THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HARMONY
COMMISSIONERS' HANDBOOK
November 17, 2026

Melina Presbyterian Church
3539 Black River Rd. Gable, SC 29501
803-473-2265

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Dr. Ella Busby, who will lead us in worship through her preaching. We invite everyone to bring a donation for Melina Presbyterian Church's Blessings Box; please see page 3 for additional details. We will also engage in discussion of the current amendments, which were distributed in early October.

Content	Page
Cover Page	1
Melina Presbyterian Church History	2
Melina Presbyterian Church Blessings Box	3
Preacher Biography for Today's Worship	4
Officer Training Flyer	5
Docket	6
Omnibus Motion	7
Stated Clerk Report	8
Guiding Council Report	9-15
2027 Operating Budget PROPOSAL	16-18
Synod Highlights	19-20
Bylaws for SC Inn at Montreat	21-24
COM Report	25-26
Personal Discernment Profile - Dayton Wilson	27-33
Faith Journey - Kyle Henderson	34
Statement of Faith - Kyle Henderson	35
CPM Report	36
Summary of Call & Service - Ray Dobell	37-38
CORN Report	39
Fork, Hebron, McColl, New Harvest, Ruby, Salem Black River, Pawleys Island and Timmonsville AC Reports	40-47
2026 Amendments Team Report	48-52
Amendments PROPOSED from GA227	53-149
Financial Reports	150-160

The information to access the online version of this handbook is being emailed to each minister member of NHP and every Clerk of Session. It is the Clerk's responsibility to distribute that information to the Ruling Elder Commissioner eligible to vote at the meeting.

A limited number of printed handbooks will be available at the meeting. Please print their own Handbook, or parts you believe you need; better still for the good stewardship of God's creation, download it on your laptop or notebook and bring that to the meeting.

All Minister Members and Ruling Elder Commissioners are urged to **read all the reports in** order to be fully prepared for the meeting.

The price of lunch is $15.00.

MELINA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GABLE, SC

The Melina Presbyterian church (U.S.A.) was organized in 1865 by a Mr. W. R. Miller. Between 1854-65, Mr. Robert E. McFadden, Sr., held meetings each Sabbath under the trees or in his home for the Negro Slaves. He read sermons by different ministers to them. At the close of the War between the States, a group of Negroes sought to establish their own house of worship. Mr. McFadden conveyed three acres of land to them for a church and school and helped them to build a Church. The rectangular frame structure, 25 x 60, was built of hewn timber with a straight tower (Bell) on the roof. While the church was being built, services were held under a Brush Shed. In 1918, an addition was added to the original structure. A six-room manse was also built and was later used as a community house.

In 1907, Mr. Frank E. DuBose, Sr., conveyed two and one quarter acres of land to the following trustees of the Melina Church: Messrs. M. W. McFadden, E. A. Coleman, and Wesley Wilson. In 1910, Mr. DuBose conveyed another two and one quarter acres of land to the Melina trustees. In recent years, Mr. Frank E. Dubose, Jr., conveyed 0.31 of an acre of land to the trustees. Also, the surviving members of Odd Fellows Lodge conveyed 1.09 acres to the trustees of the Melina Church.

Reverend Davis, a white missionary, was the first minister. He preached from 1865-67. Reverend Lestrat, a Northern Negro, was the first resident minister. He preached from 1868-78. Other ministers who have served the church are: The Reverends John Simon, Rainey, I. D. Davis, Eddie Ailen, George T. Dillard, James M. McKay, Walter Thomas Bruton, James W. Manoney, Fritz Cannon, John Rosebrough, Robed C. Johnson, and George E. Spellen. Under the leadership of these ministers, along with dedicated elders and members, the church grew both in service and devotion.

With the zeal and leadership of the Reverend R. C. Johnson, efforts were made to build a new church. However, before the new building could be erected, Reverend Johnson was called to serve another congregation. This did not falter the efforts of the congregation, and in 1963, a new church and educational building were built. The contractor for the new church was Coker's Builders of Turbeville, South Carolina. The old church was sold to Mr. Eddie Wilson, a member of the Church.

In September of 1965, Reverend Carnell Hampton came to us as Stated Supply, and in June of 1966 was installed as Pastor. The church has made great progress under his leadership. During his tenure of 45 years as Pastor of Melina, the Church grew spiritually and numerically. Spiritually lives were committed to Christ. Physical improvements were made to the church and its property. A manse, education unit, sanctuary and an activity center were built. The parking lot was paved, and twenty-eight acres of land was purchased. Numerous services were implemented.

Following the retirement of the Rev. Carnell Hampton, the Rev. Samuel L. Sparks III began serving Melina Presbyterian Church as Temporary Supply Pastor in May 2011. He was subsequently succeeded by the Rev. Dr. Larry Hill, followed by the Rev. Dr. Ella Busby. The Rev. Dr. Larry Hill has since returned to serve the congregation and currently serves as its Supply Pastor.

The Melina Church has been a center for our lives, and a lighthouse and power station in the community. From these sacred grounds our sons and daughters have gone to take their places of leadership in the world.

NEW HARMONY'S PRESBYTERY GATHERING

November 17th, 2026

Help us Fill the

Melina PC's Blessings Box

Please bring items to the Presbytery Gathering at Melina Presbyterian Church to place in the Blessings Box.





Ideas of what to bring

PANTRY

- Pancake mix
- Rice
- Pasta
- Cereal
- Instant oatmeal
- Granola bars
- Crackers
- Dried fruit & nuts
- One-box meals
- Individually packed foods
- Canned goods
- Flour
- Sugar
- Salt
- Pepper

HOUSEHOLD

- Laundry supplies
- Soap
- Toilet paper

BABY & HYGIENE

- Baby food
- Baby supplies
- Personal hygiene supplies

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you."

John 15:12 • Take what you need • Leave what you can



The Reverend Dr. Ella F. Busby

"It is by grace…it is a gift of God…so no one can boast (Ephesians 2:8-9)" that Ella is who she is, a believer in Jesus Christ, an ordained minister of Word and Sacraments in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and honorably retired, after 30 plus years of faithfully serving as pastor to several churches within the denomination in Georgia and South Carolina.

Even though retired, Ella continues to be about the business of winning souls for Christ. Currently, she is joyfully serving the Second Presbyterian Church, Sumter, SC, as Supply Pastor, and is the Associate for Pastoral Concerns and Fellowship of the Presbytery of New Harmony. She is the founder of the Hallelujah Anyhow (HaHa) Ministry and believes there is always a reason to laugh…HaHa!

Ella's gifts have made way for her as a preacher, teacher, revivalist, worship/conference leader, storyteller, writer (Presbyterian Women Horizon Magazine), and a friend to many. Ella has been blessed to share the 'Good News' of Jesus Christ locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally, by winning souls in Jamaica, building homes in Mexico, shepherding cows in Nairobi, and advocating for the poor, elderly, and women wherever God sends her.

Ella received her Master of Divinity degree and the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award from Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia. She earned her Doctor of Ministry degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Georgia, where she served as the President of the Columbia Theological Seminary Alumni Council. She did doctoral study at Bossey Institute, Geneva, Switzerland.

With God's grace and favor. Ella has organized and revitalized churches, managed the construction of church buildings, and has been used by God as a mouthpiece in the transformation of church folk's lives. She has served on all level of the Presbyterian Church (USA), having served twice as Moderator of the Presbytery of New Harmony and three times as Commissioner to the Synod of South Atlantic and the General Assembly. She is a member of the NAACP, the Sumter County Concerned Clergy Alliance (SCCC), and a member of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Mary McLeod Section, Sumter, who recognized her has an Outstanding Religious Leader in Sumter.

Ella loves the parish ministry and preaching, but she has focused on women's ministry having preached and presented at many women's gatherings and retreats, in Canada, Jamaica, Kenya, East Africa, South Africa and throughout the United States. She has and continues to mentor many of our young, dynamic female clergy. Ella has served as an instructor at the South Carilina School of Theology where she taught Preaching and Reformed Worship.

For rest and relaxation, she enjoys spending time with her family, including two sons: Sam (Anita) and Michael (Elizabeth) and five beautiful and smart granddaughters, 10 siblings and many friends; bird watching, reading and writing, listening to gospel and smooth jazz music, and traveling. Lately, Ella has become an amateur gardener and sports fanatic.

Thanks be to God for all that God is doing, has done and will do, in, through and for Ella. Because of God's favor, Ella sings "God has smiled on me. God has been – is good to me." Amen.

New Harmony Presbytery

Officer Training

Building Skills. Strengthening Leadership. Growing Together.

The Presbytery wants to offer Officer Training opportunities for congregations throughout the Presbytery on the following dates:

January 9

Trinity Presbyterian Church

2061 Glenns Bay Road,
Surfside Beach, SC 29575

January 16

Sumter Second Presbyterian Church

1125 Old Pocalla Road,
Sumter, SC 29151

January 23

New Harmony Presbytery Office

2352 Presbyterian Rd,
Florence, SC 29501

These sessions will be open to all Elders currently serving on Session, as well as anyone interested in learning more about the responsibilities of church leadership or refreshing their existing knowledge.

Training Schedule:

Check-in: 8:15–9:00 AM | **Training:** 9:00 AM–1:00 PM
Mid-morning break: Approximately 10:45 AM

PROPOSED DOCKET

PRESBYTERY OF NEW HARMONY 123rd STATED MEETING

9:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at Melina

Moderator's Theme: "Partnership Throughout the World"

11-7-2026

8:30 A.M. Registration, Gathering, Fellowship and Refreshments

9:30 Determination of a Quorum and Call to Order with Prayer — Ruling Elder James Wilson, Moderator
Land and Labor Acknowledgement
Review and Adopt the Docket and Omnibus Motion (see Commissioners' Handbook)
Recognize and Welcome First Time Ruling Elders and Corresponding Members
Introduce and Seat Corresponding Members
Welcome by the Pastoral Leader — Rev. Dr. Larry Hill

9:50 Worship (Offering: Melina for local mission; make checks to "*New Harmony Presbytery*")
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ella Busby, Pastor, Second Sumter/NHP Assoc. for Pastoral Concerns & Fellowship

11:00 Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) — Elder Frances Dennis, Moderator
Examination of Inquirer Ray Dobell in order to proceed to Candidacy

11:25 Committee on Ministry (COM) — Rev. Tom Langston, Moderator
Reinstatement of Kyle Henderson as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament
Introduction of the Rev. Dayton Wilson, Transitional Pastor, Kingston, Conway
Recognition of the Honorable Retirement of the Rev. Vikki Brogdon

11:50 Harvest Hope of the Pee Dee — Zhariah Walker, Donor Relations Coordinator

12:00 Lunch – **ORDER OF THE DAY** *(*cost - $15; checks - "*Melina Presbyterian Church*")

1:00 Good News from our Congregations (<u>not announcements</u>) — **<u>Ruling Elders ONLY!!!</u>**

1:20 Committee on Representation and Nominations (CORN) — Elder Linda Jackson, Moderator

1:30 New Harvest Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission — Elder Sheryl Davis, Moderator

1:40 Ruby Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission — Rev. Max Michaels, Moderator

1:50 Report of the Guiding Council — Rev. Gavin D. Meek, Guiding Council Moderator
Proposed 2027 Budget Second Reading and Action — Rev. Carnell Hampton, Moderator, P&F

2:10 Amendments to the Book of Order from the 227th General Assembly — Rev. Dr. Frank Colclough

3:00 New Business and any items which might have been removed from the Omnibus Motion
Announcements, Expression of Thanks, Adjournment & Prayer — Elder James Wilson, Moderator

OMNIBUS MOTION

The Presbytery of New Harmony – Tuesday, November 17, 2026

(An **Omnibus Motion** expedites business and contains several items believed to be easily understood, non-controversial, and thought not to elicit questions or debate. It is acted upon in one vote by the presbytery at the beginning of the meeting and any Commissioner or Minister member may request the removal of any item in the Omnibus Motion; if that occurs, that item/s will be placed as the first item/s under New Business and the person making the request will speak first as to the reason for pulling the item.)

Your Guiding Council recommends the following OMNIBUS MOTION:

Receive the following written reports and approve the actions therein:

(The Commissioners' Handbook Index has the page number for each report/document.)

- **Guiding Council** including…
  - Establishing an Administrative Commission for Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church as requested by the COM.
  - Approving of the Bylaws for the SC Inn at Montreat.

  but does not include…
  - Election of the nominees for CORN.
  - Conducting a second reading of and act upon the Proposed 2027 Budget.

- **Committee on Ministry (COM)** but not including…
  - Approving reinstatement of Kyle Henderson as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.

- **Committee on Preparation (CPM)** but not including…
  - Approving Inquirer Ray Dobell to Candidacy.

- **Fork Administrative Commission.**

- **Hebron Administrative Commission.**

- **McColl Administrative Commission.**

- **New Harvest Administrative Commission** but not including…
  - Action on the Ellen V. Galloway Scholarship Fund.

- **Pawleys Island Administrative Commission.**

- **Ruby Administrative Commission** but not including…
  - Affirming the gifting of the property to the Town of Ruby for use as a town museum and the dissolution of the AC.

- **Salem Black River Administration Commission.**

- **Timmonsville Administrative Commission.**

STATED CLERK REPORT

The Presbytery of New Harmony – November 17, 2026

Rev. Gavin D. Meek, Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk

1. The minutes of The Presbytery of New Harmony for the year **2025** were approved by the Synod of South Atlantic, with a few minor exceptions.

2. I appointed an Amendments Team to study the amendments coming to the presbyteries for a vote from the 227th General Assembly in order to make a recommendation to New Harmony Presbytery. The Team's report is attached and the team consisted of the following:

- Rev. Dr. Frank Colclough: Supply Pastor, Cousar & Harmony; former NHP staff & Stated Clerk
- Ruling Elder Will Ginn: John Calvin, Florence; Asst. Treasurer
- Commissioned Pastor Delcia Harper-Baxter: Trinity, Mayesville; member of CPM
- Rev. Tony Larson: Pastor, Trinity, Surfside; Co-moderator, 226th General Assembly, PC(USA)
- Ruling Elder Jackie Rembert: Ebenezer, Dalzell; Moderator, Synod of South Atlantic

Guiding Council Report

Presbytery of New Harmony – Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Rev. Gavin D. Meek, Moderator of the Guiding Council

RECOMMENDATIONS (NOT in the Omnibus Motion)

1. **Elect the following people to the Committee on Representation and Nominations:**

   2027 Moderator for CORN: RE Linda Jackson (Melina, Gable)

   Class of 2029 (*denotes second term)

   *TE Tom Dendy (Honorably Retired)

   RE Susan Holton (First, Sumter)

   *CP Othan Sharp (Mt. Lisbon)

2. **Conduct a second reading of the attached Proposed 2027 Budget for debate and action.**

The Guiding Council (GC) reports the following actions taken on behalf of NHP or provides the following information:

1. Approved the **minutes** of the **August 22, 2026 Stated Meeting of NHP**.
2. Reviewed the dates and locations of the upcoming **2027 NHP Gatherings:**

   Feb. 20 (Saturday) ~~Murrells Inlet~~ >>>**NOW Celebration<<<**

   May 14-15 (Friday/Saturday) SC5 (SC Presbyteries) at Eastminster PC, Columbia

   Aug. 21 (Saturday) ZOOM

   Nov. 16 (Tuesday) Manning

3. Received any and all reports and acted on recommendations from its committees: **Cultivation and Empowerment [CEC] and Personnel and Finance [P&F]**.
4. Received the written **report from the Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk:**
   - Elected to serve on the General Assembly committee reviewing the work of Presbyterian Life and Witness, which is the national offices of the PC(USA).
   - Canceled attendance at the PC(USA) EP and Stated Clerks' annual meeting in Louisville in October due to pressing matters in the presbytery.
   - Accepted service on the Board of Trustees for the Texas Presbyterian Foundation.
5. **Kajiado's leadership team** was sadly and unfortunately denied VISAs for the second time. Kajiado Presbytery has invited the NHP Moderator and Stated Clerk, as well as other leaders, to visit their presbytery. A team that will oversee this Global Covenant Partnership is being recruited by Elder Avery Dickson and Rev. Meek; if interested or you would like to suggest a member of your congregation, please contact one of those two.
6. **SC Presbytery Boundaries Team**, consisting of two appointees by each presbytery council, continues to meet monthly discussing the possible merging of presbyteries or redrawing the presbytery boundaries in South Carolina. The discussions are still preliminary.
7. Received a report from a **final Review Team of the SC Inn at Montreat.**

8. Received an **assessment report from Cyclical Full Circle** and will be reviewing it in January.

9. Established a **New Outreach Initiatives Team to promote the G.I.V.E. Fund** consisting of Rev. Ashley Cheek, Rev. Josie Holler, Elder Cheryl Jackson, and Rev. Tony Larson with the Rev. Dr. Debbie Bronkema as consultant and with Rev. Dr. Christa Brewer assisting with the development of a grant application.

10. **Elder Gene Crawford and Rev. Meek are recruiting a team to develop and recommend an anti-racism policy** required by the Book of Order G-3.0106.

11. Received reports on **NHP Administrative Commissions**: PDAC, Fork, Hebron, McColl, New Harvest, Pawleys Island, Ruby, Salem Black River and Timmonsville.

12. Received the resignation of Rev. Pete Brzezinski from CPM.

13. Established, at the unanimous request of the Committee on Ministry and the Session of First, McColl, an **Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, McColl**, with the Rev. Dr. Scott Andrews (Pastor, First, Bennettsville), Session Moderator as the AC Moderator, Elder Larry Lee (Clerk of Session, McColl), Elder George Johnson (New Bethel, Dillon), Rev. Jennifer Kottler (Supply Pastor, John Calvin), McColl COM Liaison, Elder Karen Wilkerson, (GW Long, Cheraw), and Rev. Gavin Meek (NHP Stated Clerk), ex. officio, voice, no vote. The AC shall have the following responsibilities;

    a) to dissolve the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, McColl, South Carolina, working with and involving the Session in all matters until the dissolution of the congregation;

    b) to act on NHP's behalf, with the power to meet, when possible, with the members of the congregation, including calling a meeting of the congregation, as necessary;

    c) to arrange for the pastoral care of the members;

    d) to publicize the dissolution of the congregation;

    e) to ascertain the financial status and outstanding financial obligations of the congregation;

    f) to secure the Session records;

    g) to secure the legal rights to all property (real or personal) held by or for the benefit of the congregation;

    h) to dispose of the moveable personal property of the congregation;

    i) to secure the building and property;

    j) to attend to matters of insurance;

    k) to dispose of the building and grounds (subject to any guidelines established by NHP or the Guiding Council) or convey the building and grounds to the corporation of the Presbytery of New Harmony of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.);

    l) to recommend to NHP the use of the assets of the congregation;

    m) to plan and conduct a closing worship service celebrating the life and ministry of the congregation;

    n) to secure the assistance of other individuals, as appropriate, to assist with its work,

    o) and generally to do such things and take such actions, for, in the name of, and on behalf of NHP as shall be reasonably necessary to accomplish the general purpose of this resolution.

    This AC, its commission and work, will be reviewed annually by the COM.

14. Approved the following **Charter of the Administrative Commission for Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church:**

Preamble
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) confesses with the Heidelberg Catechism that the Son of God gathers a community out of the entire human race, "and of this community I am and always will be a living member" (Book of Confessions 4.054). The Confession of 1967 says that the church universal "is entrusted with God's message of reconciliation and shares his labor of healing the enmities which separate [people] from God and from each other" (9.31; see 2 Corinthians 5:18), and A Brief Statement of Faith confesses that the Spirit "binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church" (11.4).

Congregations, sessions, ruling elders, teaching elders, and presbyteries are bound to one another in covenant, and in that covenant we have promised to be governed by our polity, to be friends among our colleagues in ministry, and to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church (W-4.0404). "Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40). This Commission is constituted as an act of care, to help Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church ("PIPC") discern its future in the way our Constitution provides.

Historic principles
Our Book of Order grounds this work in principles Presbyterians have held since 1788. The church is called to be "a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down" (F-1.0301). The congregations of the church "constitute one church" (F-3.0201); the councils "are united by the nature of the church and share with one another responsibilities, rights, and powers," so that "the act of one of them is the act of the whole church performed by it through the appropriate council" (F-3.0203). Presbyters "are not simply to reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ" (F-3.0204), and "decisions shall be reached in councils by vote, following opportunity for discussion and discernment" (F-3.0205). A higher council has "the right of review and control over a lower one" (F-3.0206), and "the jurisdiction of each council is limited by the express provisions of the Constitution, with powers not mentioned being reserved to the presbyteries" (F-3.0209). The same principles protect conscience and call for forbearance: "God alone is Lord of the conscience" (F-3.0101), and because "there are truths and forms with respect to which [people] of good characters and principles may differ," it is "the duty both of private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other" (F-3.0105). Church power "is only ministerial and declarative" (F-3.0107): the Presbytery asks nothing of PIPC except that the Constitution be followed, and claims for itself no more than the Constitution gives.

