwise participate in the case.

D-8.08 Final Statements

The parties shall be given an opportunity to make final statements, the prosecuting committee having the right of opening and closing the argument, after which the trial shall be closed with prayer.

D-8.09 Decision

D-8.0901 Deliberation

The session or permanent judicial commission shall then meet privately to deliberate. All persons not members of the session or permanent judicial commission shall be excluded.

D-8.0902 Decision on Guilt

Decisions in disciplinary cases are reached and communicated as follows:

a. After careful deliberation, the session or permanent judicial commission shall vote on each charge separately and record the vote in its minutes. Members of the session or permanent judicial commission may find that the accused is guilty when a comparison and consideration of all the evidence compels an abiding conviction that the material facts necessary to prove the charge are true. No decision of guilt may be found on a charge unless at least two-thirds of the members of the session or permanent judicial commission eligible to vote agree on the judgment (see D-3.0602).

b. A written decision stating the judgment on each charge shall be prepared while in session. It shall become the final decision when signed by the moderator and clerk of the session or the permanent judicial commission.

c. When a session or permanent judicial commission has arrived at a decision, the moderator shall, in open meeting, announce the verdict for each charge separately.

D-8.0903 Decision on Degree of Censure

If the accused is found guilty or after a guilty plea, the session or permanent judicial commission shall hear evidence within thirty (30) days of the decision as to the extent of the injury suffered, mitigation, rehabilitation, and redemption. This evidence may be offered by either party, or the original accuser or that person's representative. Each person who was directly harmed by the offense may submit a victim impact statement, which shall become part of the record. The statement shall not be subject to cross-examination. The accused may offer a plan to address the harm done and to seek reconciliation with the victim(s) and the church. The session or permanent judicial commission shall then meet privately to determine the degree of censure to be imposed. Following such determination and in an open meeting, the moderator of the session or permanent judicial commission shall then pronounce the censure.

D-8.10 Filing and Notification of Parties

D-8.1001 Filed Promptly

The decision shall be filed promptly with the clerk or stated clerk of the council.

D-8.1002 Notification of Parties

Notification of a decision shall be as follows:

a. The clerk of session or clerk of the permanent judicial commission shall deliver a copy of the decision to the parties in accordance with D-7.0104b, or by electronic communication if agreed upon in advance by the parties.

b. The moderator or clerk of the session or permanent judicial commission shall disseminate the decision as the session or permanent judicial commission may direct.

D-8.11 New Evidence Received

D-8.1101 Prior to the Filing of a Notice of Appeal

Prior to filing a notice of appeal, but without extending the time for appeal, the person found guilty may apply for a new trial on the ground of newly discovered evidence. The permanent judicial commission – when satisfied that such evidence could reasonably have resulted in a different decision and that in the exercise of reasonable diligence it could not have been produced at the time of trial – may grant such application. A notice of appeal filed while such an application is pending shall be held in abeyance until such time as the session or permanent judicial commission that conducted the trial has made its determination. The higher council shall be notified of the determination by the clerk of session or stated clerk of the lower council.

D-8.1102 Subsequent to the Filing of a Notice of Appeal

If, subsequent to the filing by a person found guilty of a notice of appeal, new evidence is discovered by the person found guilty which in the exercise of reasonable diligence could not have been discovered prior to the filing of the notice of appeal, the permanent judicial commission receiving the appeal may, in its discretion, remand the case for a new trial, in which case the appeal shall be stayed until the session or permanent judicial commission that conducted the trial reports its decision in the new trial. The application for admission of newly discovered evidence shall be

made to the permanent judicial commission at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing with copies to the other party. That application shall be accompanied by a summary of the evidence.

D-8.12 Record of Proceedings

D-8.1201 Duty of Clerk

The clerk of session or the clerk of the permanent judicial commission shall do the following:

- a. Arrange in advance for the accurate verbatim recording of all testimony and oral proceedings. This may be accomplished through a digital voice recording.
- b. Identify and maintain all exhibits offered in evidence (noting whether or not they were accepted as evidence) and keep a list of all exhibits.
- c. Record minutes of the proceedings, which shall include any actions or orders of the session or permanent judicial commission relating to the case with the vote thereon.
- d. Prepare the record of the case, which shall consist of:
 - (1) The charges;
 - (2) A record of the plea entered by the accused on each charge;
 - (3) A certified transcript, if requested;
 - (4) All properly marked exhibits, records, documents, and other papers;
 - (5) The written decision, including the verdict for each charge and the degree of censure, if any, to be imposed by the council; and
 - (6) Any actions or orders of the session or permanent judicial commission relating to the case, with the vote on each.
- e. The clerk of session shall preserve the record of the case for at least ten (10) years, and in accordance with the policy of the council for the preservation of records. The clerk of the permanent judicial commission shall, within thirty (30) days after the decision becomes final, certify and transmit the record of the case to the stated clerk of the electing presbytery, who shall preserve it for at least ten (10) years, and in accordance with the policy of the council for the preservation of records.
- f. Upon the request, and at the expense of any requesting party, the clerk of the session or the clerk of the permanent judicial commission shall cause a true and complete transcript be prepared of all the testimony and oral proceedings during the course of the trial. A copy of this transcript, when certified by the person making the same to be true and complete, shall be delivered to each party. One additional copy shall be made for inclusion in the record to be sent forward upon any appeal pursuant to D-10.0602.

D-8.1202 Additions to the Record

No person may supplement or add to the record in a case except for good cause as determined by the moderator and clerk of the session or of the permanent judicial commission responsible for conducting the trial. No request to supplement the record shall be considered until received in writing by the clerk of session or the stated clerk of council that conducted the trial, who shall transmit it to the moderator of the session or moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission. A copy of the request shall be delivered to all parties and every party shall have ten (10) days to respond in writing.

D-8.13 Enforcement

When a session or presbytery has completed the trial and found the accused guilty and the decision has been pronounced in accordance with the censure imposed in the following chapter, the session or presbytery shall proceed to enforce the decision regardless of an appeal, including supervision of any rehabilitation required in the censure, unless there has been a full or partial stay of enforcement.

CHAPTER IX

CENSURE AND RESTORATION IN A DISCIPLINARY CASE

D-9.01 Censure

D-9.0101 Degrees of Censure

The degrees of church censure are rebuke, rebuke with supervised rehabilitation, temporary exclusion from exercise of ordered ministry (for deacons, ruling elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament) or membership rights (for non-ordained church members), and removal from ordered ministry or membership. Whatever the censure is, it is never given with malice and vindictiveness but in Christian love to offer correction in error and restoration of the community. A censure is about the accountability of an individual to the church and should not include names of persons who have been harmed.

D-9.0102 Reporting of Decision and Censure

Public oral reports of decisions and censure in disciplinary cases shall be as follows:

a. When a censure is imposed on a church member, a congregational meeting shall be called by the session in accordance with G-1.0503g for the purpose of receiving the decision and censure. The verbal report to the congregation may contain only a summary of the decision and censure, but shall contain a statement of the nature of the offense, the name of the person being censured, and the censure. The summary shall be recorded in the minutes of the congregational meeting.

b. When a presbytery imposes a censure, if the council is meeting when the decision and censure are received from the clerk of the permanent judicial commission, the stated clerk shall report the decision and censure immediately and enter the full decision upon the minutes of the council. If the council is not meeting, the stated clerk shall report the decision to the council at its first stated or adjourned meeting or at a meeting called to hear the decision, whichever comes first, and enter the full decision upon the minutes of the council. The verbal report to the council may contain only a summary of the decision and censure, but shall contain a statement of the nature of

the offense, the name of the person being censured, and the censure. If the censure is imposed on a church member, the provision of D-9.0102c shall also be followed.

c. If the censure imposed by a presbytery was on a church member, rather than a minister of the Word and Sacrament, either because the member was a commissioned pastor at the time the offense was committed or because a higher council assumed jurisdiction under either D-7.0301d or D-7.0401, once the decision and censure have been reported in accordance with D-9.0102b, the decision and censure shall be distributed to the clerk of session of the church of membership. The clerk of session shall report the decision at the first stated or adjourned meeting of the session or at a meeting called to hear the decision, whichever comes first, and enter the full decision upon the minutes of the session. The verbal report to the session may contain only a summary of the decision and censure, but shall contain a statement of the nature of the offense, the name of the person being censured, and the censure. The session shall call a congregational meeting in accordance with G-1.0503g and report the decision as described in D-9.0102a above.

D-9.0103 Rebuke

Rebuke is the lowest degree of censure for an offense and is completed when pronounced. It consists of setting forth publicly the character of the offense, together with reproof, which shall be pronounced in the following or like form:

“Whereas, you, (Name) _____, have been found guilty of the offense(s) of _____ (here insert a summary of the offense), and by such offense(s) you have acted contrary to the Scriptures and/or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); now, therefore, the Session or the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of _____, in the name and authority of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), expresses its condemnation of this offense, and rebukes you. This rebuke is given not with malice or vindictiveness but in Christian love to offer you correction in error and restoration that you may be more watchful and avoid such offense in the future. We urge you to use diligently the means of grace to the end that you may be more obedient to our Lord Jesus Christ.”

This formal rebuke shall be followed by intercessory prayer to Almighty God.