Article 1. Authority

1.1 The Presbytery of New Harmony ("the Presbytery") constitutes this Administrative Commission under G-3.0109b, which authorizes a council to give a commission authority to consider and conclude matters referred to it.

1.2 As G-3.0109 requires, this Charter states the scope of the Commission's powers and the restrictions on them. Powers not granted here are reserved to the Presbytery. The Commission's decisions are the actions of the Presbytery within that scope.

1.3 The Commission acts under the Presbytery's responsibilities to oversee congregations, to dismiss congregations "in consultation with their members," and to assume original jurisdiction of a session that cannot exercise its authority (G-3.0301a; G-3.0303b, e). A

congregation's relationship to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) "can be severed only by constitutional action on the part of the presbytery" (G-4.0207).

Article 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Commission is to find a way forward with the Session and congregation of PIPC, in faithful discernment of the congregation's future, in a decent, orderly, and constitutional manner. The Presbytery does not seek to prevent PIPC from discerning that God is leading it to another denomination. It asks that any such discernment, and any resulting dismissal, follow the process in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the policies of the Presbytery.

Article 3. Guiding principles

3.1 *Covenant and care.* The Commission will treat the pastor, the elders, and every member of PIPC as beloved members of the body of Christ, whatever the outcome.

3.2 *Fairness.* Before the Commission exercises any authority under Sections 6.2 through 6.4, the person or body affected will receive reasonable written notice and a full opportunity to be heard. As the Heidelberg Catechism teaches, we are not to "join in condemning anyone rashly or without a hearing" (4.112).

3.3 *The least intrusive means.* The Commission will prefer consultation to direction, and will seek agreement on process before it uses any power of original jurisdiction.

3.4 *Every member.* The Commission will care for those who wish to remain in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), those who wish to leave, and those who are undecided, and will see that each is heard, for decisions in the church are reached "following opportunity for discussion and discernment" (F-3.0205).

3.5 *The October 11 vote.* The business of a congregational meeting is limited to the matters listed in G-1.0504, which do not include leaving the denomination, and a special meeting may take up only the items specifically listed in its call (G-1.0502). The Presbytery regards the ballots cast at the October 11, 2026 meeting as the expressed mind of those who voted, without binding effect, and without prejudice to either outcome, until the process in this Charter is completed. (The GAPJC reached the same conclusion under former G-7.0304 in *Sundquist v. Heartland Presbytery*, Remedial Case 219-03.)

Article 4. Membership and organization

4.1 The Commission consists of five to seven presbyters, including both teaching and ruling elders. No member may belong to or be employed by PIPC (Standing Rule 10).

4.2 The COM will appoint the Moderator and Clerk of the Commission. A majority of members is a quorum, and every decision of the Commission requires a majority of the members present, except where Article 6 requires more.

4.3 The Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk and the Staff Associate for Committee on Ministry will provide staff support to the commission. The Commission may consult with the Committee on Ministry and the Guiding Council as needed.

Article 5. Charge: consultation first

5.1 Within three business days of its first meeting, the Commission shall contact the Session through its Clerk and the Rev. Louis Imsande, and invite them to meet.

5.2 The Commission shall seek agreement with the Session on a written **Covenant for Orderly Discernment** covering: (a) a timeline for prayerful discernment; (b) congregational forums and a properly called congregational meeting at which every member may speak, with Presbytery representatives present and permitted to speak; (c) a ballot procedure and the vote required for any request for dismissal; (d) the preservation of property, funds, and records in the meantime (Article 8); (e) the care of members who wish to remain; and (f) how the Session and Presbytery will communicate with the congregation.

5.3 The Commission shall report to the Committee on Ministry within 45 days whether consultation has produced such a covenant.

Article 6. Authorities Granted

6.1 General authorities. The Commission is authorized to:

(a) call, attend, and speak at meetings of the Session, its committees, and the congregation, and, with the approval of the Committee on Ministry, to appoint a minister of the Word and Sacrament who is a member of the Presbytery to moderate any congregational meeting that it or the Presbytery calls (G-1.0503, G-1.0505);

(b) obtain the records, minutes, membership rolls, financial statements, and property documents of PIPC;

(c) communicate directly with the members of PIPC, including by letter, forum, and visits;

(d) provide pastoral care and Presbytery representation to the Session, the pastor, and the members;

(e) negotiate with the Session, and with representatives of any members who wish to remain, the terms of an orderly dismissal, and recommend those terms to the Presbytery;

(f) engage professionals, including counsel, with the approval of the Committee on Ministry and within the budget the Presbytery sets; and

(g) take such steps as are necessary to preserve the property, funds, and records of PIPC as provided in Article 8.

The authorities in Sections 6.2 through 6.4 may be exercised only if the conditions stated in each are met.

6.2 Original jurisdiction of the Session (G-3.0303e).

The Commission may assume the full power of the Session only after it has: (a) made a thorough investigation, including the consultation in Article 5; (b) given the Session written notice of the grounds it is considering and a full opportunity to be heard, in person and in writing, at a meeting of the Commission; (c) found, by a vote of at least two-thirds of its members, that the Session is "unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs"; (d) reported that finding in writing to the Session and the Committee on Ministry; and (e) allowed 10 days for the Session to respond. If the Commission assumes original jurisdiction, the Session "shall cease to act until such time as the presbytery shall otherwise direct." The Commission may delegate specific session functions to willing ruling elders under its oversight, and may relinquish original jurisdiction to the Session at any time without further action of the Presbytery.

6.3 Dissolving the pastoral relationship (G-3.0109b(5); G-2.0901, G-2.0904).

A commission may dissolve an installed pastoral relationship only if the council expressly delegates that power. The Presbytery delegates it here only on these conditions: (a) the Commission has consulted the pastor, the Session, and the congregation; (b) the pastor has received written notice of the grounds and an opportunity to be heard; (c) it concludes by a two-thirds vote, in writing, that the mission of the church under the Word imperatively demands the dissolution (G-2.0904); (d) the congregational meeting that G-2.0901 requires, to consider the matter and to consent or decline to consent to the dissolution, has been duly called and held under a moderator whom the Presbytery or the Commission appoints (G-1.0504c, G-1.0505); and (e) the Presbytery has received its report and the terms of the dissolution, including pastoral care and compensation, are fair and consistent with Presbytery policy. The Commission may recommend to the Committee on Ministry that the pastoral relationship be dissolved, and the Committee will bring any such recommendation to the Presbytery.

6.4 Allegations of offense.
An administrative commission does not itself investigate or adjudicate offenses; it may "discover and report to the designating council matters that may require judicial action" (G-3.0109b). If in its work the Commission concludes that conduct may constitute an offense, it shall report that in writing to the Committee on Ministry and the Stated Clerk, shall keep the matter confidential, and shall make no public statement about it. Any member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) may file a written allegation against a member of a congregation or a minister of the Word and Sacrament (D-7.0201b). If the Committee on Ministry concurs that an allegation should be filed, the COM shall designate someone to serve as accuser on its behalf (D-7.0201e) and to submit the written allegation to the clerk of session or stated clerk who has jurisdiction over the accused (D-7.0201d), who shall refer it to an investigating committee, which the Moderator appoints in consultation with the Stated Clerk under Standing Rule 14 (D-7.0501). If the Commission is exercising original jurisdiction of the Session, it may request, on the Session's behalf, a reference to the Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission of any such matter concerning a member or ruling elder of PIPC (D-7.0501b; D-7.0401). The Commission will strive for reconciliation and orderly process to restore relationship before recommending that an allegation be filed. A member of the Commission who serves as accuser, on an investigating committee, or on a prosecuting committee may not serve on the Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission in the same matter.

Article 7. Limits
The Commission has no authority to: (a) conclude a dismissal of PIPC, or any agreement concerning the disposition of its property, without the approval of the Presbytery; (b) sell, convey, or encumber any property of PIPC or the Presbytery; (c) discipline or censure any person; (d) remove or receive any member except as the Constitution permits; (e) determine, accept, or receive a renunciation of jurisdiction by any minister under G-2.0509, which belongs to the Presbytery and the Stated Clerk and is governed by that provision and its authoritative interpretation; or (f) alter this Charter. Any further authority requires the action of the Guiding Council.

Article 8. The trust and the Presbytery’s responsibility.
8.1 All property held by or for PIPC, whether legal title is lodged in a corporation, trustees, or an unincorporated association, is held in trust for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (G-4.0203). PIPC is a congregation that, as the records of the Presbytery reflect, exercised the exception provided in G-4.0208. That exception concerns the manner in which the congregation may encumber real property; it does not alter the trust. Under the provisions of the Constitution to which PIPC was subject before 1983, which G-4.0208 continues to apply to it, the relationship of a congregation to the church “can be severed only by constitutional

action on the part of the Presbytery," the property of a congregation that attempts to withdraw is within the control of the Presbytery, and the Presbytery may dismiss a congregation with its property when the request is made in proper order (Book of Church Order, PCUS, 6-4, 6-5, 6-7). The Presbytery of New Harmony has previously advised its congregations to the same effect (Stated Clerk Advisory Opinion, "Church Property and the Trust Clause").

8.2 The Commission shall ask the Session, as part of the Covenant for Orderly Discernment, to affirm in writing that it will preserve the church's property, accounts, endowments, records, and insurance during the process, and shall report to the Presbytery any contrary action.

8.3 The minutes and other official records of the Session are the property in perpetuity of the Session or its legal successors, and when a council ceases to exist its records become the property of the next higher council (G-3.0107). The Commission shall see that they are preserved intact and are not removed, altered, or destroyed.

8.4 The Commission shall work with the Presbytery's trustees and attorney regarding any request for property to be released, any claim of a member or group of members, and any question of civil law.

Article 9. Care of every member
The Commission shall make sure that members who wish to remain in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and members who did not take part in the October 11 meeting, receive information, are invited into the process, and are offered a worshiping home and pastoral care, whatever the outcome.

Article 10. Reports and timeline
10.1 The Commission shall report in writing to the Presbytery at its next stated meeting and at each stated meeting thereafter until its work is complete, and to the Committee on Ministry, ordinarily monthly.

Article 11. Costs
The expenses of the Commission shall be borne by the Presbytery.

Article 12. Duration
The Commission continues until the Presbytery receives its final report and discharges it. It may recommend its own discharge at any time.

PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET	2025 Budget Year-end	2026 Budget to Sept 30	2026 Budget Approved	PROPOSED 2027 Budget
Revenues				
Budgeted Receipts				
400100 Shared Mission Support from NHP Congregations	$ 389,586.56	$ 182,096.68	$ 375,500.00	$ 360,913.00
400200 Per Capita Apportionment ($26 x 6,105 - 3%)	$ 139,491.14	$ 93,034.68	$ 138,982.00	$ 138,982.00
400400 Trans - Candidate/Scholarship Fund# (~2.95% of Fund)	$ 3,600.00	$ -	$ 5,000.00	$ 4,000.00
400405 Trans - Mission & Ministry (M&M) Fund* (~3.95% Fund	$ 23,665.49	$ -	$ 80,500.00	$ 95,000.00
400415 Trans - Small Church Support/Redev.+ (~8.4% but sales	$ 3,600.00	$ -	$ 30,000.00	$ 30,000.00
400422 Trans - Unrestricted Reserve	$ (22,518.92)	$ -	$ -	$ -
400424 Trans - Campus Christian Life Fund@ (~3.66% of Fund)	$ 2,000.00	$ -	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
400900 Interest Income	$ 1,257.83	$ 1,484.73	$ 831.00	$ 831.00
400580 Mortgage Income	$ 27,750.41	$ 22,642.00	$ 27,500.00	$ 27,500.00
400910 Miscellaneous Income	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Revenues	**$ 568,432.51**	**$ 299,258.09**	**$ 660,313.00**	**$ 659,226.00**
Expenses				
Mission Beyond NHP				
520000 General Assembly Shared Mission Support	$ 70,000.00	$ 37,500.00	$ 50,000.00	$ 35,000.00
520050 GA Per Capita ($13.04 x 6,105 members)	$ 70,470.84	$ 53,693.31	$ 71,704.00	$ 71,704.00
520100 Synod Shared Mission Support($1 x 6,105)	$ 6,501.00	$ 4,768.50	$ 6,368.00	$ 6,105.00
520103 Synod Per Capita ($2.75 x 6,105)	$ 9,751.50	$ 9,537.00	$ 15,920.00	$ 16,789.00
520105 Presbyterian College	$ 5,000.00	$ 3,750.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
520110 SC Christian Action Council	$ 5,000.00	$ 3,750.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
520400 Presby Retirement Communities SC	$ 10,000.00	$ 7,500.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00
520500 SC Inn at Montreat	$ 5,000.00	$ 3,750.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
520505 SC Campus Ministry@	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,500.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
520600 GEHS/GCC		$ 3,750.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
520810 Presbyterian Agency for Development Disabilities	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,625.00	$ 7,500.00	$ 7,500.00
520815 Presbytery Leader Formation	$ 250.00	$ 250.00	$ 250.00	$ 250.00
520820 Global Covenant Partnership*	$ -	$ 73.69	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00
Total Mission	**$ 188,973.34**	**$ 135,447.50**	**$ 198,742.00**	**$ 184,348.00**
Guiding Council				
522010 Council Expenses	$ 57.40	$ 485.19	$ 300.00	$ 500.00
522024 Administrative Commissions	$ 472.06	$ 845.84	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,000.00
522025 Presbytery Meetings*	$ 1,628.76	$ 3,348.22	$ 6,000.00	$ 5,000.00
522027 Presbytery Functions*	$ 1,000.00	$ -	$ 3,000.00	$ 2,000.00
522029 Gifts and Memorials	$ 401.19	$ 25.00	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
522040 Communications Admin (+3% COLA)	$ 10,472.28	$ 8,089.56	$ 10,786.00	$ 11,000.00
522042 Communication Services Mileage	$ -	$ -	$ 200.00	$ 200.00
522045 General Assembly Expenses	$ 2,500.00	$ 3,034.65	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00
522046 Moderators' Conference*	$ -	$ 555.40	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00
522047 Synod Commissioner Training*	$ 500.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00
Total Guiding Council	**$ 17,031.69**	**$ 17,383.86**	**$ 27,786.00**	**$ 25,200.00**
Presbytery Office Expenses				
521020 Electricity	$ 4,421.31	$ 2,892.98	$ 5,000.00	$ 4,000.00
521030 Water & Sewer	$ 220.00	$ 177.00	$ 200.00	$ 250.00
521040 Nextiva	$ 1,394.99	$ 1,485.05	$ 1,670.00	$ 2,500.00
521041 Cellular Phone	$ 2,450.00	$ 2,250.00	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,000.00
521042 Copier (Internet Services)	$ 1,246.53	$ 2,119.82	$ 1,600.00	$ 2,450.00

521050 Office Supplies	$ 2,691.89	$ 1,571.44	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
521060 Staff Travel*	$ 278.82	$ 242.15	$ 750.00	$ 500.00
521070 Equipment Purchases	$ 1,387.16	$ 246.82	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
521080 Computer & Tech (Service & Maintenance)	$ 13,995.21	$ 12,276.32	$ 11,500.00	$ 9,000.00
521090 Postage	$ 146.00	$ 234.00	$ 200.00	$ 200.00
521100 Property Insurance	$ 5,127.00	$ 6,901.00	$ 8,000.00	$ 10,500.00
521130 Audit (full every 3 yrs, next in 2027)	$ 4,450.00	$ 4,600.00	$ 8,000.00	$ 8,600.00
521140 Conferences and Training*	$ 6,934.94	$ 2,994.15	$ 7,500.00	$ 5,000.00
521142 Coaching	$ 1,500.00	$ 900.00	$ 1,800.00	$ 1,800.00
521300 Constant Contact Subscription	$ 538.11	$ -	$ 400.00	$ 400.00
521400 Miscellaneous	$ 384.80	$ 105.57	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
521402 Bank Analysis Charges	$ 152.95	$ 101.00	$ 200.00	$ 200.00
522600 Property Maintenance	$ 5,084.86	$ 2,085.00	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00
Total Presbytery Office Expenses	**$ 52,404.57**	**$ 41,182.30**	**$ 55,320.00**	**$ 53,900.00**
Committee on Rep. and Nom. (CORN)				
522100 Committee Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ 50.00	$ 50.00
522110 Travel Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total CORN	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 50.00**	**$ 50.00**
Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)				
522700 Commission Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ 400.00	$ 900.00
522710 Travel Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
Total PJC	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 500.00**	**$ 1,000.00**
Committee on Ministry (COM)				
523010 Committee Expenses	$ -	$ 619.57	$ 100.00	$ 700.00
523020 Travel Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
523030 Shared Grants*	$ 34.22	$ 1,875.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
	$ -	$ -		
523044 Fall Ministers' Retreat*	$ -	$ -	$ 250.00	$ 250.00
523046 Coaching for Pastoral Leaders*	$ 600.00	$ 250.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 3,000.00
523048 Cluster Lunches*	$ 4,548.18	$ 4,444.36	$ 5,000.00	$ 6,000.00
523049 Training and Workshops*	$ 2,041.76	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 2,000.00
523052 EP Visitation*	$ 1,463.92	$ 1,839.29	$ 1,500.00	$ 2,000.00
523053 APC&F Visitation*	$ 353.45	$ 211.46	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
523054 Background Checks*	$ 555.56	$ -	$ 400.00	$ 300.00
523055 ACOM Mileage*		$ -	$ 500.00	$ 1,000.00
523056 Events and Gatherings*	$ 4,602.77	$ 3,166.07	$ 6,000.00	$ 4,000.00
523057 Commission Pastors' Scholarship*	$ -	$ -	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,000.00
523058 Children/Youth M&M(Mission & Ministry)*	$ -	$ -	$ 3,000.00	$ 500.00
Total COM	**$ 14,199.86**	**$ 14,905.75**	**$ 28,350.00**	**$ 23,350.00**
Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)				
523810 Committee Expenses	$ (262.12)	$ 308.62	$ 200.00	$ 400.00
523820 Travel Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ 200.00	$ 200.00
523830 Annual Consultations	$ -	$ -	$ 300.00	$ 300.00
523840 Consultations	$ -	$ -	$ 200.00	$ 200.00
523845 Scholarships for Candidates#	$ 3,600.00	$ 2,100.00	$ 3,000.00	$ 4,000.00
523850 Extraordinary Grants*	$ 441.75	$ -	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00
523860 Psychological Testing*	$ 6,370.13	$ 2,323.12	$ 10,000.00	$ 6,400.00
523865 Scholarships Commission Pastor Applicants#	$ -	$ 390.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,000.00
523870 School of Theology*	$ 80.55	$ -	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00
523875 Background Checks*		$ 242.94	$ 400.00	$ 400.00
Total CPM	**$ 10,230.31**	**$ 5,364.68**	**$ 19,300.00**	**$ 15,900.00**

Cultivation & Empowerment Comm. (CEC)				
522900 Committee Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
522910 Congregational Grants+	$ 5,000.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 20,000.00	$ 20,000.00
522930 Leader Scholarships+	$ 7,600.00	$ 6,951.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 10,000.00
522950 Events*	$ -	$ -	$ 2,500.00	$ 1,000.00
522960 Resources*	$ -	$ -	$ 2,500.00	$ 1,000.00
Total CEC	**$ 12,600.00**	**$ 16,951.00**	**$ 35,500.00**	**$ 32,500.00**
Personnel & Finance (P&F)				
527010 Committee Expenses	$ 1,161.51	$ 97.36	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00
527020 Travel Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total P&F	**$ 1,161.51**	**$ 97.36**	**$ 1,000.00**	**$ 1,000.00**
Self Development of People Committee (SDOP)				
528010 Committee Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
528020 Travel Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
Total SDOP	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 200.00**	**$ 200.00**
Presbytery Disaster Asst. Commission (PDAC)				
529010 Commission Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ 400.00	$ 400.00
529020 Travel Expenses	$ -	$ -	$ 100.00	$ 100.00
Total PDAC	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 500.00**	**$ 500.00**
Salaries & Benefits (+3% Cost of Living Adjustment to Salaries)				
Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk				
530010 Salary & Housing (+3% COLA)	$ 111,609.12	$ 86,217.84	$ 114,957.00	$ 118,406.00
530020 Mileage/Cont. Ed/Prof. Expenses	$ 8,501.08	$ 5,304.33	$ 8,500.00	$ 8,500.00
530030 Board of Pensions	$ 39,649.32	$ 31,697.46	$ 43,260.00	$ 47,658.00
530040 SECA (7.65% of Salary & Housing)	$ 8,538.00	$ 6,595.56	$ 8,794.00	$ 9,058.00
Total EP and Stated Clerk	**$ 168,297.52**	**$ 129,815.19**	**$ 175,511.00**	**$ 183,622.00**
Associate for Pastoral Concerns and Fellowship (10 hrs./wk)				
530310 Salary & Housing (+3% COLA)	$ 21,907.86	$ 15,621.84	$ 20,829.00	$ 21,454.00
Total Associate for Pastoral Concerns & Fellowship	**$ 21,907.86**	**$ 15,621.84**	**$ 20,829.00**	**$ 21,454.00**
Associate for COM (10 hrs./wk to 15 hrs./wk for 2027)				
530320 Salary & Housing	$ -	$ 20,420.28	$ 20,829.00	$ 32,181.00
Total Associate for Committee on Ministry	**$ -**	**$ 20,420.28**	**$ 20,829.00**	**$ 32,181.00**
Financial Administrator (15 hrs./wk)				
530600 Salary (+3% COLA)	$ 17,505.12	$ 13,522.50	$ 18,030.00	$ 18,571.00
Total Financial Administrator	**$ 17,505.12**	**$ 13,522.50**	**$ 18,030.00**	**$ 18,571.00**
Office Administrator (32 hrs./wk)				
530700 Salary (+3% COLA)	$ 42,465.52	$ 30,015.00	$ 40,020.00	$ 41,221.00
530730 BOP/Major Medical (Member only) & D&D(+1%)	$ 15,767.58	$ 11,357.46	$ 14,946.00	$ 16,935.00
530740 Deferred Compensation	$ 1,300.00	$ 900.00	$ 2,400.00	$ 2,400.00
Total Office Administrator	**$ 59,533.10**	**$ 42,272.46**	**$ 57,366.00**	**$ 60,556.00**
Other Personnel Expenses				
530750 Employer Matching SS/Medicare	$ 4,587.63	$ 3,330.72	$ 5,500.00	$ 5,500.00
Total Other Personnel Expenses	**$ 4,587.63**	**$ 3,330.72**	**$ 5,500.00**	**$ 5,500.00**
Total Salaries & Benefits	**$ 271,831.23**	**$ 224,982.99**	**$ 298,065.00**	**$ 321,884.00**
Total Expenses	**$ 568,432.51**	**$ 456,315.44**	**$ 665,313.00**	**$ 659,832.00**
Net Total	**$ (0.00)**	**$ (157,057.35)**	**$ (5,000.00)**	**$ (606.00)**

Synod of South Atlantic
MEETING HIGHLIGHTS
October 19, 2026

AT A GLANCE

16 presbyteries represented | $47,499.17 in funded grants | $2.75 synod per capita for 2027

LEADERSHIP & SHARED MINISTRY

The assembly installed *Rev. Christina Greenawalt* as 2027 Moderator and *Ruling Elder Darryl Pierce* as 2027 Vice Moderator/2028 Moderator. Nominations for synod committees, Coordinating Committee leadership, and the Permanent Judicial Commission were approved.

FORMATION & PARTNERSHIPS

- Embody Committee continues its presbytery-partnered Leader Formation Cohort and is planning commissioner orientation.
- The synod approved a renewed covenant with Agnes Scott College.
- Cultivate Committee highlighted Korean, Hispanic, and African American ministry networks, including gatherings for pastors, families, youth, and Presbyterian women.

STEWARDSHIP & GOVERNANCE

The preliminary 2027 budget was approved, with a final budget expected in February after 2026 giving is known. The synod operates on a cash basis: presbytery contributions received in 2026 support ministry in 2027. Planning assumes receipt of 75% of assessed per capita. The assembly also approved updates to administrative review procedures and personnel policies effective January 1, 2027.

PRESBYTERY CONNECTIONS

The Synod Executive/Stated Clerk reported on presbytery leadership transitions, South Carolina boundary conversations, and the review of 2025 presbytery minutes. Presbyteries are encouraged to share congregational anniversaries for synod recognition.

UPCOMING GATHERINGS

FEBRUARY 25–27, 2027 - Registration COMING SOON

Synod Meeting & Journey Event, “Pit Stop,” Epworth By the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2027 Fall Synod meeting at 6 p.m. Eastern via Zoom.

2026 GRANTS: MINISTRY IN ACTION

Seventeen funded grants across five categories support safer facilities, worship spaces, community relationships, immigrant and refugee ministries, and youth and young adult engagement.

HEMPHILL • $11,159.00

Foothills	Mattoon Presbyterian Church — Lift and Light	$2,160.00
New Harmony	Morton Presbyterian Church — Foundation Repair	$3,500.00
New Harmony	Trinity Presbyterian Church (USA) — Sanctuary Carpet Renewal	$3,499.00
New Harmony	Celebration Presbyterian Church — Entrance Safety and Drainage	$2,000.00

UDERITZ • $3,372.52

Tropical Florida	All Nations PCUSA — Sanctuary Stabilization and Worship Space Revitalization	$3,372.52

CULTIVATING COMMUNITY • $23,762.65

Central Florida	New Hope Presbyterian Church — Office of Immigration Services	$3,000.00
Charleston-Atlantic	St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church — Cultivating Community	$5,000.00
Greater Atlanta	Memorial Drive Ministries — Bathroom Flooding Repair	$4,500.00
Greater Atlanta	First Presbyterian Church Covington — Community Garden	$4,000.00
Greater Atlanta	Shalom International Ministry — Refugee and Immigrant Family Resilience	$2,500.00
Savannah	White Bluff Presbyterian Church — Growing Community Garden	$2,262.65
Trinity	Northminister Presbyterian Church (USA) — Community Free Little Library	$2,500.00

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT • $8,000.00

Greater Atlanta	Alpharetta Presbyterian Church — Young Adults Socials	$2,000.00
New Harmony	Trinity Presbyterian Church (USA) — Trinity NextGen	$2,000.00
New Harmony	Kingston Presbyterian Church — Young Adult Supper Club	$2,000.00
St. Augustine	Riverside Presbyterian Church — The Table	$2,000.00

INSPIRING MINISTRY • $1,205.00

Foothills	Mattoon Presbyterian Church — Neighbors Again	$1,205.00

TOTAL AWARDED $47,499.17

17 funded grants • 9 presbyteries represented among grant recipients

Source: Synod meeting minutes and 2026 grant awards report. Grant project titles shortened for readability.

The South Carolina Inn at Montreat, Inc.

Recommended to the South Carolina Presbyteries

(Effective January 1, 2027 if adopted by all five SC presbyteries) Montreat, North Carolina

By-Laws

ARTICLE I: Name

Section 1 The official name of the property shall be The South Carolina Inn at Montreat located at 400 South Carolina Terrace in Montreat, North Carolina. The South Carolina Inn consists of the William Brearley Home and the Kirk Apartments. The William Brearley Home was given by Mr. McIver Williamson of Darlington, South Carolina, to South Carolina Presbyterians in 1912 and was named in honor of his boyhood pastor, the Reverend William Brearley, 1801 - 1882. The first unit of the Kirk Apartments was completed in 1972 and named in honor of Mrs. Amanda Kirkpatrick, the first hostess of the Inn. The second unit of the Kirk Apartments was completed in 1986. The corporation's name shall be The South Carolina Inn at Montreat, Inc. (the "Corporation"). The property may be referred to as the "Inn."

Section 2 (Principal Office). The principal place of business of the Corporation shall be 400 South Carolina Terrace, Montreat, North Carolina, unless the Board designates another principal office as permitted by law.

ARTICLE II: Purpose

Section 1 This property shall be under the care of all concurring Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or its successors, the major portion of whose bounds lie within the State of South Carolina. The Corporation is organized and shall be operated exclusively for charitable, religious, and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Section 2 This property serves as a 501c3 non-profit retreat and lodging facility serving the congregations and its leaders and members in the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the major portion whose bounds lie within the State of South Carolina. Others may make use of the facility if rooms are available. All receipts from these uses shall apply to the operational and management costs of the Inn. No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, any trustee, officer, or private individual, except that the Corporation shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its exempt purposes. The Corporation shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3).

In accordance with the request of the original donor, the William Brearley Home provides lodging for ministers of Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the major portion of whose bounds lie within the State of South Carolina without charge within certain limitations, including a one-time service fee for each reservation, as specified by the Board of Trustees. The Board shall adopt written policies implementing donor intent in a manner consistent with applicable law and Section 501(c)(3).

Section 3 (Political and Legislative Activity). The Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, except as permitted by law.

Section 4 (Dissolution). Upon dissolution of the Corporation, assets shall be distributed to the presbyteries of South Carolina for charitable purposes.

ARTICLE III: Trustees

Section 1 The South Carolina Inn shall be under the supervision of a Board of Trustees elected by Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the major portion of whose bounds lie within the State of South Carolina.

Section 2 The Board of Trustees shall consist of two persons (one minister member and one ruling elder) from each Presbytery the major portion of whose bounds lie within the State of South Carolina. All trustees must be a minister member or member of a congregation of the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the major portion whose bounds lie within the State of South Carolina. All trustees should be knowledgeable and/or experienced in one or more of the following areas: non-profit management, property management, strategic planning, finance, fundraising, and marketing. Additionally, the Board shall consist of a Trustee with voice, no vote, who is an Executive Presbyter from one of the South Carolina presbyteries, appointed by the Executive Presbyters of the South Carolina Presbyteries the major portion of whose bounds lie within the State of South Carolina.

Section 3 (Fiduciary Duties / Standard of Conduct). Each Trustee shall discharge duties in good faith, with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, and in a manner the Trustee reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the Corporation.

Section 4 (Conflict of Interest). The Board shall adopt and annually enforce a Conflict of Interest Policy. Trustees shall disclose actual or potential conflicts and recuse themselves as required by policy.

Section 5 The term of office for each shall be two years. No Trustee shall serve more than three successive terms, but will be eligible for re-election after having been off of the Board for at least one year. Terms shall be staggered for each presbytery. This shall be determined by the Presbyteries.

Section 6 If the lines of Presbyteries within the State of South Carolina are redrawn, the Presbyteries shall be required to make the necessary adjustments to the Board of Trustees.

Section 7 Vacancies on the Board of Trustees may be filled as needed by the remaining Trustees until the next meeting of the Presbytery from which the vacancy occurs. It shall be the duty of the moderator of the Board to notify Presbyteries concerned when a vacancy occurs.

Section 8 (Removal). A Trustee may be removed (a) by the Presbytery that elected the Trustee, or (b) by a two-thirds vote of the Board for cause, including failure to fulfill fiduciary duties, subject to notice and an opportunity to be heard.

ARTICLE IV: Meetings

Section 1 The Board of Trustees shall meet at least twice annually. Other meetings shall be called at the discretion of the moderator, or by petition of 1/4 (one-fourth) of the membership of the Board.

Section 2 Members of the Board are to be notified at least ten days prior to all meetings, except in emergencies when three days are required.

Section 3 Members who miss two consecutive meetings and whose absences are unexcused by the Board shall be considered to have resigned and the moderator of the Board shall notify the respective presbytery.

Before a resignation is deemed effective under this Section, the Moderator shall provide written notice to the Trustee and allow the Trustee an opportunity to explain the absences to the Executive Committee.

Section 4 At the first meeting of a new Board, the following shall be presented by the Moderator and reviewed by the Board: the history of SC Inn at Montreat; the Bylaws; and other important documents, policies, procedures, contracts, etc. that assists the Board in being informed.

Section 5 (Electronic Participation). Trustees may participate in meetings by conference telephone or other electronic means by which all Trustees may simultaneously hear each other.

ARTICLE V: Officers

Section 1 Officers of the Board of Trustees shall consist of a moderator, vice-moderator, and secretary/treasurer.

Section 2 Officers of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the Board at the first meeting of each year and whenever there is a vacancy.

Section 3 These officers, along with the EP appointee who has voice, no vote, comprising the Executive Committee, is authorized to act between meetings. The moderator, vice-moderator and secretary/treasurer shall come from the membership of the Board. The Executive Committee may act between meetings on matters of routine administration consistent with the approved budget and policies, but shall not approve: (a) sale, mortgage, or other encumbrance of real property; (b) capital projects above a threshold set by Board policy; (c) new indebtedness beyond budgeted amounts; or (d) hiring/termination of key employees, except in emergencies subject to later Board ratification.

Moderator: The moderator shall call and conduct meetings of the Board of Trustees, prepare the agenda, in consultation with others as needed, provide orientation at the first meeting of the new year and throughout the year for new members of the Board, and notify Presbyteries when there is a vacancy with their respective Board members.

Vice-Moderator: The vice-moderator shall function as moderator in the absence of the moderator.

Secretary/Treasurer: The Secretary/Treasurer shall send notices of meetings, take and record minutes, distribute the minutes to the Board and Presbytery Executives, and provide new members of the Board the past year's minutes for their edification. The Secretary/Treasurer, along with the Moderator, shall be the signatory and authorized contact for the invested funds with the Presbyterian Foundation. Additionally, this person will review financial reports provided by the managing organization and make these available to the entire board.

Section 4 No officer of the Board shall serve more than three consecutive years in a specific office but may be eligible for re-election after one year.

ARTICLE VI: Effective Date and Ownership

Section 1 The By-Laws of the South Carolina Inn became effective on June 30, 1973, and at that time the Synod of South Carolina divested itself of any and all legal interests in the South Carolina Inn at Montreat.

Section 2 All properties, both real and personal, including funds, are owned by the Corporation and held exclusively for its charitable purposes, in stewardship consistent with donor intent and the relationship covenant with the Concurring Presbyteries.

Section 3 Legal transactions concerning the sale of property or major building programs shall be initiated by the Board of Trustees but must be approved by a majority of the Presbyteries, the major portion of whose boundaries lie within the State of South Carolina. "Major building programs" and other "extraordinary transactions" shall be defined by Board policy, including dollar thresholds and approval timelines; provided, however, that any sale or encumbrance of real property shall always require approval by a majority of the concurring Presbyteries.

ARTICLE VII: Corporation

Section 1 The Board of Trustees, named in these By-Laws, are the Board of Trustees of the corporation known as the SOUTH CAROLINA INN AT MONTREAT, NORTH CAROLINA, INCORPORATED under the laws of the State of South Carolina. This Board of Trustees is therefore the legal instrument to carry out all directives of a majority of the Presbyteries, the major portion of whose bounds lie within the State of South Carolina. In the event of any conflict between a directive and the Board's fiduciary duties under applicable law, the Board shall act to comply with applicable law and to preserve the Corporation's charitable assets and tax-exempt status.

ARTICLE VIII: Amendments

Section 1 The By-Laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Board of Trustees by a majority vote or at a called meeting of the Board provided notice of the proposed amendment is stated in the call of such meeting; such amendment to be subject to the approval of a majority of the concurring Presbyteries, the major portion of whose bounds lie within the State of South Carolina. No amendment shall be adopted that would cause the Corporation to fail to qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

ARTICLE IX: Manual of Operations

Section 1 A Manual of Operations concerning matters of operation of the South Carolina Inn which may include, among other things the cost of meals, cost of rental, hiring of personnel, maintenance, upkeep, salaries, etc. may be developed and adopted, as needed, by a majority vote of the Board. The Manual of Operations shall be consistent with these By-Laws, applicable law, and the Corporation's exempt purposes.

ARTICLE X: Quorum

Section 1 A duly constituted quorum for conducting business of the Board of Trustees shall be a majority of the membership of the Board.

ARTICLE XI: Financial Support

The Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) the majority portion of whose bounds lie within the State of South Carolina, ordinarily incorporate into their annual budgets an allocation of funds which is in addition to the income derived by the Inn, to assure the continuance of the operation of the South Carolina Inn at Montreat, North Carolina. The amount of these allocations will be requested annually by the Board of Trustees when they determine the operating budget at the spring meeting. The Board shall adopt an annual budget and maintain appropriate financial controls, including periodic financial reporting to the concurring Presbyteries.

ARTICLE XII: Rules of Order

Section 1 All business shall be transacted in accordance with these By-Laws.

Section 2 All cases that may arise, not provided for by the By-Laws, shall be governed by applicable nonprofit corporation law, then by the Articles of Incorporation, then by the general principles of parliamentary law as found in the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order. The Book of Order may be consulted for ecclesial guidance where consistent with law and these By-Laws.

Approvals: September 9, 1987; March 2, 2000; November 2, 2004; Changed Home to Inn February 14, 2013; May 8, 2018; Feb. 2, 2026; **Current Version: September 30, 2026**

Committee on Ministry (COM) Report

NHP Stated Meeting – November 17, 2026
Tom Langston, Moderator

INTRODUCTIONS or RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Reinstatement of Kyle Henderson as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament.**
2. **Introduction of the Rev. Dayton Wilson, Transitional Pastor, Kingston, Conway.**
3. **Recognition of the Honorable Retirement of the Rev. Vikki Brogdon.**

COM took ACTIONS using its NHP approved commission authority on the following dates:

SEPTEMBER 8:

1. Approved the Transitional Pastor Covenant between **Kingston Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Dayton Wilson** effective 11/1/26 – 12/31/27, the transfer of his membership into New Harmony Presbytery from the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina effective 11/1/26, and appointment of moderator effective 9/8/26.
2. Approved the Transitional Pastor Covenant between **Celebration and the Rev. Tom Langston** from 10/1/26 – 12/31/27.
3. Approved recommending Ruling Elder **Kyle Henderson** to the Presbytery of New Harmony for **reinstatement as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament** upon affirmative answer to the constitutional questions on November 17, 2026 and approved the **Supply Pastor Covenant between him and Indiantown and St. Paul's** from 11/1/26 – 12/31/27.
4. Approved the request of the **Rev. Joshua Jang to dissolve the Pastor relationship** between he and the **Korean American** Presbyterian Church effective 10/31/26 and transfer his membership to the Huntington Presbytery effective 11/1/26 in order for him to accept a call to First, Hollidaysburg, PA.
5. Approved the Supply Pastor Covenant between **Melina and the Rev. Dr. Hill** effective 7/1/26 – 12/31/26.
6. Approved the end of the Supply Pastor Covenant between **Summerton and the Rev. Vikki Brogdon** effective 12/31/26.
7. Approved the resumption of the Commissioned Pastor Covenant between **Trinity, Mayesville and Delcia Harper-Baxter** through 12/31/26.

OCTOBER 13:

1. Approved a recommendation to the Guiding Council the establishment of an **Administrative Commission for Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church** (PIPC) pursuant to G-3.0109b, to consider and conclude the matters referred to it in the Charter, which the Presbytery adopts as the statement of the Commission's scope, powers, and restrictions with the stated purpose to walk with the Session and congregation of PIPC in faithfully discerning the congregation's future, in a decent, orderly, and constitutional manner, in consultation with the congregation's members as G-3.0301 and G-3.0303 require. This Commission will consist of the following persons:

   Rev. Tony Larson, Pastor, Trinity, Surfside Beach, Moderator

Heather Pelham, Clerk of Session, Georgetown, Clerk
Johnny Dennis, Ruling Elder, Kingston, Conway
Rev. Lamar Helms, Parish Associate, First, Myrtle Beach
David Holler, Ruling Elder, First, Sumter
Karen Madert, Ruling Elder, First, Myrtle Beach

2. Approved participation of new Parishes with Congruity and Goodwill and Friendship, Harmony, and Westminster in the **Board of Pension Evangelists program** and recommend the Guiding Council affirm participation of New Harmony Presbytery.
3. Approved placing the **Rev. Dr. Carson Rhyne** on the NHP Pulpit Supply List.
4. Approved the **Rev. Darryl Evans**, member of The Presbytery of South Carolina, ECO to administer the sacraments at Latta and Kentyre churches.

FOR NOVEMBER 10:

1. Approved the **Honorable Retirement of the Rev. Vikki Brogdon** effective 1/1/27.
2. Provided a **special extension** for the completion of the **Constitutionally (G 3.0106) required boundary training to the following** NHP pastoral leaders and Minister Members:
    - **Adrienne Anderson**
    - **David Bessinger**
    - **Carnell Hampton**
    - **Josie Holler**
    - **Louis Imsande**
    - **Beth Muse**
    - **Mary Ramirez**
    - **Rhett Talbert**

<u>COM is also assisting and supporting our congregations and those who lead them:</u>

1. **<u>Triennial Visits:</u>** Several of these are or are in the process of being conducted by COM liaisons. It is an opportunity for conversation and sharing about the life and ministry of the congregation and pastoral leader.
2. **<u>Parishes:</u>** The PNCs of both Parishes have their Ministry Discernment Profiles (MDP) approved for Church Leadership Connection (CLC).
3. **<u>Transitions:</u>** A COM Team approved the Mission Study of Celebration and will meet with the Session to review next steps. COM approved Summerton placing an MDP on CLC.
4. **<u>Administrative Commissions:</u>** The COM continues to receive regular reports from the ACs of Fork, Hebron, New Harvest, Ruby, Salem Black River and Timmonsville and continues to be very grateful for all those who are serving on these ACs. There was a recommendation to the Guiding Council to establish an AC for First, McColl, at the request of its Session, for the purpose of dissolving the congregation due to only a handful of members remaining.