D-9.0104 Rebuke with Supervised Rehabilitation

Rebuke with supervised rehabilitation is the next to lowest degree of censure. It consists of setting forth the character of the offense, together with reproof and mandating a period of supervised rehabilitation imposed by the session or permanent judicial commission as described at item b. of this section.

a. **Communicate Goals** – The session or permanent judicial commission shall formally communicate to the supervising entity and the person censured the goals of the rehabilitation and the specific authority conferred on the supervisor(s).

b. **Supervised Rehabilitation** – An outline of the rehabilitation program shall include a clear statement of how progress will be evaluated and how it will be determined when and if the supervised rehabilitation has been satisfactorily completed.

c. **Voluntary Acts of Repentance** – The rehabilitation program may include a voluntary act or acts of repentance by the person censured on their own initiative. Such acts may include, for example, public acknowledgement of guilt, community service, or symbolic or monetary restoration

of what was lost or expended by the person who was harmed. No session or permanent judicial commission may require or recommend any voluntary act of repentance, but may, in extraordinary circumstances, forbid such act.

d. **Censure Pronouncement** – This censure shall be pronounced in the following or like form:

“Whereas, you, (Name) _____, have been found guilty of the offense(s) of _____, and by such offense(s) you have acted contrary to the Scriptures and/or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); now, therefore, the Session or the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of _____, in the name and authority of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), expresses its condemnation of this offense, rebukes you, and orders you to complete a program of supervised rehabilitation supervised by _____ as described below: _____. This rebuke is given not with malice or vindictiveness but in Christian love to offer you correction in error and the possibility of full community restoration. You are enjoined to be more watchful and avoid such offense in the future. We urge you to use diligently the means of grace to the end that you may be more obedient to our Lord Jesus Christ.”

This formal rebuke shall be followed by intercessory prayer to Almighty God.

D-9.0105 Temporary Exclusion

Temporary exclusion is a higher degree of censure for a more aggravated offense and shall be for a period defined by completion of supervised rehabilitation imposed by the session or the permanent judicial commission, which may include a minimum defined period of time. Temporary exclusion is from the exercise of ordered ministry for ordained members, and from membership rights for non-ordained members. During temporary exclusion membership may not be transferred.

a. **Communicate Goals** – The session or permanent judicial commission shall formally communicate to the supervising entity and the person censured the goals of the rehabilitation and the specific authority conferred on the supervisor(s).

b. **Supervised Rehabilitation** – An outline of the rehabilitation program shall include a clear statement of how progress will be evaluated and how it will be determined when and if the supervised rehabilitation has been satisfactorily completed.

c. **Voluntary Acts of Repentance** – The rehabilitation program may include a voluntary act or acts of repentance by the person censured on their own initiative. Such acts may include, for example, public acknowledgment of guilt, community service, or symbolic or monetary restoration of what was lost or expended by the person who was harmed. No session or permanent judicial commission may require or recommend any voluntary act of repentance, but may, in extraordinary circumstances, forbid such act.

d. **Effects of Temporary Exclusion from the Exercise of Ordered Ministry** – During the period of temporary exclusion from ordered ministry, the person under this exclusion shall refrain from the exercise of any function of ordered ministry. While under this exclusion, the person remains a member of their congregation or presbytery, but may not participate or vote in meetings of any council of the church, hold office, or serve on committees or commissions, except that the member may be present and may speak on matters related to that member. The person under this

exclusion shall not preach, teach, administer Sacraments, preside at other services of worship, or moderate sessions.

e. **Effects of Temporary Exclusion from Membership Rights** – During the period of temporary exclusion from membership rights of non-ordained church members, the person under this exclusion may continue to participate in the worship and life of the congregation of membership, but shall refrain from participating and voting in meetings of the congregation and from serving on committees, or holding any office or position of leadership in the congregation or in any council of the church.

f. **Effect of Temporary Exclusion of a Pastor** – If a minister of the Word and Sacrament serving in a pastoral relationship in a congregation (G-2.0504) is temporarily excluded from the exercise of ordered ministry, the presbytery may, if no appeal from the case is pending, declare the pastoral relationship dissolved.

g. **Notice of Temporary Exclusion** – When the censure of temporary exclusion has been pronounced with respect to a minister of the Word and Sacrament, the stated clerk of the presbytery shall immediately send the information of the action taken to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, who shall make a quarterly report of all such information to every presbytery of the church.

h. **Termination of Censure of Temporary Exclusion** – A person under the censure of temporary exclusion shall apply in writing to the council, through the clerk of session or stated clerk, for restoration upon the completion of the supervised rehabilitation pronounced. The council that imposed the censure may approve the restoration when the council is fully satisfied that the supervised rehabilitation pronounced has been successfully completed. The censure may include a time limit for the completion of all terms, after which, if the terms have not been met, the council may, at its discretion, grant an extension for a specified time or make the temporary exclusion permanent.

i. **Early Restoration** – A person under the censure of temporary exclusion from the exercise of ordered ministry or from membership may apply in writing to the council that imposed the censure (through its clerk) to be restored prior to any minimum period of time included in the censure. The council may approve such a restoration when it is fully satisfied that the action is justified.

j. **Censure Pronouncement** – This censure shall be pronounced in the following or like form:

“Whereas, you, (Name) _____, have been found guilty of the offense(s) of _____ (here insert the offense), and by such offense(s) you have acted contrary to the Scriptures and/or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); now, therefore, the Session or the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of _____, in the name and by the authority of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), does now declare you temporarily excluded from _____ for a period of at least _____, and until completion of the following rehabilitation program supervised by _____, as described below: _____. This exclusion is given not with malice or vindictiveness but in Christian love to offer you correction in error and the possibility of full community restoration.”

This formal declaration shall be followed by intercessory prayer to Almighty God.

D-9.0106 Removal from Ordered Ministry and/or Membership

Removal from ordered ministry and/or membership is the highest degree of censure. Removal from ordered ministry is the censure by which the ordination and election of the person found guilty are set aside, and the person is removed from all ordered ministries without removal from membership. Removal from membership is the censure by which the membership of the person found guilty is terminated, the person is removed from all rolls, and the person's ordination and election to all ordered ministries are set aside.

a. **Consequences of Removal from Ordered Ministry** – If a minister of the Word and Sacrament is removed from ordered ministry without removal from membership, the presbytery shall transfer the minister's membership to a Christian congregation of the minister's choice with the approval of the session or governing body of that congregation. If the minister is serving in a pastoral relationship in a congregation (G-2.0504), the pastoral relationship is automatically dissolved by the censure.

b. **Notice of Removal** – When the censure of removal has been pronounced with respect to a minister of the Word and Sacrament, the stated clerk of that presbytery shall immediately send the information of the action taken to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, who shall make a quarterly report of all such information to every presbytery of the church.

c. **Censure Pronouncement** – This censure shall be pronounced in the following or like form:

“Whereas, you, (Name) _____, have been found guilty of the offense(s) of _____ (here insert the offense), and by such offense(s) you have acted contrary to the Scriptures and/or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); now, therefore, the Session or the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of _____, acting in the name and under the authority of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), does hereby set aside and remove you from _____ (here state whether removal is from all ordered ministries and elected offices or from membership). This removal is given not with malice or vindictiveness but in Christian love to offer you correction in error and to restore the unity of the church by removing from it the discord and division the offense(s) have caused.”

This formal declaration shall be followed by intercessory prayer to Almighty God.

D-9.02 Restoration

D-9.0201 Restoration to Membership or Ordered Ministry

A person under the censure of removal from ordered ministry or from membership may be restored by the council imposing the censure when the council is fully satisfied that the action is justified. The person makes a reaffirmation of faith for restoration of membership and/or is again ordained for restoration to ordered ministry.

D-9.0202 Restoration to Membership

The restoration to membership shall be announced by the moderator in a meeting of the council in the following or like form:

“Whereas, you, (Name) _____, have manifested such repentance as satisfies the church, the Presbytery (or Session) of _____ does now restore you to full membership in the church by this act of reaffirmation.”

a. Thereafter, the act of reaffirmation shall take place and the name of the person shall be restored to the appropriate roll or a certificate of membership shall be issued to a Christian church of that person's choice.

b. If the member is also to be restored to an ordered ministry, the procedure prescribed in Restoration to Ordered Ministry (D-9.0203) shall be followed.

D-9.0203 Restoration to Ordered Ministry

The restoration to ordered ministry shall be announced by the moderator in the following or like form:

“Whereas, you, (Name) _____, have manifested such repentance as satisfies the church, the Presbytery of _____ (or Session of this church) does now restore you to the ordered ministry of _____ and authorize you to perform the functions of that ministry in accordance with the Constitution of this church by this act of ordination.”

Thereafter, a full service of ordination shall take place in accordance with W-4.04 and the individual's name shall be restored to the appropriate roll.

CHAPTER X

DISCIPLINARY APPEALS

D-10.01 Filing an Appeal

D-10.0101 Definition

An appeal of a disciplinary case is the transfer to the next higher council of a case in which a decision has been rendered in a lower council, for the purpose of obtaining a review of the proceedings and decision in order to correct, modify, set aside, or reverse the decision.

D-10.0102 Initiation of Appeal

The time for filing an appeal shall begin from the date the decision is delivered to, or refused by, the person found guilty.

- a. Only the person found guilty of an offense may initiate the first level of appeal.
- b. Once the first appeal has been decided, either party may initiate the next level of appeal.

D-10.0103 Parties

The parties in a disciplinary appeal are the person found guilty and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) through the prosecuting committee of the council that issued the censure.

D-10.02 Notice of Appeal

D-10.0201 Notice Filed

A written notice of appeal shall be filed with the stated clerk of the next higher council within forty-five (45) days after a copy of the final order was received by the appealing party. The written notice may be delivered by means of electronic communication, provided that the stated clerk certifies receipt of the notice, which may also be communicated electronically. If filing the notice electronically, care should be taken to deliver the notice in a manner that can clearly demonstrate timely filing. By written agreement of the parties, all additional filings may be electronic. The appealing party shall provide a copy of the written notice of appeal to the clerk of session or stated clerk of the council that issued the ruling, as well as to the stated clerk of the council that would hear the appeal, who shall distribute the notice to the other party or parties.