COM will meet in-person 12:00 for its first meeting of the year on its normal day, the 2nd Tuesday of January, for lunch, group building, and training as well as its monthly meeting.

COM members are encouraged to attend Alphabet Soup, the SC5 training for COM-CPM-PDA-PJC which will be Friday and Saturday, March 5-6 at Westminster PC, Columbia.

Church Leadership Connection
Connecting | Discerning | Calling

Personal Discernment Profile ID# 102893

Profile Information

Name	Email	Pronouns
Rev. William Dayton Wilson Sr.	revdayton@gmail.com	He Him
Address	**Phone Number**	**Secondary Phone**
9 Sunrise Cv, Elizabethtown, NC 28337	9103981016	
Ecclesiastical Status	**Presbytery of Membership**	**Ordination Date**
PC(USA) Minister of Word & Sacrament	Coastal Carolina	4/8/2018

Preferences

Employment Type

Full-time

Position Type (Experience Level)

Bridge/Gap/Acting Pastor
Solo Pastor: Temporary
Transitional/Interim Position

Minimum Effective Salary

55000

Community Type Preferences

N/A

Housing Type

Open to Either

Available to Match?

Yes

Education/Training

Formal Education

B.A. Religious Studies - Mount Olive University, (2011-05-01 - 2013-05-01)
B.S. Economics - East Carolina University, (1994-08-01 - 1999-12-20)
MDiv - Union Presbyterian Seminary, (2014-07-01 - 2017-05-20)

Continuing Education

Training/Certification

- Transitional Ministry Training
  - Week 1 (Introductory): Interim Ministry Network - Elizabethtown (Online), NC (2024)
  - Week 2 (Advanced): Interim Ministry Network - Elizabethtown (Online), NC (2025)
- Clinical Pastoral Education Training: Bon Secours - 2017

Language Proficiency

Technical Skills

Work Experience

5/1/2025 - Present
Church Transitional Minister
Lake Waccamaw Presbyterian Church
Lake Waccamaw, NC
(Rural, Under 100 members)
I am serving as the transitional minister who is following a long-term pastorate.

11/1/2022 - 6/30/2024
Church Pastor
Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church
Elizabethtown, NC
(Town, 101-250 members)
Solo Pastor (Head of Staff) 200 members, 40 children, small rural town (November 2022 – June 2024) 6 part time staff members.

3/6/2018 - 10/31/2022
Church Pastor
First Presbyterian Church
Athens, AL
(Town, 101-250 members)
Solo Pastor (Head of Staff) 120 members, 20 children, small suburban town. 3 part-time staff members.

9/1/2016 - 7/1/2017
Church Pastor/Intern
Rennie Memorial Presbyterian Church
Amelia, VA
(Rural, Under 100 members)
Pastor (Solo/Internship) 30 members, no children, small rural town (September 2016 – July 2017). I was the only employee and was supervised by a local pastor.

Service to the Greater Church

1/23/2024 - Present
Member
Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
I have served on multiple commssions and committees.

1/1/2019 - 10/1/2022
Business Affairs
North Alabama Presbytery
The Chairperson for Business Affairs provides leadership and oversight for the administrative and financial operations of the Presbytery. This role includes guiding the preparation, review, and monitoring of the Presbytery's annual budget, ensuring responsible stewardship of resources in support of the Presbytery's mission. The chairperson works closely with staff, committees, and Presbytery leadership to review financial reports, recommend budget priorities, and support sound financial planning.

The chairperson also assists with employee management by supporting personnel policies, compensation practices, and healthy workplace standards. Serving in a collaborative and

consultative role, the chairperson helps ensure compliance with denominational and legal guidelines while promoting clear communication and effective staff support. This position requires discretion, collaboration, and a strong commitment to faithful stewardship and shared leadership.

5/1/2015 - 4/30/2016
Board of Trustees
Union Presbyterian Seminary
The Student Representative serves as a liaison between the student body and the Board of Trustees, bringing student perspectives to board discussions and decision-making. This role includes attending board meetings, sharing insights on academic life, campus climate, and student concerns, and communicating board actions back to students. The representative contributes to thoughtful governance by ensuring student voices inform the seminary's mission, policies, and future direction.

Statement of Faith

I believe in one triune God, revealed as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The three persons of the Trinity are unified, eternal, and beyond human understanding. God's fullness will only be known when I am reconciled with Him for eternity.

God reveals Himself most significantly through Scripture, inspired by the Holy Spirit through human authors. As Creator, God revealed Himself to the Hebrew people through creation and continues to make Himself known through Scripture and the Spirit's guidance.

God, the Creator of all things, is distinct from creation but actively present within it. All creation was made good and is a gift from God. Humans, uniquely made in God's image, are called to be stewards of creation, managing it as God would, with the Spirit's inspiration.

Though created good, humans are inherently sinful but designed for communion with God. Reconciliation with God is possible only through Jesus Christ, who makes us new and invites us into a direct relationship with God through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, is God incarnate, fully human and fully divine. Born of a human mother and conceived by the Holy Spirit, Jesus bridges humanity and divinity. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus revealed God's love and offered salvation to all. His crucifixion brought the forgiveness of sin and the hope of eternal reconciliation with God.

Salvation is the saving work of Jesus Christ, who bore humanity's punishment for sin on the cross. Through Him, the penalty of death is removed, and humanity is redeemed. While faith in Jesus is the way to salvation, I acknowledge that God has not revealed the fullness of this mystery. I hope and trust that all creation will ultimately be reconciled with God in His time and according to His will.

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, was promised by Jesus and given at Pentecost. The Spirit sustains and guides believers, connecting them to God and empowering the Church. Through the Spirit, we are supported in faith and led toward full reconciliation with God.

The Church, with Jesus Christ as its head, is a community of believers established through the Holy Spirit. It is communal, universal, and inclusive, called to live out Christ's teachings and share God's love.

I affirm two sacraments within the Church: baptism and communion. Baptism signifies God's claiming of an individual and the rebirth of life in Christ. I support infant baptism as a sign of God's grace, with the Church community pledging to nurture the baptized in faith.

Communion is a gift in which Jesus is spiritually present. It symbolizes the salvation offered through Christ and calls us to live in hope, working toward reconciliation with God and each other.

At the end of time, I believe all humanity will be reconciled to God through the saving acts of Jesus Christ. Redemption is solely God's work. Jesus, who died for the forgiveness of sins, will judge humanity with love and justice. This promise of reconciliation calls Christians to live as faithful disciples, trusting that, in God's time, all creation will be restored to its Creator.

Narratives

How do you partner with Session and other congregational leaders, to address the current and emerging needs of the congregation and community?

This question applies to the following positions: Transitional/Interim Position

I see partnership with Session and congregational leaders as a shared process of discernment rather than top-down direction. Together, we listen to Scripture, to one another, and to the community to name present realities and emerging needs. I value creating space for honest conversation where leaders can speak openly about challenges and hopes.

I also invite Sessions to recognize that we don't have to do things the way we always have. As congregations change, our structures and ways of leading must evolve as well. Faithfulness is not about preserving every pattern, but about responding to where God is leading now and building us up for the future.

Practically, this means setting clear priorities, equipping leaders, and aligning ministry with the congregation's gifts, so the church can move forward with clarity, courage, and shared purpose.

How do your particular gifts, experiences, and training help you in the ministry setting you believe God is calling you?

This question applies to the following positions: Solo Pastor: Temporary, Bridge/Gap/Acting Pastor

My call has been shaped in real places and unexpected turns. Growing up in my family's local car dealership grounded me in the realities people face—responsibility, finances, and the tension between scarcity and abundance. That experience helps me speak the gospel in a way that connects with everyday life. My theological training has given me a strong foundation in Scripture and the Reformed tradition, along with tools to listen deeply to both the text and the congregation. I'm drawn to preaching and teaching that invites transformation, where people can see their story within God's story. I come to congregations asking honest questions about who they are and where God is leading them. I bring a steady, reflective presence that helps communities move forward with clarity and trust.

Explain with theological details what areas of ministry you value most in your calling.

This question applies to the following positions: Solo Pastor: Temporary, Bridge/Gap/Acting Pastor

The areas of ministry I value most center on preaching, formation, and community, all grounded in God's ongoing work of transformation. In preaching, I seek to proclaim a gospel that is not abstract but embodied, where Scripture meets real life and invites us into lives reshaped by the grace that comes from Christ. I am drawn to teaching that helps people see their story within God's larger story, trusting that the Spirit is active in that intersection.

I also value cultivating a community shaped less by scarcity and fear and more by trust in God's abundance, echoing Jesus' call to feed and tend his sheep. This leads to practices of generosity, gratitude, and mutual care that extends beyond church walls.

Explain with theological details what areas of ministry you value most in your calling.

At the heart of my calling is helping congregations discern where God is already at work and to join in faithfully, trusting that the church is continually being formed into a people who reflect Christ's love in the world.

Describe the transitional ministry setting to which you believe God is calling you.

This question applies to the following positions: Transitional/Interim Position

I believe God is calling me to a transitional ministry setting where a congregation is navigating change with both hope and uncertainty. These are often congregations carrying deep faith and history, yet sensing that familiar patterns no longer fully serve their present reality. Like the early church, they are being invited to see differently and trust that God is still at work in new ways.

In this setting, I see my role as creating space for honest reflection, naming both grief and possibility, and helping the congregation listen for the Spirit's leading. Transitional ministry is not about quick fixes, but about faithful discernment, clarifying identity, strengthening relationships, and aligning ministry with current gifts and missions.

I hope to be able to help congregations ask courageous questions about who they are now, trusting that transformation is not loss, but part of God's ongoing work of renewal.

How do your particular gifts, experiences, and training match the work of transitional/interim ministry?

This question applies to the following positions: Transitional/Interim Position

My experiences in both ministry and managing a business have prepared me well for transitional and interim ministry. Before entering ministry, I developed skills in leadership, communication, budgeting, property oversight, problem-solving, and organizational management. Those experiences taught me how to navigate change, uncertainty, and competing expectations with patience and clarity.

In ministry, I have combined those practical skills with preaching, pastoral leadership, and congregational care. I also bring knowledge of fundraising, property management, and facility maintenance, which can be especially valuable for congregations navigating transition. Transitional ministry often requires both spiritual leadership and practical guidance, and I am comfortable working in both areas. I believe my background allows me to help congregations remain grounded, organized, and hopeful as they discern their next chapter together.

Describe a moment when you have "served using your energy, intelligence, imagination and love", that led change positively.

This question applies to the following positions: Solo Pastor: Temporary, Bridge/Gap/Acting Pastor

In a Presbyterian Women's group I worked with, participation in our long-standing Bible study had begun to feel routine and less connected to daily life. Rather than replacing it, I helped extend an invitation to form an additional gathering. We created a rotating, in-home evening group, which made the group more welcoming to women still in the workforce and fostered a more multigenerational community. About half of the original 2 p.m. weekday group also chose to participate, creating overlap while allowing something new to grow. Meeting in homes opened space for more honest conversations connecting Scripture with real experiences in our community, from caregiving to economic stress to everyday faith. My greatest contribution was in the planning and organization that helped the group not only begin, but also continue. The result was a deeper sense of connection and a broader, more inclusive expression of the congregation's life.

Please describe how have you dealt with failure or disappointment before.

This question applies to the following positions: Solo Pastor: Temporary, Bridge/Gap/Acting Pastor

Coming from a self-employed background, I learned early that success and failure are often measured by visible results. Sales numbers, growth, and customer satisfaction provided immediate feedback. Ministry, especially congregational leadership, has taught me a very different understanding of success. In the church, faithfulness, relationships, and spiritual growth are not always measurable or immediate. That has required patience and humility.

I have also learned to deal with the disappointment that meaningful change in a congregation can feel slow or minimal, even when progress is being made. Rather than becoming discouraged, I have learned to focus on consistency, listening well, and trusting that God is at work in ways we may not always see right away. Failure and disappointment have helped me become more resilient, reflective, and grounded in long-term faithfulness rather than short-term results.

What is it about transitional ministry that energizes you?

This question applies to the following positions: Transitional/Interim Position

What energizes me most about transitional ministry is the opportunity to walk alongside congregations during the important moments of discernment and change. I believe the church is always being called into renewal, and I value helping congregations reflect honestly on their history while remaining open to where God may be leading them next. I enjoy preaching, listening, building relationships, and helping churches regain confidence and clarity during uncertain seasons.

My background in both ministry and business taught me that healthy transitions require patience, trust, and steady leadership. I am energized by helping congregations stay grounded while also encouraging them to imagine new possibilities for ministry and mission. I especially value creating stability, strengthening communication, and helping churches focus on their gifts rather than their anxieties as they prepare for their next chapter.

Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of effectiveness and fulfillment.

This question applies to the following positions: Solo Pastor: Temporary, Bridge/Gap/Acting Pastor

My experiences in both ministry and a third-generation family business in automotive and real estate management have prepared me well for transitional and interim ministry. Before entering ministry, I developed skills in leadership, communication, budgeting, property oversight, problem-solving, and organizational management. Those experiences taught me how to navigate change, uncertainty, and competing expectations with patience and clarity.

In ministry, I have combined those practical skills with preaching, pastoral leadership, and congregational care. I also bring knowledge of fundraising, property management, and facility maintenance, which can be especially valuable for congregations navigating transition. Transitional ministry often requires both spiritual leadership and practical guidance, and I am comfortable working in both areas. I believe my background allows me to help congregations remain grounded, organized, and hopeful as they discern their next chapter together.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

This question applies to the following positions: Transitional/Interim Position

I believe transitional and interim ministry requires the balance of both priest and prophet. The priest continues to pray for, preach to, care for, and love the congregation during seasons that are often filled with uncertainty, grief, or anxiety. People need a steady pastoral presence that reminds them God is still at work even in times of change.

At the same time, the interim minister is also called to serve as prophet. After listening carefully and building trust, transitional ministry sometimes requires sharing difficult truths with honesty and grace. Congregations may need help confronting unhealthy

Is there anything else you would like to share?

patterns, fears about change, or realities that are preventing growth and renewal. I believe those conversations must always come from a place of love and hope, not criticism.

My desire in transitional ministry is to help congregations remain grounded in faith while also preparing faithfully for the future God is calling them toward.

Optional Links

YouTube - - https://www.youtube.com/@rev.dayton

References

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich
Friend & Mentor
706-755-8323
revdrmatt@gmail.com

Carol Copeland
Former Member
256-366-3786
carolelk@aol.com

Rev. Bruce McVey
Colleague
813-205-9613
brucemcvey@gmail.com

Teri Hawley
Former Member
910-862-9080
thawley022@gmail.com

Sexual Misconduct Self Certification

I certify below that no civil, criminal, or ecclesiastical complaint has ever been sustained* or is pending* against me for sexual misconduct; and I have never resigned or been terminated from a position for reasons related to sexual misconduct.

I have read this certification and release form and fully understand that the information obtained may be used to deny my employment or any other type of position from the employing entity. I also agree that I will hold harmless the employing or judicial authority or any other entity from any and all claims, liabilities, and causes of action for the legitimate release of any information related to sexual misconduct.

Privacy Policy | Terms of Use | CLC Manual and Forms
Copyright © 2023 Presbyterian Church (USA)

Faith Journey - Alan 'Kyle' Henderson
November 17, 2026

I was born into a loving family and was raised in Newport, NC where I was baptized and later professed faith in Jesus Christ at St. James United Methodist Church. I was very active in worship, Sunday School, Youth Group Fellowship, and Choir. After graduating High School, I studied at NC State University where I obtained two Bachelor Degrees: Chemical Engineering and Pulp & Paper Technology. While in college, I worshipped at two different United Methodist churches in Raleigh: St. Mark's and Westover where I joined the choir.

After graduating from NC State, I worked in the paper industry for eight years, starting in Richmond, VA, and then, I was transferred to Hartsville, SC with Sonoco. I traveled throughout the US and Canada implementing Quality Improvement in 16 paper mills with a six-month stint in Montreal, Quebec. While in Richmond, I joined Crestwood Presbyterian in 1987. When I moved to Hartsville in 1988, I became an active member of FPC-Hartsville. I met and married my wife, Susan Daniels, in 1993.

But in 1992, I began to respond in earnest to a call to study at seminary to explore God's leading, and I attended Columbia Theological from 1994 to 1997, graduating with a Master's degree of Divinity. While at seminary, I served for one year a small church in Greenville, GA, as a temporary student supply pastor; that role provided an enriching experience which affirmed God calling me to ordained ministry.

After graduating Columbia, I was called to be the pastor of Gum Creek Presbyterian (outside Covington, GA) where I was ordained in 1997. My wife and I moved there under a "half-time" call which changed to full time after twelve months of ministry. During that pastorate, our two children, Cate and John, were born, baptized, and enjoyed the nurture of a loving congregation. I return periodically to preach for homecoming services at Gum Creek.

In 2003, I was called to serve as pastor of First Presbyterian - Cheraw in this presbytery. I served that gifted congregation for 11 years. I was also involved in a number of presbytery activities during that ministry including: Stewardship Committee, COM, Guiding Council, several Administrative Commissions, G.A. Commissioner and moderator of several other church sessions.

In 2014, I followed a desire to pursue a Doctorate of Ministry degree full time through Fordham University to study certain topics relevant to my own well-being and ministry including pastoral care, assertiveness vs. aggressiveness, and the spiritual power of music. While pursuing that degree, my family moved to Hartsville, where my wife continued her career at Coker University, and also where I taught some religion courses for several years. Eventually, the desire to complete the DMin evaporated, but I continued to serve God by helping churches in the area through preaching every Sunday, moderating Sessions, and other work in the presbytery.

Experiencing loss related to the deaths of my parents, and spiraling into depressive periods, I sensed growing bitterness and deflation relative to my particular activity in ministry. Eventually, I felt the need to step away from ordained ministry of the Word and Sacrament. Upon my request, New Harmony Presbytery released me from my ordination vows in February 2022.

After becoming a member of FPC - Hartsville, I have served as a ruling elder, Sunday School teacher, Choir member, Bell-choir member, C.E. chair, and Nominating Committee chair.

Now, after preaching in various churches for several years, I feel that God is calling me back into ordained ministry to serve particularly St. Paul's and Indiantown Presbyterian churches.

Statement of Faith - Alan ‘Kyle’ Henderson
November 17, 2026

I believe in God.

I believe in God
whom we describe as the Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
who has created all that is and continues to create among us,
who has redeemed creation through the life, death, and
resurrection of Jesus Christ,
and who sustains creation by particular interventions of revelatory
and miraculous moments.

I believe in Jesus who is the Word of God enfleshed,
speaking his words to 1st century listeners which have been
included also in the written Word of God as handed to us,
continuing to relay God’s Word through any proclaimer’s faithful
study and discernment of God’s counsel.

I believe that God’s Spirit moves us to know ourselves, broadening our
minds and hearts,
that God’s Spirit enlivens us and involves us by aligning our gifts and
abilities to the Mission of God,
and that God’s Spirit consoles, convicts, and conducts people to
seek to be more loving and faith-filled.

I believe that Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are sacraments
which authenticate and testify to God’s Word
by celebrating inclusion of humans into God’s Covenant of Grace,
by nourishing humans spiritually with the knowledge of Jesus’ saving
death and invigorating love,
and by providing visible opportunities of commitment in response to
God’s Word.

I believe that every follower of Christ is a vital part of the Church, gifted by the Holy Spirit, and called to participate actively in establishing more fully God’s Reign of Peace, Forgiveness, and Love.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report

Presbytery of New Harmony – November 17, 2026

Frances F. Dennis, Moderator

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry prayerfully mentors and supervises the individuals under its care. Each person is assigned a liaison from CPM to represent him/her and act in his/her best interest.

RECOMMENDATION: That New Harmony Presbytery examine Ray Dobell for his readiness to become a Candidate and if satisfied, enroll him as such.

The CPM, also, moves that New Harmony Presbytery examine Raymond Dobell for his readiness to become a Candidate.

Inquirers:

- Raymond Dobell—Trinity, Surfside; Union Seminary, Charlotte; Liaison Lamr Helms, TE. In September, requested to meet with CPM for Candidacy readiness and found qualified to appear before NHP for examination and confirmation.

Candidates:

- Holly Bannan—Kingston, Conway; Union Seminary, Charlotte; Liaison Cathy Chapman, RE. Awaiting final BCE exam during winter exam schedule; moved with husband, Robert, to Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rockford, Illinois, in May.
- Randolph Green—Congruity, Gable; ITC graduate, Atlanta; Liaison Elijah Washington, CP. Awaiting a call.
- Naomi McQuiller—Second, Sumter; Columbia, Atlanta; Liaison Delcia Harper-Baxter, CP. Approved to take Polity exam during winter exam schedule.
- Flury Wilson—Friendship, New Zion; Union Seminary, Charlotte; Liaison Josie Holler, TE. Completed her final assessment in October; working on PDP.

Commissioned Pastor Applicants:

- Leroy Copeland—Second, Sumter; Liaison Elijah Washington, CP. Enrolled in current semester.
- Linda Jackson—Melina, Gable; Liaison Geneva Sharp, RE. Enrolled in current semester.
- Jackie Rembert—Ebenezer, Dalzell; Liaison Geneva Sharp, RE.
- Willow Stewart—Trinity, Surfside Beach; Liaison Frances Dennis, RE. Enrolled in current semester; completed annual consultation in November.

The Sense of Call

"The plans of the mind belong to humans, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord. All one's ways may be pure in one's own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit. Commit your work to the Lord and your plans will be established. The Lord has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble….Better is little with righteousness than large gain with injustice. The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps." (Excerpt from Proverbs 16)

I first heard my call while visiting a United Methodist Church in the Florida Keys while on my first cruise with my best friend and her family—Presbyterians for years while I was new to the denomination. I had been attending Kingston and faithfully singing in the choir for many months and finding a new love for the liturgy and worship in addition to the educational and studied Word. In that visited church, Easter service, I had such a gestalt sense that my friends, my family church back home in Conway (though hundreds of miles away) were worshiping in nearly the same liturgy at the same time and I felt the "clicking" of the connection that united us as children of God. After service, I immediately texted Kingston Music Director Bradley as well as pastoral/staff friends Robert, Holly, and Christa (Kingston and First Pres. Myrtle Beach respectively) that I felt the need to pursue this call.

Through my works in life, in non-profit resourcing, budgeting, advocacy, and membership cultivation; in teaching the developing and questioning mind in ways that provide the tools of learning for self-discovery; and through the gift of music which bonds us together on such a primal level of community—God is nudging me to see that I am prepared in who I am and it is simply time to turn my focus onto ministry. This was affirmed in the lessons preached after the call above and I talked to Robert about joining Union. And soon enough, the path was laid bare.

As I went to write my sense of call now, from inquirer to candidate, I looked at those initial essay letters to Union and saw, even in this short time, the impact of the education and its bearing on my sense of the future. If I were to exegete my own writing at the time, I see a naïve but optimistic man, open to the ideas of faith and love and compassion and diversity and support. And while all of those are still equally wonderful and factor into faith, so too do the tough questions: the human natures that make us look for something more.

My call to ministry is not just a sharing of the Word. It is teaching, it is reconciling, it is giving spiritual context to the whys and the wonders, yet knowing that we too are flawed and may not have an answer just as readily as someone seeking one from us themselves. But there are constants. I feel a life of service to a loving God who casts a wide welcome to children with many diverse backgrounds and experiences. The call to ministry is a call to reconciliation between those varying experiences and the grace that the Table offers us all equally, deserved or not. I feel my education and experiences are all preparation to help a developing world find the sense of community, love, and outreach that that Table provides and the wisdom the Word offers in teaching and sharing of the good news, wide welcome, lavish love, and the context it gives us as we navigate Creation.

The Sense of Service

My story is strange but not unique or at least uncommon. Until recently, I had served at Kingston Presbyterian Church until circumstances led me to change membership to my place of internship: Trinity Presbyterian Church of Surfside Beach. My involvement prior to the transfer mostly consisted, since the time of Inquirer endorsement, of serving as liturgist and writing some texts of my own as part of such. I did assist briefly with confirmation classes and would regularly serve in the Kingston Choir as a member and soloist. I occasionally played instruments in service and would often do a TAPS memorial for national recognitions such as Veterans Day and Memorial Day. I did assist Robert, former pastor of Kingston, with creating an introduction manual to present to new Elders and Deacons at their initial meetings.

Outside of service, I was about to begin work with the Christian Education committee, but that was short-lived due to the transition. I did work with local music ministers to begin an ecumenical Beer & Hymns event in Conway, that has faithfully met monthly for over a year and continues to expand with involvement from more churches. In fact, the event is looking, as part of my internship, to host a second location in Garden City to provide another option for those closer to the beach area.

In my short time at Trinity, I have been approached to help with a Bible study and will see how I can assist after it launches in September. I have had the opportunity to preach my first and second sermons there with great feedback from the congregation. I have since become a member of the choir and have offered vocal solos and instrumental playing to aid in the service. My internship is now beginning, where I hope to expand into community relations, especially among the LGBTQ+ community and my connections there through my former work with Pride and Careteam+, to offer spiritual resources and safe spaces for worship and involvement.

I will continue to preach and hope to work with Joel Long to gain pastoral care experience before I begin my CPE program next summer, for which I have been in contact with Conway Medical Center to align that opportunity ahead of its beginning. I have been attending **S**ession meetings as I can and plan to attend committee meetings I am invited to as much as my teaching career allows (they are moving some meetings to after school for me). I have also been asked to serve on rotation for a chapel service for Arbor Landing residents and will assist in at least one setting in this remaining calendar year. I also write monthly for the newsletter, doing a devotional to continue to develop my reading and discernment of the Word through my scholarly work as well as welcoming the congregation to do their own study.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS REPORT

Presbytery of New Harmony – November 17, 2026

Ruling Elder Linda Jackson, Moderator

The CORN recommends the followed Ruling Elders (RE) and Teaching Elders (TE) be elected (* denotes second and last term):

PRESBYTERY MODERATOR – RE Cecilia Evans, Celebration, Carolina Forest

PRESBTERY MODERATOR-ELECT – RE Jacquline Rembert, Ebenezer, Dalzell

GUIDING COUNCIL – At-large, Class of 2029 – still discerning

CULTIVATION AND EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE (CEC)
Moderator 2027 – TE Jody Foster, Wedgefield
Class of 2029 – RE Dwayne Edwards, Goodwill
TE Frank Holsclaw, Honorably Retired
RE Bob Seitzinger*, Murrells Inlet

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (P&F)
Moderator 2027 – Carnell Hampton, TE, Honorably Retired, Ebenezer and Friendship
Class of 2029 – TE Carnell Hampton*, Ebenezer & Friendship
RE Edwin Hinds*, First, Myrtle Beach
RE KD Singleton*, Second, Sumter

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM)
Moderator 2027 – TE Tom Langston, Celebration, Carolina Forest
Class of 2026 – TE Ashley Cheek, First, Hartsville
TE Tony Larson, Trinity, Surfside Beach
TE Max Michaels*, First, Cheraw
RE Janice Smith*, Friendship, New Zion
RE Mary Terwiske*, Trinity, Surfside Beach

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)
Moderator 2027 – Frances Dennis, RE Kingston, Conway
Class of 2028 – TE Frank Colclough, Honorably Retired, Supply at Friendship
Class of 2029 – RE Bernadine Lamor, Celebration, Carolina Forrest
RE Frances Dennis*, Kingston, Conway
TE Jane Osment, Validated Ministry
TE Dan Sansbury, Honorably Retired

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (PJC – 6-yr terms; 1 term only)
Class of 2030 – TE Scott Andrews, First Bennettsville
RE Newson Chandler, Indiantown
RE Marietta Melton, First, Cheraw

COMMISSIONER TO THE SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC (2-yr terms; maximum of 3 terms)
Class of 2028 – RE Johnny Dennis, Kingston, Conway (1st Term)

Fork Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission Report

The Presbytery of New Harmony – November 17, 2026

Elder Bob Henry, AC Moderator and Commissioned Pastor, Fork

Rev. Jen Kottler, AC Clerk and Supply Pastor, John Calvin, Florence

Elder James David Lane, Clerk, Fork

Elder Janice Rosier, First, Bennettsville

Rev. Gavin Meek, Stated Clerk and Ex-Officio

Things remain the same at Fork Presbyterian Church since the last report was given. No other report to give.

Hebron Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission

The Presbytery of New Harmony – November 17, 2026

Rev. Jody P. Foster, AC Co-Moderator and Supply Pastor, Wedgefield
Elder Chuck Staggs, AC Co-Moderator and Commissioned Pastor, Swan Lake, Sumter
Elder Dorothy McBride, AC Clerk and Clerk, Second, Sumter
Rev. Carnell Hampton, Honorably Retired and Supply Pastor, Ebenezer and Friendship
Elder David Holler, First, Sumter
Rev. Gavin Meek, Stated Clerk and Ex-Officio

The Hebron Administrative Commission has not met since our last report to Presbytery, Aug. 22nd.

Preparations for an anticipated dissolution of the congregation and disposition of the property are in progress, albeit slowly.

We are told the church's accountant is continuing work to register the Hebron Cemetery Association with the SC Secretary of State, and to secure a tax-exempt status with the IRS and the State of South Carolina. The church's legal advisor, Erin McArthur, is doing title search work.

A third Q financial report of the Church's holdings has been received. No surprises. The cash balance as of Sept. 30, 2026 was minimal ($3,219). However, we learned the Hebron cemetery board (whose monies are not regularly reported to the Commission) paid in full the property insurance for the next 12 months.

The premises are routinely checked by Hebron's remaining Elder; the grounds are kept up by him and the fellowship hall is in use. The Commission viewed the premises Oct. 25 and there were no issues.

Weekly prayer meetings for Hebron families, friends and neighbors have continued. Rob DuBose, an experienced teacher, leads the Bible studies. His mother, Jan DuBose, keeps the Commission updated on the many ways GOD has been at work in their ministry to families--- churched and unchurched.

McColl Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission

The Presbytery of New Harmony – November 17, 2026

Rev. Scott Andrews, AC Moderator and Commissioned Pastor, First, Bennettsville

Elder George Johnson, New Bethel, Dillon

Rev. Jen Kottler, AC Clerk and Supply Pastor, John Calvin, Florence

Elder Larry Lee, Clerk, McColl First, McColl

Elder Karen Wilkerson, G.W. Long, Cheraw

Rev. Gavin Meek, Stated Clerk and Ex-Officio

The AC has met once on the property of FPC McColl and a second time by zoom.

At the first meeting, the process for closing the church was reviewed by Rev. Gavin Meek. Elder Larry Lee gave a report on the membership, worship, activities, and finances of the congregation. The church currently has eight active members.

The work by the commission and church includes:

(1) Filing Articles of Incorporation with the state,
(2) Establishing by-laws for the church,
(3) Contracting with a relator for sale of the property,
(4) Gathering personal and sentimental items,
(5) Cleaning up the property,
(6) Encouraging members to look for a new congregation.

The congregation has empowered the AC to sell property. The final worship service will be held on Sunday, November 22. The official date of closure is November 30. If the property is not sold by the time the current insurance coverage expires, it will be put on the NHP insurance until such time as it is sold.

New Harvest Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission Report

The Presbytery of New Harmony – November 17, 2026

Elder Sheryl Davis, AC Moderator, Westminster, Alcolu
Rev. Dr. Christa Brewer, AC Clerk and Associate Pastor, Myrtle Beach, First
Elder Janice Smith, Clerk, Friendship, New Zion
Elder Tom Hoffmeyer, John Calvin, Florence
Elder Marshall Ivey, Commissioned Pastor, GW Long, Mt. Pisgah, and New Bethel
Rev. Gavin D. Meek, Stated Clerk and Ex-Officio

The Administrative Commission (AC) continues to move forward with the sale of the New Harvest property as directed by the Guiding Council on behalf of New Harmony Presbytery. During the initial appraisal process, a discrepancy in the reported land acreage was identified. To ensure accuracy, the AC voted to conduct a formal land survey. A surveyor was engaged, and on September 28, 2026, we received their report confirming the property spans **5.41 acres**. Following receipt of the survey, the AC proceeded with selecting a commercial/residential realtor based in Florence. After interviewing two, the AC chose to engage Joey McMillian at Coldwell Banker.

Additionally, the AC has received correspondence regarding the Ellen V. Galloway Scholarship Fund, which was originally established in 1997 as a gift to New Harvest Presbyterian Church to provide educational scholarship to African American families, who were members of or attended New Harvest, as well as their children and grandchildren. The New Harvest Session subsequently invested this gift in the Presbyterian Foundation and began granting scholarships up until the last couple of years. There were years when no applications were received. The fund is now approximately $70,000

To honor the original vision and intent of the scholarship, the AC *recommends to the Presbytery of New Harmony that the money from the Ellen V. Galloway Scholarship Fund be distributed to African American members of worshipping communities in New Harmony Presbytery, and the children and grandchildren of those members, for the purpose of a one-time gift to support their higher education.*

Note: The AC suggests that the Cultivation and Empowerment Committee (CEC) be empowered to establish the specific guidelines and administration parameters for distributing this fund.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruling Elder Sheryl Davis, Moderator

Ruby Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission Report

The Presbytery of New Harmony – November 17, 2026

Rev. Maxwell Michaels, AC Moderator and Pastor, First, Cheraw
Elder Teresa Hodges, AC Clerk and Clerk, Morton
Elder Zack Gulledge, Clerk, Ruby
Elder Pontheola Wilson, COM Liaison, Ruby, and Goodwill
Rev. Beth Muse, Corresponding Member, Supply Pastor, Ruby
Rev. Gavin Meek, Stated Clerk and Ex-Officio

As was announced at the last presbytery meeting and with the authority given to the administrative commission, the Ruby Presbyterian Church, Ruby, South Carolina was dissolved by the AC at a worship service for that purpose on Saturday, August 29, 2026. This congregation was established in 1902 and its life, ministry and mission were honored.

As was reported previously, the members of the congregation and the town council of Rudy requested that the property be gifted to the town of Ruby to be used as a town museum. The Ruby town council presented the AC with that request in writing, sharing that it had no money to purchase the property nor could it acquire funds to do so, but it could and will seek state grants for the museum.

The AC consulted with a local realtor from First Presbyterian Church, Cheraw to inquire as to the possible sale of the property and the possible amount that could be received. It was learned that property was not moving well at all in the area of Ruby, just the opposite, and that there was no known interest in a church building that is old with significant deferred maintenance; something, in this case property, only has value if someone is willing to buy it. The AC believed it highly likely that the presbytery would be in possession of this property for an exceptionally long time, incurring significant costs to maintain, secure, and insure it.

The AC determined the best and only action was to honor the wishes of the congregation and the request of the Ruby town council by gifting the property to the town of Ruby for use as a town museum.

Thus, the AC requests the Presbytery of New Harmony affirm the AC's decision to gift the property of the former Ruby Presbyterian Church to the town of Ruby for use as a town museum and dissolve the AC.

Salem Black River Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission Report
The Presbytery of New Harmony – November, 2026

Elder Johnny Raffield, AC Co-Moderator, Swan Lake
Rev. Stewart Rawson, AC Co-Moderator, Pastor, First, Sumter
Rev. Dr. Frank Colclough, AC Clerk, Supply Pastor, Harmony
Elder Margaret Cooper, Manning
Elder Ellaree Hampton, Goodwill
Rev. Gavin Meek, Stated Clerk and Ex-Officio

The AC shared a proposal for moving forward and that proposal was accepted by the SBR Session. However, the Session appointed liaison developed an Agreement which the AC finds complicated and potentially problematic given our dismissal policy and process. Related, there is a strong desire on the part of the AC, given the long history of Salem Black River Presbyterian Church, how it birthed many of our NHP congregations, and how the cemetery has the graves of many faithful and devoted members of the Presbytery of New Harmony, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its predecessors, the AC is feeling strongly that a closing worship service should be included. The AC will, of course, continue to keep NHP informed.

Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church

Administrative Commission Report

The Presbytery of New Harmony – November 17, 2026

Rev. Anthony Larson, AC Moderator and Pastor, Trinity, Surfside
Elder Johnny Dennis, RE Kingston, Conway
Rev. Lamar Helms Parish Associate, Myrtle Beach, First
Elder David Holler, First, Sumter
Elder Heather Pelham, AC Clerk, RE, Georgetown
Elder Karen Madert, RE, Myrtle Beach, First
Rev. Joel Long, Staff Support, NHP Associate for COM

In early October the Presbytery learned from a member of Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church (PIPC) that meeting of the congregation was scheduled for October 11 to vote on whether to leave the PC(USA) and join ECO. On October 5, the Committee on Ministry (COM) approved appointing a team of up to five to respond to PIPC to respond to this situation. The COM also requested that the meeting of the congregation be cancelled because it was not in order.

PIPC proceeded with the meeting, moderated by a Ruling Elder.

On October 12, the COM appointed team met via ZOOM. The team heard accounts of the meeting of the congregation at PIPC from the representatives of New Harmony Presbytery (NHP) who attended. The team discerned that in order to respond effectively to the situation we would need to be chartered as an administrative commission with a charge and defined authority.

On October 13, the Guiding Council approved the creation and charter of the Administrative Commission (AC) for PIPC.

On October 14, Rev. Gavin Meek sent a letter to the Session informing them of the AC's creation.

On October 16, Rev. Tony Larson sent a letter of introduction to the AC requesting a meeting with the Session.

On October 21, the AC received a letter from the Session agreeing that representatives of Pawleys Island Presbyterian Church would meet with the AC, but only to discuss terms of a legal settlement.

On October 22, the AC meet via ZOOM. We reviewed the Session letter and agreed that our charter from the Guiding Council requires us to:

1. "walk with the Session and congregation of PIPC in faithfully discerning the congregation's future, in a decent, orderly, and constitutional manner, in consultation with the congregation's members".
2. Seek agreement with the Session on a written Covenant for Orderly Discernment

Therefore, we agreed on a follow-up communication to the Session requesting a meeting with the Session to hear about their discernment process and to begin working on a covenant for shared discernment with the Presbytery. While this communication was being drafted, we identified November 8 as a date for an initial meeting of the AC with the Session.

We sent our follow-up letter via email on October 30. On November 3, we received an email response indicating that only the committee appointed by Session to manage disaffiliation would be able to meet with us on November 8. The email also insisted that the AC agree that NHP could not reference any part of the conversation in a future legal proceeding.

The AC reiterated that our charter directs us to walk with the Session and congregation and that we were unclear whether we had the authority from NHP to agree to their terms. The November 8 meeting was postponed. We are currently working to identify a meeting date with the Session in January.

Timmonsville Administrative Commission Report

The Presbytery of New Harmony – November 17, 2026

Rev. Bob Henry, AC Moderator, Commissioned Pastor, Fork

Rev. Jen Kottler, Supply Pastor, John Calvin

Elder Cheryl Jackson, Second, Sumter

Elder Christie McLeod, First, Cheraw

Elder Frances Pigate, former Clerk of Session, Timmonsville PC

Rev. Gavin Meek: Stated Clerk and Ex-Officio

There has been a lease established with Rev. Willie Scott to take occupancy of the building while the AC works through the process of getting the title in the name of the congregation in order to then get it in the name of the Presbytery of New Harmony.

There was a water leak and other plumbing problems which the AC needed to repair.

The leasing congregation replaced the chandelier in the sanctuary. The old one has been kept and if anyone is interested in having it, please contact the AC Moderator, Bob Henry.

The Rev. Scott shared that his congregation was to have their grand opening celebration and service on October 24th at 4:00 pm.

New Harmony Presbytery
Report of the Amendments Team

Recommendations to the Presbytery on Amendments to the Book of Order proposed by GA227

Members:

Rev. Dr. Frank Colclough: Supply Pastor, Cousar & Harmony; former NHP staff & Stated Clerk

Ruling Elder Will Ginn: John Calvin, Florence; Asst. Treasurer

Commissioned Pastor Delcia Harper-Baxter: Trinity, Mayesville; member of CPM

Rev. Tony Larson: Pastor, Trinity, Surfside; Co-moderator, 226th General Assembly, PC(USA)

Ruling Elder Jackie Rembert: Ebenezer, Dalzell; Moderator, Synod of South Atlantic

Summary:

The Amendments Team met on Wednesday, October 7 for just under two hours and discussed each of the 25 proposed amendments in the packet. We reached a consensus determination for each amendment whether we would recommend ***Approval*** or ***Disapproval*** and then whether or not to include that amendment in an omnibus motion.

- The Amendments Team is recommending approval of 23 of the 25 proposed amendments.
- The Amendments Team has placed 20 of the 25 amendments in an omnibus motion.
- There are 3 amendments the Team is recommending be ***approved*** that we felt would need explanation or generate conversation which are also not in the omnibus motion.
- The 2 amendments the Team is recommending be ***disapproved*** are not in the omnibus motion.
- The Amendment Team also agreed to offer brief comment on some of the amendments on the omnibus motion. Those comments are in this report.
- Any commissioner may remove an amendment from the omnibus motion.

Recommendations:

1. ***Omnibus Motion: The Amendments Team recommends the following proposed amendments be approved.***

#	Notes
26-B	Affirms that equal importance of the ordered ministry of ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders. Roots this equality in the Second Helvetic Confession
26-C	Requires presbyteries to provide formation in anti-racism to inquirers and candidates preparing for ministry of Word and Sacrament.
26-D	Retitles a section of the Book of Order
26-E	Requires to provide training for CPM members in the areas of anti-racism, intercultural competency, implicit-bias awareness, and equitable support of LGBTQIA+ individuals to lessen discrimination in the CPM process.
26-F	Requires inquirers to complete boundary training, anti-racism training, a background check, and a psychological and vocation evaluation during the inquiry phase.