D-10.0202 Items to be Included

Items to be included in a notice of disciplinary appeal are as follows:

- a. The name of the party filing the appeal (the appellant) and their counsel, if any;**
- b. The name of the other party (the appellee) and their counsel, if any;**
- c. The council from whose decision the appeal is taken;**
- d. A copy of the ruling; and**
- e. A statement and description of the errors alleged to have been made in the ruling that are the grounds for appeal. The grounds for which an appeal may be filed are:
 - (1) Irregularity in the proceedings,**
 - (2) Refusing a party reasonable opportunity to be heard or to obtain or present evidence,**
 - (3) Receiving improper, or declining to receive proper evidence or testimony,**
 - (4) Hastening to a decision before the evidence or testimony is fully received,**
 - (5) Manifestation of prejudice in the conduct of the case,**
 - (6) Injustice in the process or decision,**
 - (7) Error in constitutional interpretation, and**
 - (8) Undue severity of censure.****
- f. A certification that a copy of the notice of appeal has been sent as required by D-10.0201 to the clerk of session or stated clerk of the council from whose decision the appeal is taken.**

This certification may be in the form of an electronic communication if agreed upon in advance by the parties.

D-10.03 Duty of Stated Clerk

Upon receipt of the written notice of appeal, the stated clerk of the council that will hear the appeal shall transmit it to the officers of that council's permanent judicial commission and the other party. The notice of appeal, if properly and timely filed, shall suspend further proceedings by lower councils, until the appeal is finally decided, except that any censure may be enforced.

D-10.04 Withdrawal of Appeal

The parties in a disciplinary appeal are encouraged to seek resolution of their differences in a manner acceptable to all parties and consistent with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If at any time in the appeal process the parties to a disciplinary appeal jointly file with the stated clerk of the council hearing the appeal a petition for the withdrawal of the appeal, the stated clerk shall inform the members of the permanent judicial commission that the appeal has been withdrawn, which shall end the judicial process unless within seven (7) days any member of the permanent judicial commission challenges the withdrawal. If the withdrawal is so challenged, a majority of the commission at a duly constituted meeting may conclude that the withdrawal would defeat the ends of justice or conflict with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and deny the request.

D-10.05 Preliminary Process

D-10.0501 Examination of Notice of Appeal

Upon receiving the notice of appeal, the moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission of the council that will hear the appeal shall promptly examine the notice of appeal to determine whether:

- a. The council has jurisdiction,
- b. The appellant has standing to file the appeal,
- c. The appeal was timely and properly filed, and
- d. The appeal states and describes one or more of the grounds for appeal listed in D-10.0202e.

D-10.0502 Preliminary Ruling

The officers of the permanent judicial commission shall report their determination to the parties and to the members of the commission in a preliminary ruling.

D-10.0503 Challenge to Preliminary Ruling

Within thirty (30) days after their receipt of the preliminary ruling, the parties and members of the permanent judicial commission may challenge the determination, in which case opportunity shall be provided for the parties to present evidence and argument on the determination(s) in question. A hearing may be requested by either party for the purpose of

hearing the challenge, or if the parties agree, the matter may be decided by the permanent judicial commission on the basis of documents submitted by the parties. If a hearing is requested, it should be held at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing on the appeal, unless the officers of the permanent judicial commission determine that the circumstances, including expenditures of time and resources, warrant disposition of the challenge immediately prior to the hearing on the appeal. If the permanent judicial commission determines the answer to any of the four preliminary questions has been answered in the negative, the commission shall dismiss the appeal.

D-10.0504 When No Challenge is Received

When there are no challenges to the determination in the preliminary ruling, the following shall apply:

a. If no challenge is made to the preliminary ruling of the officers that one or more points in D-10.0501 are answered in the negative, the case shall be dismissed without further action or order of the permanent judicial commission.

b. If no challenge is made to the preliminary ruling of the officers that all of the points in D-10.0501 are answered in the affirmative, the stated clerk of the council shall schedule a hearing at a time acceptable to the parties and at which a quorum of the permanent judicial commission can be present.

D-10.06 Record of the Case

D-10.0601 List of Papers

Within forty-five (45) days after receipt of a notice of appeal, the clerk of session or stated clerk of the lower council shall list in writing to the parties all of the papers and other materials that would constitute the record of the case (see D-8.1201d & e). Within fifteen (15) days thereafter, either party may challenge the completeness or accuracy of the record as listed by the clerk of session or stated clerk. The clerk of session or stated clerk may, but is not required, to amend the list at the request of a party; however, any such challenge shall be added to the record when it is filed.

D-10.0602 Filing of Record on Appeal

Upon notice by the stated clerk of the council whose permanent judicial commission will hear the appeal that the case has been accepted, the clerk of session or stated clerk of the council from whose ruling the appeal is taken shall compile and file the record of the case with the stated clerk of the higher council, who shall distribute it to the members of the permanent judicial commission.

D-10.0603 Correction of the Record

If anything material to either party is omitted from the record by error or accident, or is misstated therein, the omission or misstatement may be corrected. The parties may stipulate to the correction, or the clerk of session or stated clerk of the lower council may certify and transmit a supplemental record, or the permanent judicial commission of the higher council may direct that the omission or misstatement be corrected. All other questions as to the form and content of the record shall be presented to the permanent judicial commission of the higher council, which shall

be decided by majority vote at a duly constituted meeting at least forty-five (45) days prior to the hearing on the appeal, which may be held electronically in accordance with G-3.0105.

D-10.07 Briefs

D-10.0701 Filing of Appellant Brief

Within thirty (30) days after the date of receiving the record on appeal, the appellant shall file with the stated clerk of the higher council a written brief containing specifications of the errors alleged in the notice of appeal and arguments, reasons, and citations of authorities in support of the appellant's contentions. Copies of the brief shall be distributed by the stated clerk to the members of the permanent judicial commission and to the opposing party.

D-10.0702 Failure of Appellant to File Brief

Failure of the appellant to file a brief within the timeline allowed, without good cause, shall be deemed by the permanent judicial commission as an abandonment of the appeal.

D-10.0703 Filing of Appellee Brief

Within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the appellant's brief, the appellee shall file with the stated clerk of the council whose permanent judicial commission will hear the appeal a brief in response to the appellant's brief. Copies of the brief shall be distributed by the stated clerk to the members of the commission and to the opposing party.

D-10.0704 Failure of Appellee to File Brief

Failure of the appellee to file a brief within the time allowed, without good cause, shall constitute waiver of the rights to file a brief, to appear, and to be heard.

D-10.0705 Filing of Appellant Reply Brief

Within fifteen (15) days of receipt of the appellee's brief, the appellant may file a reply brief limited to the issues raised in the appellee's brief. Copies of the brief shall be distributed by the stated clerk to the members of the permanent judicial commission and to the other party.

D-10.08 Extensions

For good cause shown, the stated clerk of the higher council may extend any of the time limits contained in D-10.06 or D-10.07 for a reasonable period.

D-10.09 Transmittal of Record and Briefs

Upon receipt of the record and the briefs, or upon the expiration of the time for filing them, the stated clerk of the higher council shall transmit the record and briefs to the clerk of the permanent judicial commission.

D-10.10 Prehearing Conference

At any time after an appeal has been received by a permanent judicial commission, the commission may provide for the parties and their counsel, if any, for the opportunity in a

prehearing conference to seek agreement on any of the disputed issues in the appeal and to take other action which might reasonably and impartially narrow the dispute and expedite its resolution.

D-10.11 Hearing of Appeal

The moderator or clerk of the permanent judicial commission shall notify the parties of the date when they may appear in person or by counsel before the permanent judicial commission. Failure of a party to appear in person or by counsel shall constitute a waiver of participation in the hearing of the appeal. At the hearing, the permanent judicial commission shall give opportunity to be heard on the grounds of the appeal to those parties who have not waived that right. The appellant has the right of opening and closing the argument.

D-10.12 Decision of the Permanent Judicial Commission

D-10.1201 Standard of Review

Factual determinations by the session or permanent judicial commission that tried the case shall be accorded a presumption of correctness in appeals. Factual determinations are not to be disturbed unless they are plainly wrong, without supporting evidence, or manifestly unjust. Determinations related to the correct interpretation and application of provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are not accorded the same presumption of correctness.

D-10.1202 Voting Procedure

After the hearing and after deliberation, the permanent judicial commission shall vote separately on each specification of error alleged. The vote, which shall be by counted vote, shall be on the question, "Shall the specification of error be sustained?" The minutes shall record the vote on each specification of error. A majority vote sustains each specification of error.

D-10.1203 Decision

The decision of the permanent judicial commission shall include the determination of errors specified, and state the remedy as provided in D-10.0101. The permanent judicial commission may prepare its decision in a manner that will dispose of all substantive questions without redundancy. It should include an explanation of its determinations.

a. Decisions of permanent judicial commissions other than the General Assembly's Permanent Judicial Commission are binding only on the parties to the case.

b. If none of the specifications of error is sustained, and no other error is found, the decision of the lower council shall be affirmed.

c. If one or more errors are found, the permanent judicial commission may conclude that despite the errors found, the decision of the lower council is affirmed. Alternatively, it may reverse the decision of the lower council either completely or in part, and if reversed in part, it may determine whether the decision of the lower council shall be modified or set aside, or the case remanded for a new trial.

d. The questions presented for decision shall be fully debated and voted upon while all participating permanent judicial commission members are present. A written outline of a decision shall be prepared while in session. A written decision shall be reviewed by all participating members of the panel, which may take place either while the participating permanent judicial commission members are present or by meeting within ten (10) days either in person, or electronically in accordance with G-3.0105.

e. The decision shall become the final decision when a copy of the written decision is signed by the moderator and clerk of the permanent judicial commission. A copy of the decision shall immediately be delivered to the parties to the case in accordance with D-7.0104b, or electronic communication if agreed upon in advance by the parties.

D-10.1204 Effect of Reversal on Appeal in Disciplinary Case

If the permanent judicial commission reverses all determinations of guilt, it becomes an acquittal and the person is automatically restored to ordered ministry or membership in the church. This declaration shall be made in the lower council and recorded in the minutes of the lower council with jurisdiction over the person found guilty.”