26-G	Removes language clarified by 26-F and 26-H
26-H	Requires those preparing to become minister of Word and Sacrament to complete boundary training which includes education around sexual misconduct and prevention of abuse of children and youth. Retains the authority of the presbytery to select and approve the training method and curriculum.
26-I	Clarified the requirement that those preparing to become ministers of Word and Sacrament complete a master's degree at an institution accredited by the Association of Theological School and that the course of study ***shall*** include Hebrew and Greek languages and the exegesis of both the Old and New Testaments in Hebrew and Greek. This amendment does not remove the ability of a presbytery to grant a waiver or exception by ¾ vote as provided in G-2.0610
26-J	Clarifies a section heading in the Book of Order
26-L	Removes redundancy in the Book or Order created by the clearer language added by 26-I
26-M	Clarifies a section heading in the Book or Order
26-P	Requires ruling elders seeking a commission to limited pastoral service to complete boundary training as part of their preparation, and then every 36 months (ministers of Word and Sacrament have the same requirement).
26-Q	Allows a presbytery to commission a **Certified Christian Educator** who is also a Ruling Elder to limited pastoral service, provided they are examined for commissioning in accordance with G-2.1002 and G-2.1004. The requirements to become a **Certified Christian Educator include:** • Holding a bachelor's or a master's degree from an accredited institution • One year full-time (or equivalent) experience in volunteer or employed Christian education ministry leadership in a PC(USA) congregation, council, or agency. • Completion of certification-approved courses (3 credits / 30 hours) in each of the following areas: ○ Biblical Interpretation, Reformed Theology, Religious Education Theory and Practice, Worship and Sacraments, Human Growth and Faith Development, Presbyterian Polity, Presbyterian Program and Mission • Completion of an integrative project • Verification of current employment or volunteer work in education ministry leadership (at least 10 hours per week) accountable to a board, agency, or council of the PC(USA) The Team discerned these requirements are at least equal to those of the South Carolina School of Theology
26-R	Requires those who have certification (Certified Christian Educators, Certified Church Musicians, etc.) to participate in ongoing formation and continuing education (so long as they are certified and called to service within a congregation, council, or church related entity as a staff person) as required by G-3.0106.
26-S	Clarifies language around required boundary training for Certified Christian Educators to make it the same as required of inquirers, candidates, Ruling Elders commissioned for limited pastoral service, and ministers of Word and Sacrament.
26-T	Requires that synod and presbytery anti-racism policies include required training at least every 36 months for teaching elders, ruling elders, and persons certified and called to service within congregations, councils, and church related entities.
26-U	Clarifies required policies and trainings for all councils.

26-W	Provides for Ruling Elders commissioned to limited pastoral service to be enrolled as members of presbytery with voice and vote during the term of their active commission.(New Harmony also does this)
26-X	Gives presbyteries responsibility to provide membership and baptismal rolls for those desiring to be members of the PC(USA). This is intended to provide a means for participants in new worshipping communities sponsored by PC(USA) presbyteries and congregations but not chartered congregation to have a way of becoming members of the PC(USA).
26-Y	Requires minister members of presbytery to complete boundary training every 36 months. Provides authority to presbyteries to grant exemptions to this training, given that ministers of Word and Sacrament remain members of the presbytery until they die, which is frequently (though not always) beyond their active service to congregation and/or the presbytery.

2. The Amendments Team Recommends Approval of the following amendments:

#	Notes
26-A	***Brief Description:*** Names ideologies that establish Christianity as a privileged or dominant force through the power of the state or that conflate religious identity with national, racial, or ethnic supremacy as incompatible with the teachings of Jesus Christ, and are therefore a theological error which undermines the church's faithful witness. ***Rationale:*** This addition to F-3 of the BoO builds upon the historical language of F-3.0101b, "We do not even wish to see any religious constitution aided by the civil power, further than may be necessary for protection and security, and at the same time, be equal and common to all others." The proposed language is rooted in the confessional documents that constitute Part 1 of the Constitution. In particular The Barmen Declaration, the Confession of 1967, the Belhar Confession, and A Brief Statement of Faith. However, the Amendments Team thought that commissioners may wish to ask question and/or debate adding this language to the Book of Order, therefore it was not included on the consent agenda.
26-K	***Brief Description:*** 1. Removes the wording "regionally accredited" from the requirement of a bachelor's degree for candidates for ministry of Word and Sacrament. Maintain the bachelor's degree requirement and adds the phrase, "international equivalent as determined by the presbytery." 2. Creates the possibility of a Senior Ordination Portfolio which may be used in instead of ***or*** in combination with Standard Ordination Exams. ***Rationale:*** These changes provide a pathway (other than seeking an exemption) for those who educational background did not fit within the narrower language being replaced. This is especially true of inquirers and candidates from other countries and cultures.

	These changes also provide an alternative means of evaluating a candidates preparedness for minster of Word and Sacrament other than the Standard Ordination Exams. The Amendments Team's shared discernment was that in an increasingly diverse denomination and with studies demonstrating the limitations of standard exams to equitable evaluate every candidate that this change and additional means of examination were helpful tools. However, the addition of a Senior Ordination Portfolio is a significant change in the process of preparation for ministry of Word and Sacrament and the Amendments Team thought that commissioners would likely have questions and/or a desire to debate this amendment. Therefore, it was not included on the consent agenda.
26-O	***Brief Description:*** Requires anti-racism training every 36 months for Ruling Elders commissioned to particular pastoral service. ***Rationale:*** The members of the Amendments Team all shared a commitment to the goal of eradicating structural racism from the church. We took notice of the advice from the General Assembly Committee on Representation that shares this commitment but noted, "*a body of research showing that compelling or requiring individuals to complete mandatory training about bias or antiracism has been shows to have mixed results, with medium to small effect sizes, and little clarity about long-term transformation.*" The Amendments Team discerned that commissioners may want to debate the impact of this mandatory training on the goal of eradicating structural racism, particularly as it relates to Ruling Elders commissioned to particular pastoral service.

3. ***The Amendments Team recommends Disapproval of the following amendments:***

#	Notes:
26-N	***Brief Description:*** Calls for the creation of a required "denominational baseline for education and preparation of Ruling Elders for limited pastoral service." ***Rationale:*** New Harmony Presbytery is blessed by and grateful for the faithful ministry of its 10 Ruling Elders commissioned to particular pastoral service. We call them Commissioned Pastors and they currently provide pastoral leadership for 15 of our congregations. We are also grateful for the shared and collaborative ministry of the five presbyteries in SC who operate the SC5 School of Theology which provides training and continuing education for our Commissioned Pastors. The language mandating the creation of a "denomination baseline" does not specify who will determine that baseline and/or what authority presbyteries will retain over the education and preparation of Ruling Elders to particular pastoral services. The Amendments Team assumes this amendment is motivated by good intentions to ensure Ruling Elders seeking to be commissioned for pastoral service are properly trained and equipped. However, the PC(USA) is a diverse denomination and the needs and capacities of its presbyteries are not the same. Furthermore, the calling, training, electing, and ordaining

	of both Ruling and Teaching Elders is the ministry of sessions (Ruling Elders) and presbyteries (Teaching Elders). It is possible that the language of this amendment would lead the General Assembly or it's agency (Presbyterian Life & Witness) to set the "denominational baseline" and either establish a required curriculum or require any curriculum be approved by the agency. The Amendments Team believes that the existing language which leaves it to presbyteries to determine what instruction and preparation is needed remains the appropriate. Therefore, the Amendments Team recommends a vote of ***disapproval*** on Amendment 26-N.
26-V	***Brief Description:*** *Extends the requirement for certified boundary training every 36 months to every member of a session.* ***Rationale:*** The Amendments Team appreciates the desires to protect members of the church from sexual misconduct and children and youth from abuse. Every session is already required to have a policy in place to prevent this misconduct and abuse. However, the requirement that every elder serving on a session receive certified boundary training every 36 months presents a huge number of practical and administration hurdles to implementation: • The Clerk of Session becomes the de-facto enforcer of this policy, because they are required to receive the certificates of completion. • The administrative and financial burden on elders / session to identify certified training modules and complete them will be significant. • Many sessions do not have ministry with children or youth and these mandatory trainings would be irrelevant to the ministry and mission of their congregations. • For many congregations this requirement being handed down "from above" will serve to reinforce tension and aggravation with presbytery and the General Assembly. • Many sessions will not comply with this requirement (for a variety of reasons) and will find themselves out of compliance with the Book of Order This is a short list of issues we identified. There are likely others. Therefore, the Amendments Team recommends a vote of ***disapproval*** on Amendment 26-V.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

These amendments to the *Book of Order* were approved by the 227th General Assembly (2026) and recommended to the presbyteries for their vote.

FROM THE STATED CLERK

The 227th General Assembly (2026) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) approved and recommended to the presbyteries, for their affirmative or negative votes, proposed changes in the language of the *Book of Order* that, if approved, will amend the Constitution.

Here are a few notes as you prepare for the vote of the presbytery:

- It is recommended that prior to voting, presbyters and clerks review each proposed amendment and its related information.

- Each amendment has an item number, which is how the General Assembly tracked the business in both committee and in plenary. The entire record for each item is available in Myga.pc-biz.org.

- Live links to the General Assembly item numbers are available throughout this document. Another option is to go to My Ga at myga.pc-biz.org, click Search, Assembly Committee and enter the item number. Click on the item number to reach the summary.

- The rationale and advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution and other advisory and advocacy entities have been abbreviated for each amendment for this booklet. Please note that the advice applies to the original item of business and not necessarily the final version approved by the assembly.

- Presbyteries may use a consent agenda or omnibus motion to vote on amendments as long as each proposed amendment is identified separately. Each amendment and the agreement has a tracking number of 26-A, 26-B etc.

- Presbytery stated clerks are to report a tally of their votes to the Office of the General Assembly no later than **July 2, 2027, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time**. Votes on amendments and the agreement should be entered through the Stated Clerk's portal. Each month an updated tally will be mailed to all stated clerks. In order to make changes and publish the 2027-2029 *Book of Order* in a timely manner, receipt of votes prior to this deadline would be appreciated.

Thank you for your time and careful attention as you prepare to vote on these proposed amendments.

Jihyun Oh
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(U.S.A.)

INDEX

26-A — F-1.0305 ..... **4**
26-B – G-2.0102 ..... **10**
26-C — G-2.0104c **13**
26-D — G-2.06 ..... **18**
26-E — G-2.0601 ..... **20**
26-F — G-2.0603 ..... **26**
26-G — G-2.0603 ..... **31**
26-H — 2.0606 ..... **33**
26-I — G-2.06 ..... **35**
26-J — G-2.0606 ..... **37**
26-K — G-2.0607 ..... **39**
26-L — G-2.0607 ..... **52**
26-M — G-2.07 ..... **54**
26-N — G-2.1002 ..... **57**
26-O — G-2.1002 ..... **61**
26-P — G-2.1002 ..... **65**
26-Q — G-2.1002 ..... **68**
26-R — G-2.1101 ..... **71**
26-S — G-2.1103 ..... **74**
26-T — G-3.0106 ..... **77**
26-U — G-3.0106 ..... **82**
26-V — G-3.0206 ..... **85**
26-W — G-3.0301 ..... **88**
26-X — G-3.0301 ..... **93**
26-Y — G-3.0306 ..... **98**

Copyright © 2026
by the Office of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

PC(USA) presbyteries may print copies of this publication without prior permission from the publisher.

26-A — F-1.0305

OPENESS TO THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

F-1.0305 (RUS-01-1)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

> **Shall F-1.0305 be added to the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity as follows?**
> (Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold ***italics***.)
>
> ***F-1.0305 Faithful Witness in Public Life***
>
> ***The church affirms its calling to bear faithful witness in public life, speaking and acting from the example and teachings of Jesus Christ for justice, peace, mercy, and the dignity of all people. The church rejects any ideology that seeks to establish Christianity as a privileged or dominant force through the power of the state, or that conflates religious identity with national, racial, or ethnic supremacy. Such ideologies, in all their forms, are incompatible with the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, constitute a theological error, undermine the church's faithful witness, and are contrary to the church.***

Background and Rationale

Christian Nationalism is a dangerous and increasingly pervasive ideology that seeks to merge national identity with Christian identity, distorting both faith and politics. The requested actions in this overture aim to affirm the church's unwavering commitment to a gospel that stands in opposition to exclusionary political power and theologies that distort the example and teachings of Christ.

Christian Nationalism contradicts the foundational commitments and public witness of our church: love, equality, inclusion, peace, religious freedom and the imago dei of all beings. It substitutes the call of Christ to love our neighbor with a coercive and divisive ideology of fear and violence. As followers of Jesus Christ and members of the Reformed tradition, we cannot remain silent in the face of this threat.

<u>The Growing Threat of Christian Nationalism</u>

Christian Nationalism has been steadily gaining ground in the United States, with political figures invoking religious language to justify harmful policies that marginalize immigrants, people of color, LGBTQIA+ individuals, religious minorities, women, children, and other vulnerable populations.

Public opinion research, including a Pew Research report from February 2025, found that 54% of Mainline Protestants support the idea of declaring the U.S. a "Christian nation." While the term "Christian nation" has been popularized in media and political discourse, this belief often signals a desire for the state to reflect and privilege a particular religious identity, rather than simply a moral framework. This conflation of national identity with Christian identity runs counter to the principles

of religious freedom and pluralism to which the PCUSA is already committed, and that form the foundation of democratic societies.

In addition, 57% of Mainline Protestants favor allowing prayer in public schools, specifically in Jesus' name, 63% support prayer to "God" in public settings, and 60% favor allowing cities and towns to display religious symbols on public property. These trends reflect a desire to embed Christianity into the civic sphere, reinforcing the dangerous assumption that the state has the authority to promote a singular religious framework, at the expense of other faith traditions and non-believers.

This rising trend must be met with a strong and public response from the church. Christian Nationalism not only distorts the gospel, but does so in its aim to reshape society in a way that contradict the gospel values of justice, inclusion, and equality.

Theological and Confessional Rejection of Christian Nationalism

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long affirmed its commitment to justice, religious freedom, and the separation of church and state. This commitment is rooted in our confessional documents, which reject any theology that seeks to elevate national or political power above the sovereignty of God.

- The Barmen Declaration (1934) affirms that the church must not align itself with any political ideology, rejecting the attempt to merge Christian faith with state power.
- The Confession of 1967 calls for the church to stand against systemic injustice and racism.
- The Belhar Confession (1986) explicitly rejects any form of theology that promotes national or racial superiority.
- A Brief Statement of Faith (1991) affirms that "we trust in the one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve."

These confessions remind us that the church's loyalty is to God alone, and any attempt to merge Christian faith with political power is a form of idolatry that distorts the gospel. Christian Nationalism directly contradicts these theological commitments and the example set by Jesus Christ, who called his followers to love their neighbors without regard to nationality, race, gender, status, or creed.

The Church's Call to Act

The PC(USA) has repeatedly affirmed the importance of religious freedom and the separation of church and state. In addition, the Church has a long history of public witness and commitment to racial justice, LGBTQIA+ inclusion, immigrant protection, and interfaith solidarity. Christian nationalism violates each of these principles; it is a distortion of the gospel that undermines the church's prophetic voice in the world. In the face of these threats, silence is not an option.

Christian Nationalism presents a clear and present danger to both the integrity of Christian faith and the health of democracy. It distorts the gospel and seeks to impose a singular religious identity on a pluralistic society. The PCUSA is called to witness to the truth of the gospel, which is one of radical inclusion, justice, and love for all people. The actions requested in this overture—to amend the Book of Order, issue a public statement, and seek to be a contributing member of a broad-based coalition—are necessary steps in dismantling the theological distortions and political ideologies that have sought to merge Christianity with state power.

Now, more than ever, the church must stand firm in its commitment to the gospel and to the values of democracy and justice. We must reject Christian Nationalism in all its forms and act decisively to protect both our faith and our democracy.

Supporting Resources

Books

- Amanda Tyler, *How to End Christian Nationalism*. BJC, 2022.
- Brian Kaylor and Beau Underwood, *Baptizing America: How Mainline Protestants Helped Build Christian Nationalism*. Chalice Press, 2024.
- Robert P. Jones, *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in American Christianity* (2020); *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy and the Path to a Shared American Future* (2023).
- Samuel L. Perry and Andrew L. Whitehead, *Taking America Back for God: Christian Natio nalism in the United States* (2020).

Reports & Articles

- Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) – Reports on Christian Nationalism, Religion & Politics, Race, and Democracy. https://www.prri.org
    - *American Beliefs about Christian Nationalism and its Threat to Democracy*, 2021.
    - *Religion's Role in Public Life*, 2025
- GACEIR, *Confronting White Christian Nationalism*. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 2025.
- National Council of Churches, *Christian Nationalism Policy Statement*, 2022.
- PC(USA) General Assembly Statements on Immigration, Religious Freedom, LGBTQIA+ I nclusion, Human Rights, Anti-Racism and White Christian Nationalism, in particular:
    - *Facing Racism*, 222nd General Assembly, 2016.
    - *A Resolution on Religious Freedom Without Discrimination*, 223rd General Assembl y 2018
    - *White Christian Nationalism Recommended Study*, 226th General Assembly, 2024
- Sojourners, "ICE Quotes the Bible in a New Propaganda Video," Sojourners, July 11, 2025, https://sojo.net/articles/opinion/ice-quotes-bible-new-propaganda-video

Organizations & Websites

- Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) – prri.org
- Faithful America – faithfulamerica.org
- Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) – bjconline.org
- Christians Against Christian Nationalism – christiansagainstchristiannationalism

Advice from Advisory and Advocacy Committees was given on the original Overture which was amended by the Assembly committee and then the Assembly approved a substitute motion.

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

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 227th General Assembly (2026) that Part 1 raises constitutional issues that the Assembly should consider.

Rationale

Committee on the Constitution notes that The Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) provide a foundation to guide the Stated Clerk and Moderator of the denomination to issue statements that draw upon the rich theological and ecclesiastical history of patterns of Christian Nationalism that continue to be an urgent theological and social concern of our time. These confessional statements also provide a foundation for engaging with other faith traditions in forming coalitions, speaking out against Christian Nationalism, engaging in collective actions, and deconstructing practices, theologies, and patterns of Christian Nationalism in the Church and society at large. This includes:

> We reject the false doctrine, as though the church were permitted to abandon the form of its message and order to its own pleasure or to changes in prevailing ideological and political convictions. (The Book of Confessions; The Theological Declaration of Barmen. 8.18).
>
> We reject the false doctrine, as though the church, over and beyond its special commission, should and could appropriate the characteristics, the tasks, and the dignity of the State, thus itself becoming an organ of the State. (The Book of Confessions; The Theological Declaration of Barmen. 8.23).
>
> Although nations may serve God's purposes in history, the church which identifies the sovereignty of any one nation or any one way of life with the cause of God denies the Lordship of Christ and betrays its calling. (The Book of Confessions; The Confession of 1967. 9.45).
>
> Therefore, we reject any doctrine which, in such a situation sanctions in the name of the gospel or of the will of God the forced separation of people on the grounds of race and color and thereby in advance obstructed and weakens the ministry and experience of reconciliation in Christ. (The Book of Confessions. The Confession of Belhar. 10.6).
>
> In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. (The Book of Confessions; A Brief Statement of Faith. 11.1).
>
> The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in two parts: The Book of Confessions and The Book of Order (F-3.04). They serve two different purposes. In the Book of Confessions, "the church declares to its members and to the world who and what it is, what it believes, and what it resolves to do" (F-2.01). In the Book of Order, however, "the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reaffirms the historic principles of church order ... which are basic to our Presbyterian concept and system of church government" (F-3.01).

.

Comment – From the LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Task Force

The Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve RUS-01.

The White Christian Nationalism agenda frequently extends beyond legislation into the active dissemination of misinformation and incitement of hostility against LGBTQIA+ persons, religious minorities, immigrants and communities of color. This ideology has made LGBTQIA+ persons specific and repeated targets. By characterizing diverse sexual orientation and gender identities as existential threats to the homeland or national identity, this ideology utilizes dehumanizing language to justify the exclusion of these communities and other marginalized groups from public life.

Our Confession of 1967 reminds us that "God has created people of the earth to be one universal human family. In his reconciling love, he overcomes the barriers…and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin, real or imaginary…" (9.44). The theological logic of this confession extends beyond race: whenever an ideology designates any community as a threat to national identity, the Church is called to resist. We are called to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life. Furthermore, in the Theological Declaration of Barmen we proclaim, "We reject the false doctrine, as though the State should and could become the single and totalitarian order of human life" (8.17). We stand on our Reformed conviction to work with others for justice, peace and freedom, ensuring that none is targeted with violence or a violation of their God given human rights.