Background and Rationale

The Presbytery of Chicago sent an overture to the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to revise the Rules of Discipline to make them more accessible to the church, to preserve and enhance the accountability of councils and individuals to the church, to expand the role of mediation and alternate dispute resolution, and to provide flexibility in crafting censures and remedies, particularly in the light of recent learnings in ethical and social development and experiments by the secular legal system with alternative sentencing. The Rules of Discipline Task Force was appointed by the General Assembly moderators in 2017 to bring the revision to the 224th General Assembly for consideration.

The task force presents a revision which responds to its charge in the following ways:

1. To make this portion of the *Book of Order* more accessible to the church, the revision:
 - a. Divides it into three major sections. Section I contains the Preamble, a chapter on judicial process and a chapter on the composition and function of permanent judicial commissions. The second section describes remedial process start to finish. The third section describes disciplinary process start to finish.
 - b. Brings into the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) authoritative interpretations which are frequently used in deciding judicial cases and are currently available only in the annotated version of the *Book of Order*.
 - c. Changes the name of the section to Church Discipline to emphasize that this process is for the internal discipline of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), its members and councils.
 - d. Restructures the Preamble to begin with the theological grounding of church discipline, to clarify that it is for the internal discipline of the church. The purposes of church discipline are set apart with bullet points. They are the same purposes listed in the current rules but set apart to make them easier to find and identify.

e. Clearly defines the steps in each process, responsibilities of those involved, and time limits.

f. Allows for the use of electronic communication not available the last time the Rules of Discipline were revised in 1996, thus creating potential savings of cost and time for the church.

2. To preserve and enhance the accountability of councils and individuals this revision:

a. Is ordered to make it easier to understand and follow.

b. Preserves rules that have guided the church for generations.

c. Stresses that Church Discipline is based on Scripture and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), not on secular standards of jurisprudence.

d. Defines rules and process in language accessible to members not well-versed in church discipline, and as far as possible removes language also used in secular judicial process to prevent confusion.

e. Emphasizes repeatedly that those engaged in this process, those who file complaints, those who bring allegations, those who seek vindication, those accused, and those who act as counsel for any of the first groups must be Presbyterian. Mediators and facilitators and those who act as advocates need not be Presbyterian but do need to be familiar with Church Discipline of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Presbyterians can file allegations on behalf of persons who are not Presbyterian.

f. Moves the rules on vindication into the section on discipline. Those seeking vindication seek to be vindicated from rumor and gossip by persons unknown or outside the jurisdiction of the church. If in the process, members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are identified against whom allegations should be filed, the section specifically spells out the provisions for filing those allegations.

g. Calls attention to provisions in the Form of Government for pastoral response when disciplinary cases are ended by death or renunciation of jurisdiction by the accused.

h. Provides for the nomination of permanent judicial commissions broadly representative of the makeup of a council and for the inclusion of former members of permanent judicial commissions with attention to the principles of full participation and inclusion to make up a quorum in trying cases.

3. To expand the role of mediation and alternate dispute resolution, the revision:

a. Adds an alternative resolution based on principles of restorative justice and spells out what is involved in that process.

b. Provides for three forms of alternative resolution: Restorative Justice, Mediation, and Other Negotiated Agreements. The more appropriate of the first two forms is provided for those instances when an accused agrees to plead guilty to charges and seeks to make restitution. The third is only for those instances when it is necessary to negotiate a plea before charges and a guilty plea can be filed. Sessions and presbytery permanent judicial commissions can take the

three into account when determining degree of censure.

c. Defines mediators as persons known for calm, wise counsel who need not be certified. This opens the possibility of mediation in areas where certified mediators are not available.

4. To provide flexibility in crafting censures and remedies, the revision:

a. Adds language to remind the guilty and the session or presbytery that censure in church discipline is given not with malice or vindictiveness but in Christian love to offer correction in error and restoration or in the case of removal from office or membership to restore the unity of the church by removing from it the discord and division the offense(s) have caused.

b. Spells out specific remedies appropriate to each degree of censure.

Advice—From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) to approve ROD-03 with amendment.

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution makes the following preliminary observations:

1. As it considers this document, the Assembly is reminded that in this *Book of Order*:

a. SHALL and IS TO BE/ARE TO BE signify practice that is mandated,

b. SHOULD signifies practice that is strongly recommended,

c. IS APPROPRIATE signifies practice that is commended as suitable,

d. MAY signifies practice that is permissible but not required.

e. ADVISORY HANDBOOK signifies a handbook produced by agencies of the General Assembly to guide synods and presbyteries in procedures related to the oversight of ministry. Such handbooks suggest procedures that are commended, but not required.

... The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) as follows concerning item ROD-03. Silence regarding any particular provision may be interpreted, in this instance, as the Advisory Committee on the Constitution's advising the assembly to approve the provision without amendment.

D-3.0201 Classes and Terms

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises this provision presents issues:

“Permanent judicial commissions shall be arranged in three classes of six years each, with each class as equal as possible in size and with one class completing its term every two years” is substantially different than the current Rules of Discipline requirement that “no more than one half of the members to be in one class.”

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution questions whether a provision for transition is necessary.

Chapter 4, Opening Paragraph (and following)

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that the paragraph be approved with amendment as follows:

Strike the word “file” (and its conjugations) throughout Chapter 4 and replace it with the word “submit” (and its conjugations).

“File” raises the question of timeliness, as it may mean either the date on which a document was submitted or the date on which the document was received. “Submit” clarifies that timeliness is defined by the date on which the parties sent a document. It further removes potential unpredictability from the work of delivery services.

D-4.0703

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises approving this provision with amendment:

“The committee of counsel of the respondent shall file with [submit to] the stated clerk of the higher council...”

The idea of a committee of counsel has not yet been introduced in the document. In all other places in Chapter 4, the respondent is the one acting. Any actions by a committee of counsel still are understood as the actions of the respondent itself.

Chapter 5

D-5.0101b

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises approving this provision with amendment: “... the complainant may request in writing that the respondent clerk file [submit] additional minutes ...” See advice at Chapter 4, opening paragraph.

D-5.0101c

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises approving this provision with amendment: “... the clerk or session or stated clerk of the respondent council shall transmit [submit] to the stated clerk of the higher council ...”

See advice at Chapter 4, opening paragraph.

D-5.0102

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises approving this provision with amendment: “When the minutes and papers [included in D-5.0101a and D-5.0101b] have been filed with [submitted to] the stated clerk ...”

Adding a reference to the provisions defining the minutes and papers will limit the opportunity for misunderstanding. Regarding the proposed change from “filed with” to “submitted to,” see advice under the opening paragraph of Chapter 4.

Chapter 7

D-7.0104a

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises approving this provision with amendment: “All seven days of every week are included in the count, including holidays, and the document shall be deemed timely filed if it is received by [submitted to] the person or persons to whom it is required to be sent on or before the final day of the count. When the final date of the count falls on a weekend or holiday, the document shall be deemed timely filed if it is received [submitted] on the next business day after the final day of the count.”

See advice under the opening paragraph of Chapter 4.

Chapter 8

D-8.0104b

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises approving this provision with amendment: “At least thirty (30) [forty-five (45)] days in advance of the trial, the prosecuting committee shall provide the clerk of session or clerk of the permanent judicial commission and the other party with their list of witnesses and an outline of the evidence to be presented at trial. The accused shall provide the clerk of session or clerk of the permanent judicial commission and the other party with a preliminary list of witnesses. Parties or their representatives shall not contact the other party’s witnesses prior to the trial. [A party may petition the session or permanent judicial commission, for good cause shown, to restrict or deny permission to contact a particular witness prior to trial.]”

... The stricture against contacting the other side’s witnesses is a fundamental denial of due process to the accused. There is no limitation on who a party may add to a witness list, and any party could list so many names that the other side cannot prepare for trial in any meaningful way.

Chapter 10

D-10.03

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises approving this provision with amendment:

“The notice of appeal, if properly and timely filed [submitted], shall suspend further proceedings by lower councils, except any censure shall continue until the appeal is finally decided [until the appeal is finally decided, except that any censure may be enforced].”

Regarding “filed” vs. “submitted,” see advice at Chapter 4, opening paragraph.

Advice and Counsel—From the Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns (ACWC)

The Advocacy Committee for Women’s Concerns/Racial Equity Advocacy Committee advises that the General Assembly should approve ROD-03.

As the creators of 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved resolution 05-09, to Ensure Adoption and Implementation of Child/Youth Protection Policies and Resources in the PC(USA) and 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved resolution 11-09 on Sexual Misconduct in the PC(USA), the Advocacy Committee for Women's Concerns has long been on the forefront of advocating for policy changes that will prevent sexual abuse within the PC(USA).

ACWC concurs that the current Rules of Discipline section should be deleted and that the recommended Church Discipline section be inserted in its place. ACWC is particularly appreciative that the Rules of Discipline Task Force worked cooperatively with ACWC for input on these important policy changes. It is of utmost importance that the 224th General Assembly (2020) approve these policies that protect the vulnerable.

The Assembly Committee on Rules of Discipline amended and approved Item ROD-03, 24/0. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item ROD-03, 354/9.

For the full report on ROD-03, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000083/business>.