While RUS-01 rightly notes that White Christian Nationalism feels entitled to use whatever means necessary including violence, the documented targeting of LGBTQIA+ persons by this ideology warrants explicit acknowledgment within the policy's theological framework. This includes the recognition that LGBTQIA+ persons have been specifically targeted by this violence along with other marginalized groups.

This pattern is reflected in current data. The FBI's 2024 Hate Crime Statistics Report documented 2,413 single-bias anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crime incidents in the United States, marking the second highest year on record, a pattern sustained for three consecutive years at historic highs. At the same time, the ACLU is currently tracking over 740 bills targeting transgender and gender non-conforming people across 42 states in 2026 alone, with 2025 marking the sixth consecutive record-breaking year for such legislation.

By grounding this Advice and Counsel in the Confession of 1967 and the Declaration of Barmen we highlight the continued Reformed tradition that rejects White Christian Nationalism and the violation of human rights that it inherently creates. These confessions, already adopted by the PC(USA), provide doctrinal grounding for naming White Christian Nationalism as incompatible with the Church's own commitments not as a new claim, but as a faithful application of what the Church already believes.

https://pcusa.org/resource/book-confessions

https://www.splcenter.org/resources/reports/conspiracy-preparation/

Advice and Counsel – From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

The Advocacy Committee on Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ) advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve RUS-01.

The Church of Jesus Christ is called to bear witness that our allegiance is to God alone, and not to any earthly power or ideology. This report rightly names a growing distortion that confuses the gospel with national identity and elevates human systems above the sovereignty of Christ. Our confessions remind us that the Church must not conform its message or mission to prevailing political convictions, nor claim the authority or character of the state (Book of Confessions, Barmen Declaration 8.18, 8.23). To speak clearly in this moment is a faithful continuation of our tradition.

By directing public witness, encouraging collaboration across faith communities, and grounding our response in our confessional standards, this report strengthens the Church's ability to live out its calling with integrity. It affirms that the gospel of Jesus Christ is one of justice, humility, and love for neighbor, and rejects any teaching that would privilege one people over another or bind the Church to the ambitions of the state (Confession of 1967, 9.45; Belhar Confession, 10.6). In doing so, it offers both clarity and courage for the Church's witness in this time.

We strongly urge the PC(USA) to publicly acknowledge and rebuke the misappropriation of Christian teachings and implementation of those teachings. We urge our denomination to go into the public sphere via the media and utilize any platforms available to the denomination and expose how this religious supremacy is antithetical to the teaching of Jesus and in complete contradiction to the purpose of the Church.

The Assembly Committee on Reformed Identity in the United States approved Item RUS-01 with amendment, 52/4. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved a substitute motion Item RUS-01, 458/15.

For the full report on RUS-1, go to

https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001414

26-B – G-2.0102

ORDERED MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

G-2.0102 ORDERED MINISTRIES (ORD-07 D)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0102 Ordered Ministries be amended as follows?
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold ***italics***.)

Section G-2.0102, Ordered Ministries

The Church's ordered ministries described in the New Testament and maintained by this church are deacons and presbyters (ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders). Ordered ministries are gifts to the church to order its life so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. ***Each order of ministry is equally important and "one ministry is not to be ordered above another" in the way that God calls, prepares, and equips (Second Helvetic Confession 5.160, 5.161, 5.162).*** The existence of these ordered ministries in no way diminishes the importance of the commitment of all members to the total ministry of the church.

The government of this church is representative, and the right of God's people to elect presbyters and deacons is inalienable. Therefore, no person can be placed in any ordered ministry in a congregation or council of the church except by election of that body.

Ordination to the ministry of deacon, ruling elder, or minister of Word and Sacrament (also called teaching elder) is unique to that order of ministry.

Background and Rationale from the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination

The affirmation that ordered ministries are non-hierarchical is deeply rooted in Reformed theology and in the historical witness of the Presbyterian Church. This conviction is clearly articulated in the Second Helvetic Confession, which teaches that "one ministry is not to be ordered above another" (5.160–5.162). From its earliest expressions, the Reformed tradition has emphasized the priesthood of all believers, rejecting any notion that ordination confers superiority, privilege, or status. Ordination is instead understood as a setting apart for service within the body of Christ, where all share in the ministry of reconciliation and God's mission.

Within this framework, the ordered ministries of deacon, ruling elder, and minister of the Word and Sacrament exist not to establish hierarchy, but to ensure that the life of the church is well ordered so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. Distinctions among these ministries reflect differences in function and calling, not differences in dignity, worth, or authority.
Historically, the Presbyterian Church has resisted clericalism and the concentration of power in a single office, affirming instead a model of leadership that is collaborative, shared, and

interdependent. Each ordered ministry responds to a distinct vocation: deacons lead in compassion and service, ruling elders exercise governance and spiritual oversight, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament proclaim the gospel and administer the sacraments. These ministries are complementary rather than competitive, mutually accountable rather than ranked. The Second Helvetic Confession's insistence on the equality of ministries safeguards the church from patterns of privilege and exclusion, reminding the church that ordination is not about status but about equipping the saints for faithful service.

In a contemporary context marked by cultural and ecclesial change, reaffirming the non-hierarchical nature of ordered ministries remains essential. This commitment ensures that authority is exercised relationally and accountably, honors the diversity of gifts given by the Holy Spirit, and reflects the unity of the body described in 1 Corinthians 12. By holding fast to this principle, the church lives more fully into its calling to be a community in which all gifts are valued and all ministries serve the common mission of God.

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

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 227th General Assembly (2026) that the Ordination Task Force Report, Recommendation D is consistent with the theological and polity foundations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), recognizing the authority of Christ as head of the church (F-1.0201) who calls and equips the church (F-1.0202).

Ordered ministry is one of the ways the church is equipped to carry out God's mission through the ministry of Jesus Christ (G-2.0102). Along with The Second Helvetic Confession, The Confession of 1967 affirms:

The church thus orders its life as an institution with a constitution, government, officers, finances, and administrative rules. These are instruments of mission, not ends in themselves. Different orders have served the gospel, and none can claim exclusive validity. A Presbyterian polity recognizes the responsibility of all members for ministry and maintains the organic relation of all congregations in the church. It seeks to protect the church from exploitation by ecclesiastical or secular power and ambition. Every church order must be open to such reformation as may be required to make it a more effective instrument of the mission of reconciliation. (9.40)

And, The Theological Declaration of Barmen states, "The various offices in the church do not establish a dominion of some over the others; on the contrary, they are for the exercise of the ministry entrusted to and enjoined upon the whole congregation." (8.20)

Therefore, the Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises approval.

.

Advice and Counsel – From Racial Ethnic Advisory Committee

This amendment affirms a core Reformed conviction: ministry roles differ in function, not in dignity, worth, or authority. This is important for addressing patterns that have historically undervalued racial/ethnic leaders, particularly ruling elders and deacons.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-07 including D with Comment, 50/9. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-07 including D, 389/84.

For the full report on ORD-07 and the full report from the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001487

26-C — G-2.0104c

ORDERED MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

G-2.0104c GIFTS AND QUALIFICATIONS (RAC-04 4b)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0104c be added as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.0104 Gifts and Qualifications

c. Anti-Racism Formation

In fulfilling its responsibility for preparation for ministry, a presbytery shall require that inquirers and candidates for ordered ministry receive education and formation in ant-racism as part of their preparation for service in the Church. Such formation shall be provided at intervals and in forms determined by the presbytery, consistent with standards established by the General Assembly.

Background and Rationale

Dismantling structural racism in the church will not happen unless it becomes the collective work of all of us. And so we end by challenging ourselves–all of us together–to be faithful to the previous faithful work. Because that is how we will expose White supremacy and tear it down.

We call the Church, each of our congregations, and all councils to engage the resources of our denomination to do this work locally and connectionally. We ask you and ourselves:

1. Since the 225th GA, sessions and mid councils have been required to adopt an anti-racism policy. Has your congregation or mid council adopted a policy? Does your presbytery know which congregations have and have not adopted a policy (we strongly encourage including it in the annual checklist for minutes review), and how does your presbytery follow up? Does your session or mid council review your policy annually and talk about how you are living into it together? This requirement in the Book of Order is not simply to check off our councils' list but rather an invitation to deeper engagement.

2. Have you read the PC(USA)'s Churchwide Antiracism Policy, *Facing Racism* (https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/Facing-Racism-new-2016-antiracism-policy-for-GA-222-approval.pdf) or considered using its study guides (https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/facing-racism-study-guide.pdf)?
3. Has your congregation or mid council offered training in anti-racism or cultural competency for your leaders?
4. Have you done a self-study of your own congregation's or mid council's history (https://pcusa.org/historical-society/collections/what-we-collect/products-pcusa-self-studies-racism and https://digital.history.pcusa.org/islandora/1107) to help foster conversation in your particular context? Have you sought to learn about the history of the PC(USA)'s impact on people of color, for example, the report on All-Black Governing Bodies (https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/allblackgoverningbodies.pdf)?
5. The report of the Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation adopted by the 225th GA insisted that reconciliation required truth and reparations (https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/special_committtee_on_racism_truth_and_reconciliation_to_225_ga.pdf). Have you considered where your congregation or mid council might be called to local acts of repair, guided by the work of the PC(USA) Task Force to Study Reparations (https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/report_of_the_task_force_to_study_reparations1_0.pdf), the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy Resolution on Race, Reparative Justice, and the PCUSA (https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3000922), and the Center for the Repair of Historic Harms (https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/repair-historic-harms)?
6. How does your mid council identify and address the disparities in pay and installed positions for pastors of color (https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3000837)? Has your congregation been truly open to calling a pastor of color?
7. Has your congregation or mid council studied the PC(USA)'s report, "The Doctrine of Discovery: A Review of Its Origins and Implications for Congregations in the PC(USA) and Support for Native American Sovereignty" (https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/2024-11/Doctrine-of-Discovery-Report-to-the-223rd-GA-2018-FINALIZED-COPY_As-Approved.pdf) and sought to deepen relationship with indigenous siblings and congregations in your area?
8. Has your congregation or mid council examined the particular intersection between race and gender, revealed by recent GA actions such as the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force Report (https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3000676), the Resolution on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two Spirit People (https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3000824), the Resolution on Reproductive Justice: Black Maternal Birthing People and Infant Mortality (https://www.pc-

biz.org/search/3000825), and the Resolution for Transwomen of Color (https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3000826)?

9. Has your congregation or mid council engaged the PC(USA) Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy (https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3000895)?
10. Has your congregation or mid council considered local ways of opposing Violence and Hate against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001103)?
11. Is your congregation or mid council connected and committed to the Matthew 25 movement, and have you utilized the resources available for worship, study, and action (https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/matthew-25/resources)?
12. How is your congregation or mid council called to live into the theological commitments of our confessions to God's equity, equality, and justice? Most recently, the 222nd GA added to our Book of Confessions the Confession of Belhar, which offers rich liturgical and confessional language (https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/belhar1.pdf) with available study guides (e.g., https://www.pcusastore.com/Products/680751/the-confession-of-belhar-leaders-guide.aspx). The Confession of 1967 (https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/confess671_0.pdf) and the Theological Declaration of Barmen (https://static1.squarespace.com/static/595d65a4ff7c50d877d0c81e/t/5f8f3f0e49ca3477e76b0743/1603223322978/THE+THEOLOGICAL+DECLARATION+OF+BARMEN.pdf) likewise call the Church to oppose any forms of discrimination, prejudice, or White Christian Nationalism.
13. Has your congregation or mid council reflected on how it might de-center Whiteness, through resources such as Stephanie Patterson, "Decentering Whiteness in a Multiracial Society," published in *Horizons* (https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Decentering-Whiteness-in-a-Multiracial-Society-by-Stephanie-M-Patterson.pdf)?

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

The ACC reviewed the work of the Special Committee prior to the preparation of their final report and provided advice concerning the constitutional issues raised by their recommendations. Those discussions are reflected in the final report. The proposed amendments are constitutional, and we recommend approval.

Advice and Counsel – From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

The Advocacy Committee of Women and Gender Justice advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) **approve** RAC-04.

Our committee advises the General Assembly to approve this resolution and consider further reflection on the robust questions it poses to every congregation concerning the adoption and attention to anti-racist policies throughout leadership and congregational life.

Advice and Counsel from General Assembly Advisory Committee on Representation (GACOR)

GACOR wishes to support the overall arc of recommendations in this final report, including suggested changes for future assemblies, including participation in the many languages that make up our body. The church's unity in diversity is reflected in the variety of languages that are spoken in our worship services, councils, and fellowship together.

Speaking to points 4 and 5 of the recommendations, it is often true that antiracism training or education is often the first step needed to address the systems and structures of racism that harms BIPOC communities and destroys the unity of the church. This is invaluable work for all church leaders in their preparation for ministry, for congregations, and as continuing education along the way. Resourcing ourselves around history, systemic impacts, and interlocking systems of harm, as well as theological opportunities for repair, is critical and faithful work for any historically white-dominant denomination in the United States. The faithful work of equipping ourselves for the work of repair is a critical call of this moment in the life of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

That said, there is a body of research showing that compelling or requiring individuals to complete mandatory training about bias or antiracism has been shown to have mixed results, with medium to small effect sizes, and little clarity about long-term transformation.
This by no means implies the church should abandon the effort to equip itself broadly with antiracism training, as formal research is only one form of knowledge we can access. But given the amount of work that would need to go into this singular, compliance-focused effort, the lack of clear research outcomes might, at minimum, give us pause in terms of whether a Book of Order mandate is the correct or primary institutional lever by which to bring about the sort of broad and continuing transformation the report invites.

GACOR might suggest that another effective but adaptable model for encouraging antiracism training/equipping that is well-developed, nuanced, and well-facilitated might be:

1.encouraging Presbyterian Life & Witness to provide robust training resources, in the context of item 2a of this report, including vetted and well-annotated antiracism training options for all councils of the church. This could include a mandate to collect and commission training resources that can be based on the best of current research and community knowledge, adapt to local dynamics and histories or contexts of racial and church history, and attend to the continuing education needed beyond the basics. Such a set of resources might also suggest "best practices" for trainings that make sense for a variety of contexts without shying away from our history or our current systems.

1.

Rationale: A robust network of resources of this quality, with the capacity to consult with national staff around specific needs in any one locale, may be more effective in increasing the frequency, availability, and overall engagement with antiracism training than a series of mandates that our current national structure and midcouncils may struggle to resource and stay in compliance with.

2. And: Funding or offering need-based grants for presbyteries otherwise unable to fund skilled and high-quality antiracism training.

Rationale: Exploring needs-based grant funding would go far in MidCouncils where the capacity to offer appropriate and helpful antiracism education and training may be being hindered by more pragmatic barriers than motivation or requirement.
We might imagine a future where a more focused effort (or even preparation) of this sort – to require development of this sort of clear and high-quality antiracism training options and a pathway toward properly funding long-term implementation of training – could helpfully highlight the ongoing barriers to broader mandatory training becoming more effective to implement in the very near future, offer a more straightforward path toward high-quality and consistent implementation, and define clearer desired outcomes. A measured strategy like this might then become not a dilution or a harmful delay of the necessary work called for in the Special Committee's recommendations - but rather a means to strengthen what we all collectively long to do with deep effectiveness, faithfulness, and heartfulness.

The Assembly Committee on Racial Justice approved Item RAC-04 4b 59/0. The 227th General Assembly (2026) Item RAC-04 4b, 448/26.

For the full report on RAC-04 and the Special Committee on the PC(U.S.A.) and Race, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001512

26-D — G-2.06

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COUNCILS

G-2.06 PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (ORD-02)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the title of G-2.06 be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold ***italics***.)

G-2.06 PREPARATION FOR ***THE*** MINISTRY ***OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT***

Background and Rationale

The term "ministry" has always been more expansive than just the ordered ministry of the Word and Sacrament. There are many types of church ministries and vocations. Increasingly, the church is recognizing that the ministry of ruling elders, deacons, and non-ordained members of congregations is an invaluable part of the life of a congregation. Chapter Two of the Book of Order begins with sections about some of these forms of ministry.

Renaming sections G-2.06 and G-2.07 to specify the type of ministry they apply to clarifies their purpose and presents a more inclusive attitude toward the meaning of "ministry" and the various different types of ministry that exist in the church.

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

The overture would amend the Book of Order by relabeling and reordering certain sections under G-2.06 Preparation for Ministry and G-2.07 Ordination. The overture does not appear to change the substance of the sections.

The ACC advises that reorganization of the Book of Order to provide clarity and better alignment with subject headings is a worthwhile effort that, in itself, does not pose any constitutional issues. Because of the numerous cross-references to numbered sections, it will be necessary to correct those references as well. See, e.g., G-2.0104b, G-2.0505, G-2.0610 (internal references).

Coordination

The ACC also notes that other Items of Business are proposing changes to or reorganization of the educational and training requirements for inquirers and candidates. Coordination will be required to ensure consistency.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-02, 52/5. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-02, 447/10.

For the full report on ORD-02, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001442

26-E — G-2.0601

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

G-2.0601 NATURE AND PURPOSE OF ORDINATION (ORD-07 A)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall Section G-2.0601 Nature and Purpose of Ordination, be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold ***italics***.)

G-2.0601 Nature and Purpose of Preparation

It is important that those who are to be ordained as ministers of the Word and Sacrament receive full preparation for their task under the direction of the presbytery. For this purpose, a presbytery shall enter into covenant relationship with those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament and with their sessions and congregations. This relationship shall be divided into the two phases of inquiry and candidacy**.** ***Presbyteries shall ensure training for the members of the presbytery body responsible for preparation for ministry, including those serving as liaisons for inquirers and candidates, and shall ensure that this training be completed a minimum of every three years and recorded in presbytery minutes. The training shall include anti-racism, intercultural competency, implicit-bias awareness, and the equitable support of LGBTQIA+ inquirers and candidates, so that the preparation process is free from discrimination.***

Background and Rationale from the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination

Background:

The Task Force began its work with a sustained study of theology and the biblical witness to develop a shared definition of ordination. This definition has guided the Task Force's work and discernment throughout the past several years.

Ordination is a means by which individuals are affirmed in their call and set apart for particular service. Through the act of ordination, those appointed for this ministry attest to the bond between the church, Jesus Christ, and the apostolic witness, recalling that it is the risen Lord who is the true ordainer and the one who bestows the gift.

The term "ordination" derives from the Latin ordo (office) and ordinare (to set in order). While ordination is not clearly defined in the Bible, its foundations appear in Scriptures such as Exodus and Leviticus, where individuals are set apart for specific purposes in service to God and the community. Ordination is not synonymous with ministry itself. Rather, it names the church's act of setting

individuals aside for particular responsibilities through a discerned and ordered process. In this way, ordination is inseparable from baptism and from the shared life of the covenant community.

Our understanding of ordination begins within the relationships formed by God's covenant with God's people. Covenant is not merely an agreement, but a binding relationship. Through Christ's covenant with us, we are bound to one another in Christian community and made mutually responsible and accountable—to our ministers, to our congregations, and to one another—as together we seek to live as the body of Christ.

Although covenant is often used in contemporary language as a substitute for contract or agreement, in the Christian tradition it is the fundamental shape of our relationship with the Divine. Our confessional statements, particularly the Westminster Standards, remind us that the first covenant was established between God and humanity. When humanity could not fulfill the covenant of works, God established a covenant of grace under which we now live (6.037–42). Throughout Scripture, covenant is consistently communal in scope. God's covenant with Noah encompasses all of humanity. God's covenant with Abraham binds God to an entire people. When Jesus Christ speaks of a new covenant sealed in his blood, it is formed within personal relationships with the disciples while also opening the covenant of grace to the whole world—Jews and Greeks, enslaved and free, people of all genders (Galatians 3:28). In this covenant, those bound to Christ are also bound to one another.

The Westminster Confession of Faith describes this communal reality in its teaching on the communion of the saints, naming the Lord's Supper as "a bond and pledge of their communion with him, and with each other, as members of his mystical body" (6.161). Covenant thus always includes multiple parties: the Triune God, the individual, and the assemblies to which that individual belongs.

In Presbyterian polity, this covenantal web extends across every council of the church, individual congregations, and the holy catholic Church. A Brief Statement of Faith (1993) emphasizes that call is the work of the Holy Spirit, who "calls women and men to all ministries of the Church" (11.4). Yet it is worth asking whether an exclusive emphasis on individual call risks underplaying the communal dimension of ordered ministry. The call to serve as a deacon, ruling elder, or minister of the Word and Sacrament is not only a response to God's initiative, but also a commitment to serve a particular community as a co-worker with God (1 Corinthians 3:9).

What does it mean, then, to understand ordered ministry as the product of a covenant among God, an individual, and the council and congregation that individual serves? The Confession of 1967 offers a clear articulation of this relationship: "Each member is the church in the world, endowed by the Spirit with some gift of ministry and is responsible for the integrity of his witness in his own situation. He is entitled to the guidance and support of the Christian community and is subject to its advice and correction. He in turn, in his own competence, helps to guide the church" (9.38).