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Inc.
Monthly Benevolence Report
September 2022

Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)
Revenues			
Support and Revenue			
Budgeted Designated			
Budgeted General Assembly			
100-403000 - One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,955.00	\$17,390.30	\$21,023.88
100-403020 - Christmas Joy Offering	\$0.00	\$6,592.58	\$15,781.60
100-403030 - Pentecost Offering	\$237.00	\$2,077.15	\$3,316.06
100-403040 - Theological Education Fund	\$0.00	\$6,250.00	\$7,275.00
100-403050 - Peacemaking Special Offering	\$0.00	\$3,506.91	\$2,875.92
100-403200 - Designated for Missionaries	\$416.67	\$15,066.03	\$15,000.03
Total Budgeted General Assembly	<u>\$2,608.67</u>	<u>\$50,882.97</u>	<u>\$65,272.49</u>
Budgeted Presbytery			
100-403510 - Designated Thornwell Home & School	\$939.66	\$4,662.34	\$4,761.70
100-403520 - Columbia Seminary	\$0.00	\$675.00	\$675.00
100-403550 - Johnson C. Smith Seminary	\$0.00	\$362.49	\$900.00
100-403580 - Presbyterian Homes	\$227.16	\$1,831.99	\$1,804.70
100-403590 - Villa International	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
Total Budgeted Presbytery	<u>\$1,166.82</u>	<u>\$7,781.82</u>	<u>\$8,141.40</u>
Total Budgeted Designated	<u>\$3,775.49</u>	<u>\$58,664.79</u>	<u>\$73,413.89</u>
Total Support and Revenue	<u>\$3,775.49</u>	<u>\$58,664.79</u>	<u>\$73,413.89</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$3,775.49</u>	<u>\$58,664.79</u>	<u>\$73,413.89</u>
Disbursements and Expenses			
Benevolent Disbursements			
100-500100 - G. A. Budgeted Benevolence	\$2,608.67	\$50,882.97	\$65,272.49
100-500500 - Designated for Presbyterian Homes	\$227.16	\$1,831.99	\$1,804.70
100-504010 - Designated for Villa International	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
100-504030 - Designated for Thornwell	\$939.66	\$4,662.34	\$4,049.20
100-506010 - Designated for Columbia Seminary	\$0.00	\$675.00	\$675.00
100-506020 - Designated for JC Smith Seminary	\$0.00	\$362.49	\$900.00
Total Benevolent Disbursements	<u>\$3,775.49</u>	<u>\$58,664.79</u>	<u>\$72,701.39</u>
Total Disbursements and Expenses	<u>\$3,775.49</u>	<u>\$58,664.79</u>	<u>\$72,701.39</u>
Net Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$712.50

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA
2022 BENEVOLENCE GIVING RECORDS
9/30/2022**

*See explanation on final report page regarding each column.

CHURCH	COLUMN 1 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PLEDGE	COLUMN 2 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT RECEIVED	COLUMN 3 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT \$26.98	COLUMN 4 PER CAPITA RECEIVED	COLUMN 5 TOTAL RECEIPTS TO PRESBYTERY BUDGET <small>(Column 2 + Column 4)</small>	COLUMN 6 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 7 NON-BUDGETED DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 8 TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS <small>(Column 5 + Columns 6 & 7)</small>	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2021	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2020
PEACHTREE			\$187,753.82		\$0.00			\$0.00	7136	6959
ROSWELL		\$30,000.00	\$64,239.38	\$42,826.26	\$72,826.26			\$72,826.26	2386	2381
First PRES-ATLANTA		\$22,500.00	\$51,450.86	\$51,451.00	\$73,951.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,000.00	\$76,201.00	1732	1907
KOREAN COMMUNITY		\$35,000.00	\$48,779.84		\$35,000.00			\$35,000.00	1430	1808
TRINITY ATLANTA		\$79,603.00	\$45,056.60	\$45,045.60	\$124,648.60			\$124,648.60	1575	1670
SHALLOWFORD	\$3,781.14	\$2,835.74	\$27,168.86	\$20,376.74	\$23,212.48	\$125.00		\$23,337.48	989	1007
ALPHARETTA	\$22,400.00	\$16,800.03	\$22,393.40	\$16,800.03	\$33,600.06	\$2,076.00	\$1,300.00	\$36,976.06	815	830
DECATUR		\$19,306.47	\$21,341.18	\$21,584.00	\$40,890.47	\$9,125.00	\$1,875.00	\$51,890.47	738	791
ST LUKES	\$3,500.00	\$15,000.00	\$19,830.30	\$19,749.36	\$34,749.36	\$1,378.65		\$36,128.01	715	735
NORTH AVENUE		\$15,009.03	\$19,398.62	\$12,963.57	\$27,972.60	\$3,925.03	\$665.00	\$32,562.63	715	719
JOHNS CREEK			\$18,022.64	\$5,234.00	\$5,234.00			\$5,234.00	457	668
MCDONOUGH	\$11,097.18	\$8,322.75	\$14,380.34	\$14,380.34	\$22,703.09	\$2,216.00	\$2,337.50	\$27,256.59	514	533
First PRES-LAGRANGE	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$13,948.66	\$7,128.50	\$9,628.50	\$2,902.29		\$12,530.79	509	517
CENTRAL	\$19,000.00	\$14,250.00	\$13,732.82	\$13,732.82	\$27,982.82			\$27,982.82	498	509
First AFRICAN			\$12,950.40		\$0.00			\$0.00	362	480
BUFORD	\$0.00		\$10,738.04	\$8,172.00	\$8,172.00	\$117.16	\$920.82	\$9,209.98	392	398
NEWMAN			\$10,738.04	\$8,024.97	\$8,024.97			\$8,024.97	398	398
MOUNT VERNON		\$9,000.00	\$10,603.14	\$6,420.00	\$15,420.00	\$2,496.00		\$17,916.00	385	393
MORNINGSIDE			\$10,441.26	\$10,441.26	\$10,441.26	\$3,876.85	\$1,330.00	\$15,648.11	387	387
NORTHMINSTER	\$26,000.00	\$19,500.00	\$10,360.32	\$10,360.32	\$29,860.32			\$29,860.32	381	384
PLEASANT HILL	\$11,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$10,252.40	\$10,252.40	\$15,752.40			\$15,752.40	362	380
NORTH DECATUR		\$20,000.00	\$8,984.34	\$9,550.92	\$29,550.92	\$5,718.89	\$40,600.00	\$75,869.81	335	333
CLAIRMONT			\$8,687.56	\$5,791.08	\$5,791.08		\$910.00	\$6,701.08	248	322
OAKHURST	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$8,660.58	\$3,330.30	\$5,330.30	\$1,035.00	\$275.00	\$6,640.30	331	321
WESTMINSTER	\$0.00		\$8,417.76	\$6,313.32	\$6,313.32	\$633.81		\$6,947.13	304	312
NEW LIFE			\$8,363.80		\$0.00			\$0.00	306	310
FAYETTE			\$7,311.58	\$3,655.79	\$3,655.79			\$3,655.79	271	271
EASTMINSTER			\$6,825.94	\$4,095.60	\$4,095.60			\$4,095.60	285	253
GOOD SHEPHERD	\$0.00		\$6,583.12	\$3,278.06	\$3,278.06			\$3,278.06	242	244
COVINGTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN	\$10,000.00	\$6,666.64	\$6,286.34	\$4,191.04	\$10,857.68			\$10,857.68	231	233
CARROLTON	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$6,178.42	\$3,086.00	\$3,586.00	\$609.43		\$4,195.43	220	229
NORTHWEST		\$5,000.00	\$6,151.44	\$6,152.00	\$11,152.00			\$11,152.00	193	228
RADCLIFFE	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$5,800.70	\$5,800.70	\$7,300.70	\$2,608.33	\$161.67	\$10,070.70	202	215
LOYD			\$5,746.74	\$5,962.58	\$5,962.58			\$5,962.58	170	213
ST ANDREWS	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,719.76	\$5,719.76	\$8,219.76	\$283.00		\$8,502.76	200	212
First PRES-PEACHTREE CITY		\$2,000.00	\$5,449.96	\$5,449.96	\$7,449.96		\$10,815.00	\$18,264.96	181	202
CONYERS			\$5,207.14	\$2,603.50	\$2,603.50	\$545.00		\$3,148.50	187	193
MORROW			\$5,207.14	\$5,207.14	\$5,207.14	\$800.00	\$1,000.00	\$7,007.14	190	193
COVENANT	\$12,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$5,072.24	\$3,804.01	\$12,804.01			\$12,804.01	172	188

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA
2022 BENEVOLENCE GIVING RECORDS
9/30/2022**

*See explanation on final report page regarding each column.

CHURCH	COLUMN 1 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PLEDGE	COLUMN 2 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT RECEIVED	COLUMN 3 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT \$26.98	COLUMN 4 PER CAPITA RECEIVED	COLUMN 5 TOTAL RECEIPTS TO PRESBYTERY BUDGET <small>(Column 2 + Column 4)</small>	COLUMN 6 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 7 NON-BUDGETED DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 8 TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS <small>(Column 5 + Columns 6 & 7)</small>	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2021	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2020
LAWRENCEVILLE	\$3,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$5,018.28	\$3,763.50	\$6,013.50	\$1,200.09	\$1,625.00	\$8,838.59	159	186
KOREAN CENTRAL			\$4,856.40		\$0.00			\$0.00	180	180
CROSSROADS	\$1,250.00	\$625.00	\$4,235.86	\$4,235.86	\$4,860.86	\$724.99		\$5,585.85	160	157
KAIROS			\$4,100.96	\$4,100.96	\$4,100.96			\$4,100.96	128	152
STOCKBRIDGE	\$4,000.00	\$800.00	\$3,642.30	\$4,800.00	\$5,600.00	\$310.00		\$5,910.00	123	135
DRUID HILLS	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,372.50	\$3,372.00	\$7,872.00	\$845.00	\$400.00	\$9,117.00	123	125
HAMILTON MILL	\$5,000.00	\$2,727.30	\$3,264.58	\$1,780.68	\$4,507.98			\$4,507.98	110	121
HILLSIDE	\$2,500.00	\$1,250.00	\$3,264.58	\$3,210.62	\$4,460.62	\$2,224.34	\$317.79	\$7,002.75	119	121
EMORY		\$1,500.00	\$3,210.62	\$3,211.00	\$4,711.00	\$2,796.67	\$108.33	\$7,616.00	61	119
AUSTELL	\$0.00	\$1,780.99	\$3,021.76	\$293.98	\$2,074.97	\$3,701.98		\$5,776.95	98	112
RICE MEMORIAL	\$2,500.00		\$2,832.90	\$2,832.90	\$2,832.90			\$2,832.90	98	105
SMYRNA			\$2,751.96	\$3,183.64	\$3,183.64			\$3,183.64	95	102
OGLETHORPE	\$4,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,751.96	\$2,064.00	\$5,064.00	\$207.33	\$30.67	\$5,302.00	99	102
CHURCH OF THE MASTER			\$2,724.98		\$0.00			\$0.00	100	101
COLUMBIA			\$2,563.10	\$640.79	\$640.79	\$1,685.09		\$2,325.88	93	95
FAIRVIEW		\$750.00	\$2,482.16	\$1,861.62	\$2,611.62	\$845.00		\$3,456.62	89	92
PHILADELPHIA	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$2,401.22	\$1,200.61	\$1,300.61	\$1,059.20		\$2,359.81	79	89
GOOD NEWS GARDEN			\$2,401.22		\$0.00			\$0.00	79	89
First PRES-MONROE			\$2,212.36		\$0.00			\$0.00	81	82
First PRES-JONESBORO	\$7,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,104.44	\$1,675.90	\$5,675.90		\$600.00	\$6,275.90	76	78
BETHANY	\$0.00		\$2,077.46	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$120.00		\$1,220.00	77	77
TRINITY DECATUR		\$500.00	\$1,996.52	\$2,182.95	\$2,682.95	\$686.80	\$31.25	\$3,401.00	72	74
TIMBERRIDGE	\$0.00		\$1,969.54	\$1,969.54	\$1,969.54			\$1,969.54	76	73
PRESBY CHURCH OF THE RESURRECT'N	\$0.00		\$1,969.54	\$1,969.54	\$1,969.54			\$1,969.54	63	73
GUM CREEK			\$1,861.62	\$1,996.52	\$1,996.52			\$1,996.52	67	69
NORCROSS	\$1,258.28		\$1,726.72	\$1,295.04	\$1,295.04	\$779.00	\$132.00	\$2,206.04	66	64
ATLANTA TAIWANESE			\$1,672.76	\$1,672.76	\$1,672.76			\$1,672.76	59	62
HANBIT			\$1,349.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00	54	50
CRISTO PARA TODAS LAS NACIONES			\$1,349.00		\$0.00			\$0.00	50	50
JACKSON	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,295.04	\$1,295.04	\$3,295.04			\$3,295.04	51	48
GRACE KOREAN			\$1,106.18	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00			\$1,200.00	38	41
KELLEY	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,106.18	\$1,106.18	\$2,106.18			\$2,106.18	38	41
HEMPHILL MEMORIAL	\$450.00		\$890.34		\$0.00	\$450.00		\$450.00	33	33
ATLANTA KOREAN			\$647.52		\$0.00			\$0.00	28	24
FRIENDSHIP	\$3,000.00		\$647.52		\$0.00			\$0.00	25	24
First PRES-MANCHESTER WM SPRGS.			\$620.54	\$620.54	\$620.54	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$670.54	14	23
BARNESVILLE			\$593.56		\$0.00			\$0.00	22	22
DALLAS-DODD			\$566.58	\$566.58	\$566.58			\$566.58	22	21
WESTHILLS			\$512.62		\$0.00	\$500.00		\$500.00	17	19

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA
2022 BENEVOLENCE GIVING RECORDS
9/30/2022**

*See explanation on final report page regarding each column.

CHURCH	COLUMN 1 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PLEDGE	COLUMN 2 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT RECEIVED	COLUMN 3 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT \$26.98	COLUMN 4 PER CAPITA RECEIVED	COLUMN 5 TOTAL RECEIPTS TO PRESBYTERY BUDGET <small>(Column 2 + Column 4)</small>	COLUMN 6 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 7 NON-BUDGETED DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 8 TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS <small>(Column 5 + Columns 6 & 7)</small>	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2021	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/2020
GREENVILLE			\$485.64		\$0.00			\$0.00	18	18
EBENEZER	\$514.36	\$514.36	\$485.64	\$485.64	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00	14	18
NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GA.	\$1,000.00		\$458.66		\$0.00			\$0.00	18	17
First PRES-BREMEN	\$0.00		\$377.72	\$377.72	\$377.72			\$377.72	14	14
TALLAPOOSA	\$0.00		\$377.72		\$0.00			\$0.00	6	14
FELLOWSHIP			\$215.84		\$0.00			\$0.00	8	8
EL NAZERENO		\$325.50		\$674.50	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00		
BENEVOLENCE TOTAL	\$173,250.96	\$371,916.81	\$850,328.66	\$471,175.54	\$843,092.35	\$59,856.93	\$66,485.03	\$969,434.31	30244	31646
INDIVIDUAL GIVING TOTAL				\$294.05				\$13,198.69		
* OVERALL TOTAL		\$371,916.81		\$471,469.59				\$982,633.00		

COLUMN (1) Benevolence Pledges from church sessions.

COLUMN (2) All funds for basic benevolence support of GA, Synod & Presbytery Missions. Not included here are special designations, which are reported in Column 5.

COLUMN (3) Per Capita due by April 1, 2022 is \$26.98 per member based on the active membership of the congregation as of January 1, 2021 as reported in the Assembly statistics for Dec. 31, 2020.

COLUMN (4) Per Capita received at Presbytery.

COLUMN (5) Total Receipts to Presbytery Budget.

COLUMN (6) Designated amounts that support the budgeted work of the governing bodies and institutions of the church.

COLUMN (7) Designated amounts that support non-budgeted work of institutions of the church, such as E.C.O.'s, Disaster Relief & Capital Funds Campaign, etc.

COLUMN (8) Total of all receipts.

MEMBERSHIP - Shown for 12/31/21; per capita based on 12/31/20 membership.

If there is an error, please send a written request for correction to Gwen Hairston, Financial Support Specialist, at the Presbytery Office via email at ghairston@atlpcusa.org
Your written request will expedite our ability to respond. If you have any questions, contact Gwen Hairston at 404-898-0711, ext 125.

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Inc.
Preliminary Statement of Financial Position
Operations Fund
As of September 30, 2022

Assets

Cash		\$200,067.77
Investments		\$996,843.97
Accounts Receivable		
Allowance for Accounts Receivable	(\$46,400.00)	
A/R--Operations	\$1,778.70	
A/R-Due from Clifton Sancturary Min.	(\$4,271.60)	
A/R Memorial Drive PC	\$6,509.00	
A/R-Hanbit PC	\$36,394.87	
A/R - Atlanta Korean	\$39,397.60	
A/R- Ormewood Park	\$42,139.24	
A/R - College Park PC	\$20,508.31	
A/R - Church of the New Covenant	(\$14,809.19)	
A/R - Luther Hays PET	\$20.10	
A/R-Georgia Avenue Building/Site	\$44,895.98	
A/R -Church os St. Andrew	\$46,761.82	
Total Accounts Receivable		\$172,924.83
Pledges Receivable (Ground Lease)	\$725,000.00	
Discount on Pledges Receivable (Ground Lease)	<u>(\$490,759.85)</u>	
Total Pledges Receivable		\$234,240.15
Prepaid Expenses		\$18,110.25
Property & Equipment		\$1,206,393.49
Land, Buildings and Property (Net)		\$9,834,743.89
Total Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(\$1,676,108.43)</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>\$10,987,215.92</u></u>

Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds

Liabilities		
Non-Budgeted Benevolence		\$845.32
A/P Operations		\$493.31
A/P Tree of Life Ministries		\$18,000.00
HFSA		\$1,157.18
Accrued Vacation		\$20,051.81
GA Ave. Bldg Agency Funds		\$16,894.91
Long-term Debt		
Due to Wachovia (CSM)	\$28,386.42	
Total Long-term Debt		\$28,386.42
Other Liabilities	\$7,742.44	
		<u>\$7,742.44</u>
Total Liabilities		\$93,571.39
Total Restricted Funds		\$1,095,172.91
Fund Principal		
Fund Balance-Operations	\$9,815,369.24	
Net Income Year-to-Date	(\$16,897.62)	
Total Fund Principal and Net Income Year-to-Date		<u>\$9,798,471.62</u>
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds		<u><u>\$10,987,215.92</u></u>

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
Operations Fund Revenues and Disbursements-Preliminary
Period Ending September 30, 2022

	Actual Period Ending <u>9/30/2022</u>	Actual Period Ending <u>9/30/2021</u>	Annual Budget <u>FYE 01/31/2023</u>
Operation Support	\$ 356,907.78	\$ 304,684.33	\$ 535,000.00
Per Capita	\$ 452,814.96	\$ 461,562.74	\$ 600,000.00
Budgeted Designated	\$ 50,882.97	\$ 65,272.49	
Budgeted Presbytery	\$ 8,781.82	\$ 11,196.10	\$ 3,000.00
Total Designated	<u>\$ 869,387.53</u>	<u>\$ 842,715.66</u>	<u>\$ 1,138,000.00</u>
Interest Income	\$ 4,675.17	\$ 6,528.06	\$ 10,000.00
Unrealized (Gain)Loss - Ops	\$ (40,081.50)	\$ 5,810.29	\$ 12,000.00
Designated for Presbytery Only	\$ 33,763.68	\$ 38,238.48	\$ 46,500.00
Interest-Presbyterian Foundation	\$ 0.53	\$ 0.01	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 232,657.44	\$ 163,767.59	\$ 332,500.00
Total Revenues before Transfers	<u>\$ 1,100,402.85</u>	<u>\$ 1,057,060.08</u>	<u>\$ 1,539,000.00</u>
Transfers			
Transfer to Pilgrimage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Transfers	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Benevolent Disbursements	\$ 422,523.98	\$ 441,300.87	\$ 508,803.06
Program Expenses			
Committees & Partnerships	\$ 5,439.12	\$ 2,953.27	\$ 11,150.00
Salary and Benefits	\$ 578,374.78	\$ 570,245.64	\$ 865,540.99
Administrative Costs	\$ 110,962.59	\$ 99,010.23	\$ 153,505.95
Total Program Expenses	<u>\$ 694,776.49</u>	<u>\$ 672,209.14</u>	<u>\$ 1,030,196.94</u>
Total Transfers and Disbursements	<u>\$ 1,117,300.47</u>	<u>\$ 1,113,510.01</u>	<u>\$ 1,539,000.00</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>\$ (16,897.62)</u>	<u>\$ (56,449.93)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Other Revenues	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Other Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Operating Total	\$ (16,897.62)	\$ (56,449.92)	\$ -

ADDENDUM

Opportunities for Presbytery Service

During the Pandemic, all meetings are virtual until further notice.

*Committees/Commissions of the Presbytery need you! If interested and able, please submit a Volunteer Interest Form (and General Assembly Interest Form, if interest in GA) found with full descriptions of committees/commissions at <http://atlpcusa.org/committees>. Terms of service are typically 3 years, with eligibility for re-election, and maximum of 6 consecutive years. The * indicates that committee/commission members must be Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders in the PC (USA).*

***Bills and Overtures Committee/General Assembly (GA) Commissioner** – prepares for, attends, and participates in the General Assembly, reports to the Presbytery, and serves as the Presbytery Bills and Overtures Committee for two years following the General Assembly. Meetings are typically Monday, quarterly, 1-3 pm.

***Committee on Ministry (COM)** – provides care of congregations, pastors, and educators. Meetings are typically 3rd Thursdays, monthly, 5-7 pm, with subcommittees meeting from 4-5 pm.

***Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)** – works with inquirers and candidates as they discern calls to ministry and move through the requirements for ordination. Meetings are typically 4th Thursdays, monthly, 4:30-7:30 pm, alternating between in-person at Morningside PC and Zoom.

Committee on Representation (COR) – offers ways to live out the church’s commitment to inclusiveness and representation. Meetings are typically 3rd Tuesdays, every other month, 10-11:30 am.

***Presbytery Council** – guides, plans and envisions staffing needs and directions to be taken by the Presbytery. Meetings are typically Monday, 5-6 times per year, 5-7 pm.

Dismantling Racism Committee (DRC) – looks at ways congregations may be more engaged in education and action around racism. Meetings are typically 4th Wednesdays, monthly, 5-6:30 pm.

***Examinations Commission** – examines all ministers who wish to be received into the Presbytery for membership. Meetings are typically 3rd Thursdays, monthly, 1-4 pm.

Grants Committee – reviews grant applications and awards grants each year to churches, other organizations, and/or seminarians. Meetings are typically twice per year in May and October.

***New Church Development Commission (NCDC)** – catalyzes and supports the development of new worshiping communities/new church developments throughout our presbytery. Meetings are typically 3rd Mondays, 2nd month of each quarter, 6:30-8:30 pm. Members also serve on committees, which meet at various times.

***Nominating Committee** – identifies and recruits volunteers for Presbytery committees/commissions. Meetings are typically Thursdays, 3-4 times per year, beginning at 10am, with the duration depending on the number of positions to be filled.

Operations Committee – manages financial and business processes of the Presbytery. Meetings are typically Mondays, quarterly, 2-4 pm.

***Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)** – exercises church discipline through judicial process. Meetings are as needed during the 6-year term of service.

Personnel Committee – provides guidance, expertise, and assistance to the Presbytery staff regarding matters of personnel. Meetings are typically 1st Mondays, quarterly, 12-1:30 pm.

***Synod Commissioners** – represent the Presbytery at 1-2 Synod meetings per year of a 2-year term.

Presbytery Worship and Planning Committee – assists in planning worship and order of business for Stated Meetings of the Presbytery. Meetings are typically on a Monday, approximately 6 weeks prior to each Stated Meeting, 11:30 am-2 pm, plus one joint meeting per year with Council to discuss themes for the coming year.

Partnership Info for November 12, 2022 PGA Meeting Handbook

AMIS (Atlanta Ministry with International Students) is the French word for “friends” and describes our mission, which is to promote cultural and global understanding through friendship and hospitality with international students and scholars in the greater Atlanta area. We are currently looking for volunteers to welcome and connect with international students as Amigo friends. Our International Friendship program matches an international student with a volunteer in the local community for friendship and sharing of cultures. Your support can help an international student in their adjustment to American life, culture, and language, as well as introduce them to our city. We ask you to meet at least once for a meal, event, or outing and continue your friendship over the year as you have time and opportunity. Learn more at: amis-inc.org/amigovolunteer or email us at office@amis-inc.org.

Buckhead Christian Ministries’ mission is to keep people from becoming homeless and to work to elevate their possibilities for economic empowerment. We provide emergency assistance, supportive housing, and financial education programs that strengthen our community and empower our neighbors. <https://bcmgeorgia.org>

Central Outreach and Advocacy Center’s purpose is to open doors to overcome and prevent homelessness. Our vision is to be passionate advocates and invested partners for those experiencing homelessness. Central OAC serves downtown Atlanta from the lower level of Central Presbyterian Church. Our agency has developed from an emergency food pantry to a church outreach ministry into one of the most well-known nonprofits in the downtown area. <https://centraloac.org>

Earth Covenant Ministry (GIPL) Georgia Interfaith Power and Light is an interfaith non-profit whose mission is to engage communities of faith in the stewardship of Creation as a direct expression of our faithfulness and as a religious response to global climate change, resource depletion, environmental injustice, pollution, and other disruptions in Creation. <https://gipl.org/>

ECKAM (Evangelical Coalition of Korean American Ministries) is a partnership of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. It is formed by Korean congregations and fellowships within the bounds of Greater Atlanta Presbytery. ECKAM’s focus shall be mission and ministry that specifically addresses the Korean cultural context and language needs. ECKAM is part of the Presbytery subject to all the policies and procedures of the presbytery and Book of Order, yet will have a certain degree of autonomy in addressing ministry in the Korean context, and in some process issues in the presbytery.

The mission of **Joining Hands for Justice in Palestine and Israel (JHJPI)** is to promote peace with justice in the Holy Land. We promote bringing an end to the Israeli Occupation and exploitation of land and resources by applying Christ’s teaching through prayer, advocacy, and education. Our hope is to build relationships on the basis of equality and human rights so that all may live in peace with dignity.

Join Us! We meet, via Zoom, on the second Thursday of every month at noon.
Support Our Work: donate online – jhjpi.com/support or send check to: P.O. Box 2123, Tucker, GA, 30085
Like our Facebook Page: [Joining Hands for Justice in Palestine and Israel](#)
Visit Our Website: jhjpi.com for more information and resource materials.
Or contact: Sarah Humphrey: sarah.h.humphrey@gmail.com

La Gonave Haiti Partners

Our Vision: A future where everyone on la Gonâve experiences thriving, abundant life.
Our Mission: Haitian and American partners, working side by side in mutually-transformative relationships, to build vibrant, hopeful, and resilient communities on the island of la Gonâve. For more than 30 years, la Gonâve Haiti Partners has been working in collaboration with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti to support programs that build capacity for an improved quality of life for Haitians living on la Gonâve island. Nineteen churches across eight states, individuals, and other institutions partner with our Haitian brothers and sisters to support pre K-12 education for over 1500 students, healthcare for thousands of patients, and economic development opportunities to families through micro finance loans and the Kid-for-a-Kid goat program. Recent initiatives include a new rural middle school that will open this fall, and a computer literacy curriculum for students attending the K-12 school with the arrival of the St. Francis computer lab, and creation of an integrated network of health care providers across the island that addresses maternal and infant health and childhood malnutrition. We welcome new churches to learn more about joining our partnership. www.lagonavepartners.org.

Memorial Drive Ministries envisions the end of disconnectedness for refugees and the diverse community of Clarkston. This summer, Memorial Drive Ministries welcomed 3 new partners onto our campus to join our community: a new congregation worshipping in Burmese on Sundays, an International Rescue Committee summer camp for resettled refugee students, and the Center for Victims of Torture external relations staff. As we move into the fall, stay in touch by following Memorial Drive Ministries on Facebook, signing up for our E-newsletter through our website, or giving a gift through our Amazon Wishlist.

<https://www.facebook.com/MemorialDriveMinistries>

<https://mdmatl.org/sign-up-for-newsletter/>

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1KZ6V7DYWQ4SP?ref=wl_share

The **Peace and Global Witness Partnership** is established to promote the efficacy of Peace throughout our global community and nation. To effectuate this process of Peace, the Partnership has incorporated several Ministries which range in service population to International Students (Ministry of Amis), The Prison Movement (Ncart), Local homelessness Service projects, El Refugio and detainee programs as well as the Sanctuary Movement located at Columbia Presbyterian Church. In addition, collaborations are underway to integrate the work of Mission Haven with local church ministries. Further the development of the Institute for Public Theology under the auspices of Columbia Presbyterian Church has begun preliminary discussions with Columbia Seminary in an effort to develop a cross section of curricular designed to enhance public theology praxis with seminary training.

Presbyterians Caring for Chaplains and Military Personnel helps the PC(USA) endorsing agency, Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies (www.pccmp.org), provide Presbyterian and reformed ministry to federal personnel with the mission, “That all may practice in peace.” We help recruit and support Presbyterian clergy who serve members and families of our Armed Forces worldwide, Veterans and their families receiving care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, inmates confined in Bureau of Prison facilities and their families, and members and cadets of the Civil Air Patrol. In August 2022, Chaplain Training and Credentialing events will be held at Calvin Crest Conferences outside Oakhurst, CA on August 1-5 and at Montreat Conference Center in Montreat NC on August 8-12. Presbytery’s Peace and Global Witness Partnership financially supports these events. Minister members of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta that currently serve as Chaplains are Patrick Day with the Georgia National Guard, Victoria Kelly Chappell with the US Navy Reserve and Michael Chaney in the US Navy. For more information contact Rev. Bill Nisbet, retired Army Reserve Chaplain, at wonisbet@bellsouth.net.

Presbyterians for a Better Georgia has been a voice for Presbyterians at the state capitol during the 2022 legislative session, working especially hard to achieve positive results on our two focus issues: 1) increasing affordable housing/ending homelessness and 2) increasing access to healthcare. Please visit our website (www.p4bg.org) or our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds to learn more about how you can partner with PBG.

Street Grace is a faith-driven organization collaborating with faith, business and community leaders providing a comprehensive path to end the sexual exploitation of minors. CSEC involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, and/or the obtaining of a child under the age of 18 for the purpose of a commercial sex act. Street Grace mobilizes community resources – financial, human, and material – to fight CSEC through **prevention, protection, policy and pursuit.**

MISSION: To eradicate the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

VISION: A world where all children are free from sexual exploitation.

<https://www.streetgrace.org/>

Presbyterian Youth Ministry Collaboration of Atlanta brings together those working in youth ministry across the greater Atlanta area. Our group is composed of full-time, part-time and volunteer youth workers who serve in a variety of ordained and non-ordained positions at PGA churches. The mission of this partnership is to foster community and learning between the youth workers of the presbytery through idea sharing.

The mission of **UKirk Atlanta** is to energize, coordinate, and develop relationship-based ministries on Atlanta area college campuses and to build connections between college students and PC(USA) congregations.

UKirk Atlanta strives to foster supportive, faithful communities of students who together seek to engage faith in their everyday lives, particularly for the students at Agnes Scott College, Emory University, and Georgia State University.

We are proudly a member of More Light Presbyterians and a Matthew 25 Faith Community. Our partnership as a More Light ministry gives us a foundation for the future of our ministry that we are proud to stand upon so that we can “be lovingly present for those who most need support in our communities, encouraging us to better attend to their spiritual needs.”

We are also called by our faith to stand against the systems of white supremacy and racism, seeking justice and wholeness in God’s beloved community.

As we enter the summer break season, UKirk Atlanta is focusing on fundraising for the sustainability of our ministry and partnering with congregations and incoming college students to equip them with faith formation opportunities ahead of them. If you are interested in inviting UKirk leaders to speak with your graduating seniors or with your congregation as a whole about the importance of college ministry please reach out.

www.ukirkatlanta.com

Westminster Christian Fellowship at Georgia Tech introduces students and Chinese scholars to Christianity and walks with Christians through this pivotal time of life. Our general student group meets weekly for fellowship, worship, prayer, and small group Bible studies. Our Chinese student group meets weekly to build community and study the Bible. Every year we serve over 300 Chinese students in August by welcoming them to Georgia Tech by offering transportation and temporary housing before the school year begins. We also have a weekly group for Chinese adult scholars and their families to learn about Christianity. The scholars group provide many adults with their first exposure to Christianity.

If you would like more information about our organization, you can visit our website (gt-wcf.org) or find us on Facebook or Instagram ([gtwcf](https://www.instagram.com/gtwcf)). If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a financial supporter, you may email our director Jon Keyser (jon@gt-wcf.org).





Seven Marks of Vital Congregations

1

LIFELONG Discipleship Formation vs. Complacent “Christian” piety, simply teaching good morals, or offering the latest programs.

“The righteousness that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness of God based on faith.” (PHIL. 3:9B)

- From the cradle to the grave seeking to be formed for right living with God and with all people.
- Faith — seeking understanding, cultivating wisdom, and actively following Christ. It is not an extra-curricular activity nor merely head-knowledge.
- Discipleship awakened and engaged in issues facing today’s culture: injustice, inequality, divisive segregation, oppression, suffering, abuse of creation.
- Discipleship formed and strengthened in the community of Christ and permeates daily practices and daily living.

2

Intentional Authentic Evangelism vs. “Jesus freaks”; “Christian” Hypocrisy; A committee.

“We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God.” (2 COR. 4:7)

- Intentionally sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, not just acts of kindness.
- Authentically sharing Christ because it is intrinsic to self-identity; overflow of Christ in our life.
- Relational, not programmatic or systematic

3

Outward Incarnational Focus vs. Inward Institutional Survival; Closed communities of assimilation/exclusion.

“The gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (MATT. 7:14)

- Outward exploration, awareness, and focus on neighbors and neighborhood.
- Beyond relationship with those who are like us, the incarnate Christ dwells among the lowly & least, the stranger & the suffering, the marginalized & majority.
- Missional focus on where Christ is already living and present and calling us to dwell.

4

Empower Servant Leadership vs. the Pastor’s job; monopolized leadership; hiring the young energetic pastor; burning out good volunteers.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers.” (MATT. 9:37–38)

- Identify, nurture, support the use of spiritual gifts of all people to serve; not monopolized cliques of power.
- All voices and people are necessary, and it is noticeable when people are absent/missing.
- Nurture and encourage those specifically called and gifted for pastoral ministry.

5

Spirit-Inspired Worship vs. *Self-gratifying worship, stale ritual divorced of meaning, or consumer entertainment worship*

“These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote.” (ISAIAH 29:13)

- Worship is about God. We get to come on holy ground, encounter God, and experience wonder.
- Worship is active participation in the living relationship of the triune God, thus all should feel welcome just as they are to come.
- Worship challenges, teaches, transforms, encounters, convicts, and sends people out different.

6

Caring Relationships vs. *Any other Social Club; façades, hypocrisy, and judgment of “church” and “religion.”*

“By this everyone will know that you are disciples, if you have love for one another.” (JOHN 13:35)

- Sharing in God’s true agape moves us beyond half-hearted programmatic participation, lukewarm faith, and pretending.
- Instead of a closed, judgmental community, people find freedom to share stories, encounter the Savior, and ask for help.
- Welcome and hospitality are not left to a committee, but, imperfectly, we strive for all people find identity, purpose, and belonging in the household of God.
- Confront conflict, seek reconciliation in all divisions, find ways to embrace all diversity, seek to be peace-makers and bridge builders together.

7

Ecclesial Health vs. *Unhealthy dysfunction; toxic environments; obsolete and irrelevant buildings*

“The body does not consist of one member but of many. God has so arranged the body that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.” (1 COR. 12:14, 24B–25)

- Understanding of: Why we are a church community? How are we a church community in practice? Prayer permeates all life together.
- Clarity in mission, core values to ministry, passion and joy in being the church. Our budget reflects these values, vision, and ministries.
- Fiscally responsible — stewardship and tithing are taught, transparency in spending, continual assessment/discernment of a sustainable budget.
- All are aware of how decisions are made, stake-holders in the process and procedures, valued voices in the envisioning, open to changes, continual assessment of the “why” and “how” we are church together.
- Nurturing and supporting the health of pastor(s), staff, and all called to lead; fighting against burnout.

|| Association of Smaller Congregations

Save *the* Date

**MARCH
2ND-5TH
2023**

Epworth by the Sea

Keynote Speaker

LISA CULPEPPER



Scripture Theme

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

PHILIPPIANS 1: 3-6

STUDENTS WHO ARE PRESBYTERIAN

can earn \$20,000 per year for four years
—that's \$80,000 guarantee to attend PC.*

\$20,000 = \$80,000
PER YEAR GUARANTEED

The Presbyterian Promise Scholarship is a commitment by Presbyterian College to recognize students for their merit and affiliation with the Presbyterian Church. Students who are members of Presbyterian churches will receive a scholarship for a minimum of \$20,000 per year for up to four years—that's an \$80,000 commitment to you. The scholarship is a way of honoring these students who will enrich our community of learners and add vibrancy to the PC campus.



PRESBYTERIAN
COLLEGE



REQUEST MORE
INFORMATION

*The Presbyterian Promise Scholarship is offered to new incoming undergraduate students and may not be combined with other merit scholarships. The total financial aid award, including federal, state, and private scholarships, may not exceed direct costs. Any merit scholarship offered more than \$20,000 per year meets the minimum Presbyterian Promise scholarship commitment.

VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

Use this form to express interest in volunteering to serve on a Presbytery of Greater Atlanta committee/commission. The information you submit will be put on file for the Nominating Committee. The primary nominating meeting is in the fall. However, there may be a few vacancies to fill throughout the year.

The PGA is committed to giving full expression to the rich diversity of our membership in the structures of our committees/commissions and council. Providing information helps the Nominating Committee fulfill this commitment to inclusiveness and representation.

Please complete the questions below as you feel comfortable. Submitting a form does not guarantee nomination. If you are nominated, you will be contacted by a member of the Nominating Committee. If not nominated, your information will be kept for the next cycle.

Committee/Commission Info: <https://www.atlpcusa.org/committees>

Mail To: Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, 1024 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

To fill out this form online, visit <http://bit.ly/2xMq8bm> or Scan →



Today's Date

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Preferred Method of Communication

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

I am a:

____ Ruling Elder (Once a Ruling Elder, always a Ruling Elder!)

____ Teaching Elder

____ Lay Person

Church of Affiliation and City (Ex. First Presbyterian in Covington)

If Teaching Elder, are you:

____ Validated Minister Member

____ Honorably Retired

____ Member At Large

____ Parish Pastor

--Turn Over--

Thank you for your interest in serving.

I am interested in serving on the following committees/commissions:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Assembly Commission/Bills
& Overtures Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> New Church Development
Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Preparation for
Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Operations Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Representation | <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Judicial Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dismantling Racism Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Synod Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examinations Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship and Planning Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grants Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Where Needed |

I offer the following gifts/qualities/skills to a committee/commission: (*Examples: Financial Planning, Multilingual, Funds Development, Bookkeeping, Musician, Liturgist, Listener, etc.*)

In the Presbytery, I have served in the following ways (any presbytery):

Age:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 and Under | <input type="checkbox"/> 46-55 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-35 | <input type="checkbox"/> 56-65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 36-45 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 |

Gender Identity: _____

Cultural/ Ethnic Heritage: _____

Physical Limitations: _____

What else would you like us to know about you that would be helpful?

--Turn Over--

Thank you for your interest in serving.