As the church considers the ordered ministries of deacon, ruling elder, and minister of the Word and Sacrament, this covenantal understanding provides both grounding and direction. It calls congregations and leaders alike to shared responsibility, mutual accountability, and faithful discernment as together we seek to answer God's call in this time and place.

. He is entitled to the guidance and support of the Christian community and is subject to its advice a nd correction. He in turn, in his own competence, helps to guide the church" (9.38).

Rationale

Between November 18, 2024, and May 5, 2025, the Task Force conducted 14 focus group interviews, seven with inquirers and candidates and seven with ministers ordained within the past five years (see Appendix A). Forty-six inquirers and candidates participated, along with 53 ministers who had been ordained within the past five years. In all groups, the question was asked about their experience with their Committee on Preparation for Ministry or its equivalent in their presbytery.

Some of the participants stated that they had had a very positive experience, while others reported challenges that included:

- Not being given information at the beginning of or during the process identifying what they needed to accomplish.

- Frustration from some who had committee chairs and liaisons that were poorly trained. Often they had to tell the committee chairs and liaisons what the committee needed to do next.

- A structure that doesn't allow liaisons to remain with their inquirers/candidates throughout the whole process because of term limits, for example.

In response, the Task Force recommends the establishment of a more consistent process across presbyteries. This process should include annual training for all members of the body responsible for preparation for ministry, both for those newly appointed and for those continuing to serve. Topics should include but not be limited to the acknowledgement of the covenant relationship between the individual, the church, the presbytery and God; an introduction to the process; an overview of the ordination exams; and the responsibilities of serving as a liaison to an inquirer or candidate.

The Task Force recommends that this training be developed by the appropriate body of the denominational offices and made available in written format, with optional video components. The training should be updated as needed and provided to presbyteries for local use. Presbyteries should maintain records within their minutes of those who have completed the training.

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

The Task Force's Recommendation A would require training for the presbytery body responsible for preparation for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. The intent is to respond to the experiences of inquirers and candidates who did not feel adequately supported within their presbyteries, due to the lack of knowledge or experience of those tasked with supporting them. …. The amended text also

mandates that four training subjects for the purposes of the preparation process be "free from discrimination."

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) notes the following issues that the Assembly should consider. By using the word "shall," training will be mandated for all who serve on that presbytery body. See Preface to the Constitution ("SHALL and IS TO BE/ARE TO BE signify practice that is mandated."). First, the recommendation would make this training mandatory for "those serving as liaisons for inquirers and candidates." While the use of liaisons might be a common practice, it is not required under or defined by the Book of Order.Recommendation A could be interpreted as mandating the use of liaisons.

Second, the ACC has consistently advised that the Constitution is not intended to serve as a manual of operations. Generally, this would advocate against the creation of lists of requirements or rubrics on how to implement requirements that may be interpreted as exhaustive, and because they constrain the implementing discretion the Book of Order ordinarily reserves to councils (G-3.0106: Councils higher than the session may provide examples of policies and procedures that may be gathered into advisory handbooks. These examples illumine practices required by the Constitution but left to councils for specific implementation. Such handbooks may also offer information that enhances or secures the ministry of the particular council.). The amended text of four training subjects may be more suitably carried in an advisory handbook of the presbytery than fixed in the constitutional text, where it cannot be revised or expanded except by further amendment.

Third, the clause "so that the preparation process is free from discrimination" states a result that the required training cannot of itself guarantee, and for which the amended text provides no measure of compliance. As constitutional language, an outcome standard of this kind may prove difficult to apply, and could shift the question in any future proceeding from whether the required training was completed and recorded, typically readily verified in the minutes, to whether the particular outcome was achieved.

The ACC further notes that the phrase "this training shall ensure that this training be completed every three years" is awkward, as the training is made to ensure its own completion. Should the Assembly retain the substance of this provision, the ACC advises that the language be modified so that it places the duty on the presbytery. Such modified language may read: "Presbyteries shall provide training for the members of the presbytery body responsible for preparation for ministry, and shall ensure that it is completed every three years and recorded in presbytery minutes."

Advice and Counsel on ORD-07 A from the Advocacy Committee on LGBTQ+ Equity (ACQ+E)

The Advocacy Committee on LGBTQ+ Equity advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve Ord (07) with amendment [amendment adopted by the GA].

Advice and Counsel on ORD-07 A from the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC)

The racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC) advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve ORD 07 with amendment.

REAC gives thanks for the work of the Task Force to Explore Theology and Practice of Ordination. The Task Force listened to the experience of candidates, especially those from immigrant communities of color, and named an important truth: a system intended to be fair has not functioned equitably in practice.

Ordination in the Church involves many groups, including presbyteries, seminaries, and denominational bodies. Inequities often begin early, shaped by differences in access to education, resources, and cultural expectations, long before candidates are formerly evaluated. At the same time, these recommendations place new responsibilities on systems that already have limited capacity and uneven resources.

REAC affirms the direction of this work while naming a key tension: the Church's commitment to equity is not yet matched by the structures and accountability needed to sustain it. Without that alignment, inequities will continue, even within well-intentioned reform.

For this reason, REAC offers the following amendments to strengthen this work and support faithful and sustainable implementation.

B. Annual Training

REAC recommends that the Assembly approve amendment A with the following addition.

(text to be added is [in brackets and underlined].)

Presbyteries shall provide training for the members of the presbytery body responsible for ministry, including those serving as liaisons for inquirers and candidates and shall ensure that this training is competed annually and recorded in presbytery minutes. [This training shall include anti-racism, intercultural competency, and bias-awareness components to ensure equitable and culturally responsive discernment and assessment. Presbyteries shall also establish a process for gathering and reviewing feedback from inquirers and candidates, with particular attention to the experiences of those from marginalized communities, and shall use this feedback to inform improvement of ongoing training, discernment, and assessment practices.]

Training alone has not consistently led to equitable outcomes. Without accountability and feedback, training can become a requirement rather than a catalyst for change. Pairing training with candidate feedback helps ensure that practices improve over time and that inequities are addressed in practice, not only in intention.

Comment from the Unification Commission

The report of the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination contains several proposed amendments, which, if passed, would have financial, logistical and staffing implications for Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL&W).

While recommendations A and B create additional requirements for presbyteries, there is also an impact on staff within PL&W. Training and resources are already available to presbytery bodies responsible for preparation for ministry. The recommendation states that presbyteries will provide the training and determine the best method for background checks, etc., but presbyteries historically look to Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL&W) staff for guidance and resources in order to fulfill the Book of Order requirements

---

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-07 A 50/9. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-07 A, 389/85.

For the full report on ORD-07, the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination and all advice and advocacy go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001487

26-F — G-2.0603

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

G-2.0603 Purpose of Inquiry (ORD-07 B)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0603 in the Form of Government be amended as follows?
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.0603 Purpose of Inquiry

The purpose of the inquiry phase is to provide an opportunity for the church and those who believe themselves called to ordered ministry as ministers of the Word and Sacrament to explore that call together so that the presbytery can make an informed decision about the inquirer's suitability for ordered ministry. ~~They shall provide a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months.~~ ***Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training, and anti-racism training with recertification at least every thirty-six months.*** The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these ~~two~~ requirements***. The presbytery shall require background checks for inquirers at the onset of the inquiry process. Additionally, the presbytery shall require an evaluation of inquirers, including psychosocial and vocational inventories, during their inquiry phase.***

Background and Rationale from the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination

Background

See Background for 26-E.

Rationale

In G-2.0603 there are requirements for completion of boundary training every thirty-six months. As a committee or commission meets with a person wishing to become an inquirer, it is important to understand issues that may surface that will need to be addressed and gifts that can be lifted up or nurtured during the process. And after the Inquirer is enrolled it is critical for the presbytery to run a

background check since the inquirer or candidate will likely be serving congregations or in other contexts where they will be ministering with others as part of a supervised ministry.

The Task Force also affirms the importance of a preparation process that supports inquirers in developing self-knowledge regarding their strengths and areas for growth. Psychosocial and vocational evaluation tools can assist in identifying trauma history and general indicators of mental health and well-being. Such evaluation may include an initial orientation meeting between the inquirer and a clinician, followed by assessment and a subsequent interview to review findings, correct any factual errors, and address questions or concerns raised by the inquirer. Once finalized, the evaluation report should be shared with both the inquirer and the body responsible for the inquirer's preparation for ministry.

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

Rec B

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 227th General Assembly to approve Item COM 22-B.

Rationale

This item intends to amend the Book of Order G-2.0603 by adding a requirement that background checks for inquirers be completed at the outset of the inquiry process, and, additionally, that required evaluation, including psychosocial and vocational inventories, be conducted during the inquiry phase of the preparation process. Nothing in the Constitution precludes the addition of this proposed common practice to the Book of Order.

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) advised the 221st General Assembly (2014) with respect to Item 06-04, noting that "the Form of Government was designed to be taken as a whole in describing the form of our life together. It purposefully avoids procedures and details better included in operating manuals, standing rules, or guidelines." In this instance, however, the widespread use of background and other checks across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) suggests that including a requirement for background checks in the Book of Order reflects an established practice of the church, rather than prescribing the specific procedural details of presbyteries' manuals of operations. As the ACC further advised the 221st General Assembly:

Many presbyteries already conduct background checks, including criminal background checks, as part of their duties to counsel nominating committees. Under G-3.0301c the presbytery is already charged with the responsibility of receiving teaching elders, which may include conducting appropriate background checks prior to any examination and reception.

Further, an authoritative interpretation of the Constitution approved by the 211th General Assembly (2019) (1999, 65, 706, 12.013-019, CR 97-1) affirms that it is entirely constitutional for a presbytery to use psychological and psychiatric evaluation of minister members and those in the ministry preparation process: "presbyteries possess sufficient authority to utilize psychological and

psychiatric services in evaluating candidates for ministry." Therefore, there is no constitutional barrier to instituting presbytery background checks as a common practice.

Coordination

The ACC alerts the General Assembly that other overtures are proposing changes to or reorganization of requirements for inquirers and candidates, and coordination will be needed.

Advice and Counsel on ORD-07 B from the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC)

The racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC) advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve ORD 07 with amendment.

REAC gives thanks for the work of the Task Force to Explore Theology and Practice of Ordination. The Task Force listened to the experience of candidates, especially those from immigrant communities of color, and named an important truth: a system intended to be fair has not functioned equitably in practice.

Ordination in the Church involves many groups, including presbyteries, seminaries, and denominational bodies. Inequities often begin early, shaped by differences in access to education, resources, and cultural expectations, long before candidates are formerly evaluated. At the same time, these recommendations place new responsibilities on systems that already have limited capacity and uneven resources.

REAC affirms the direction of this work while naming a key tension: the Church's commitment to equity is not yet matched by the structures and accountability needed to sustain it. Without that alignment, inequities will continue, even within well-intentioned reform.

For this reason, REAC offers the following amendments to strengthen this work and support faithful and sustainable implementation.

B. Background Checks

REAC recommends that the Assembly approve amendment B with the following additions and wit h caution.

(Text to be added is [in brackets and underlined].)

> The presbytery shall require background checks for inquirers at the onset of the inquiry proc ess. Additionally, the presbytery shall require an evaluation of inquirers, including psychoso cial and vocational inventories, during their inquiry phase. [Presbyteries shall ensure that all evaluations and background checks are conducted and interpreted using culturally compete nt, bias-
> aware practices, and shall provide appropriate accommodations for candidates from racial/et

hnic, immigrant, and multilingual communities, and shall clearly communicate how these to ols are used in discernment and decision-making.]

These tools do not function neutrally. They can reflect and reinforce broader social inequities. Back ground checks may disproportionately affect racial/ethnic communities, and standardized evaluatio ns may reflect Euro-centric assumptions or misinterpret cultural differences. Language barriers may also affect outcomes. Because practices vary widely across presbyteries and these tools carry s ignificant weight in decision-making, REAC urges caution and emphasizes the need for clear, equitable standards.

Advice and Counsel on ORD-07 B from the Advocacy Committee on LGBTQ+ Equity (ACQ+E)

The Advocacy Committee on LGBTQ+ Equity advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve Ord (07) with amendment [amendment adopted by the GA].

B. Background Checks

ACQ+E recommends that the Assembly approve amendment B with the following addition.

(Text to be added is [in brackets and underlined].)

> The presbytery shall require background checks for inquirers at the onset of the inquiry proc ess. Additionally, the presbytery shall require an evaluation of inquirers, including psychoso cial and vocational inventories, during their inquiry phase. [These evaluations shall be cond ucted by providers who demonstrate competency regarding sexual orientation and gender id entity, and the results shall be used to discern fitness for ministry without pathologizing the inquirer's or candidate's identity. It is recommended that all background checks and evaluati ons are conducted using LGBTQIA+ culturally competent bias awareness practices.]

Comment from the Unification Commission

The report of the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination contains several proposed amendments, which, if passed, would have financial, logistical and staffing implications for Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL&W).

While recommendations A and B create additional requirements for presbyteries, there is also an impact on staff within PL&W. Training and resources are already available to presbytery bodies responsible for preparation for ministry. The recommendation states that presbyteries will provide the training and determine the best method for background checks, etc., but presbyteries historically look to Presbyterian Life & Witness (PL&W) staff for guidance and resources in order to fulfill the Book of Order requirements

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-07 B 50/9. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-07 B, 389/85.

For the full report on ORD-07, the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination and all advice and advocacy go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001487

26-G — G-2.0603

G-2.06 PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

G-2.0603 Purpose of Inquiry (CON 09)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0603 in the Form of Government be amended as follows?
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.0603 Purpose of Inquiry

The purpose of the inquiry phase is to provide an opportunity for the church and those who believe themselves called to ordered ministry as ministers of the Word and Sacrament to explore that call together so that the presbytery can make an informed decision about the inquirer's suitability for ordered ministry. ~~They shall provide a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements.~~

Background and Rationale

When the training requirements were added to the Book of Order, the language that was inserted was worded poorly, and as a result it is ambiguous. In its current form, it is unclear whether boundary training must be recertified every thirty-six months, or if the 36 months applies only to child abuse prevention. Also, the language about the training does not match the policy requirements: "child sexual abuse prevention training" vs. "child, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities protection policy". Some of the insertions were also misplaced when the requirements were added. While the intent was to apply the training requirements to certain categories of people, in some cases the placement of the language needs to be reconsidered.

For Inquirers/Candidates, the language was inserted into G-2.0603 "Purpose of Inquiry", but this training has nothing to do with the Purpose of Inquiry. A more appropriate place for this requirement would be in a section addressing the required Education and Training prior to ordination.

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

Coordination

The ACC alerts the General Assembly that other overtures are proposing changes to or reorganization of training requirements for the categories of persons affected by this Item [], and coordination will be needed.

Editor's Note: This proposed amendment goes with proposed amendment 24-H.

The Assembly Committee on Constitutional Interpretation amended the overture language following advice from the ACC and then approved Item CON-09,.41/7. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item CON-09, 465/4.

For the full report on CON-09, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001441

26-H — 2.0606

G-2.06 PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CON-09)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall a new G-2.0606 in the Form of Government be added as follows?
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*

G-2.0606 Education and Training for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament

Those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament shall complete boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct; shall complete training in the prevention of abuse of children and youth; and shall provide the presbytery with certificates of completion of these trainings, with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements.

Background and Rationale

When the training requirements were added to the Book of Order, the language that was inserted was worded poorly, and as a result it is ambiguous. In its current form, it is unclear whether boundary training must be recertified every thirty-six months, or if the 36 months applies only to child abuse prevention. Also, the language about the training does not match the policy requirements: "child sexual abuse prevention training" vs. "child, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities protection policy". Some of the insertions were also misplaced when the requirements were added. While the intent was to apply the training requirements to certain categories of people, in some cases the placement of the language needs to be reconsidered.

For Inquirers/Candidates, the language was inserted into G-2.0603 "Purpose of Inquiry", but this training has nothing to do with the Purpose of Inquiry. A more appropriate place for this requirement would be in a section addressing the required Education and Training prior to ordination.

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

Coordination

The ACC alerts the General Assembly that other overtures are proposing changes to or reorganization of training requirements for the categories of persons affected by this Item [] and coordination will be needed.

Advice –From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

The Advocacy Committee on Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ) advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve CON-09.

The Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice supports this overture as a clear and thoughtful effort to strengthen the PC(USA)'s commitment to safety, accountability, and care. By clarifying and appropriately locating requirements for boundary and abuse prevention training, this action helps ensure consistent practices that better protect those who are most vulnerable, including women, children, and others at risk of harm. We affirm this work as an important step toward fostering communities of trust, integrity, and justice across the life of the Church.

Advice - From the Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity (ACQ+E)

The Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity (ACQ+E) advises that the 227th General Assem bly (2026) **approve** CON-09.

We agree that the "Education and Training for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament" should require boundary training including the topic of sexual misconduct and prevention of abuse of children, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities.

Editor's Note: This proposed amendment goes with proposed amendment 24-G. If 26-H and/or 26-I are approved, the numbering of the paragraphs will be adjusted accordingly.

The Assembly Committee on Constitutional Interpretation approved Item CON-09,.41/7. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item CON-09, 465/4.

For the full report on CON-09, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001441

26-I — G-2.06

G-2.06 PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (ORD-02)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall a new G-2.0606 in the Form of Government be added as follows?
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.0606 Education and Training for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament

Those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament shall complete a graduate course of study at a theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery, culminating in a master's degree. The course of study shall include Hebrew and Greek languages and exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek.

Background and Rationale

... by adding a subsection that explicitly spells out the required education and training that must be completed prior to Ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament…

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

The overture would amend the Book of Order by relabeling and reordering certain sections under G-2.06 Preparation for Ministry and G-2.07 Ordination. The overture does not appear to change the substance of the sections.

The ACC advises that reorganization of the Book of Order to provide clarity and better alignment with subject headings is a worthwhile effort that, in itself, does not pose any constitutional issues. Because of the numerous cross-references to numbered sections, it will be necessary to correct those references as well. See, e.g., G-2.0104b, G-2.0505, G-2.0610 (internal references).

Coordination

The ACC also notes that other Items of Business are proposing changes to or reorganization of the educational and training requirements for inquirers and candidates. Coordination will be required to ensure consistency.

Editor's Note: If 24-H and/or 24-I are approved, the numbering of the paragraphs will be adjusted accordingly.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-02, 52/5. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-02, 447/10.

For the full report on ORD-02, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001442

26-J — G-2.0606

G-2.06 PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

G-2.0606 Service in Covenant Relationship (ORD-02)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall the title of G-2.0606 in the Form of Government be amended as follows?
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.0606 ***Supervised*** Service ***While Under Care of the Presbytery*** ~~in Covenant Relationship~~

Background and Rationale

Renaming sections G-2.06 and G-2.07 to specify the type of ministry they apply to clarifies their purpose and presents a more inclusive attitude toward the meaning of "ministry" and the various different types of ministry that exist in the church.

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

The overture would amend the Book of Order by relabeling and reordering certain sections under G-2.06 Preparation for Ministry and G-2.07 Ordination. The overture does not appear to change the substance of the sections.

The ACC advises that reorganization of the Book of Order to provide clarity and better alignment with subject headings is a worthwhile effort that, in itself, does not pose any constitutional issues. Because of the numerous cross-references to numbered sections, it will be necessary to correct those references as well. See, e.g., G-2.0104b, G-2.0505, G-2.0610 (internal references).

Coordination

The ACC also notes that other Items of Business are proposing changes to or reorganization of the educational and training requirements for inquirers and candidates. Coordination will be required to ensure consistency.

Editor's Note: If 26-H and/or 26-I are approved, the numbering of the paragraphs will be adjusted accordingly.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-02, 52/5. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-02, 447/10.

For the full report on ORD-02, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001442

26-K — G-2.0607

G-2.06 PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

G-2.0607 Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service (ORD-07 C)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0607 Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

A candidate may not enter into negotiation for his or her service as a minister of the Word and Sacrament without approval of the presbytery of care. The presbytery shall record when it has certified a candidate ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call. Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a minister of the Word and Sacrament shall include:

a. a candidate's wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment;

b. a transcript showing graduation~~,~~ with satisfactory grades~~,~~ at a ~~regionally accredited~~ college or university ***or an international equivalent as determined by the presbytery*****;**

c. a transcript from a theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery, showing a course of study including Hebrew and Greek, exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek, satisfactory grades in all areas of study, and graduation or proximity to graduation; and

d. examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly. ~~Such examinations shall be prepared and administered by a body created by the presbyteries.~~ ***These materials may be either Standard Ordination Exams or Senior Ordination Portfolios. The body responsible for preparation for ministry in the candidate's and the candidate may together determine which examination materials to use, including a possible combination of the Standard Exams and the Senior Ordination Portfolio.***

(1) Standard Ordination Exams shall be prepared, administered, and evaluated by a body created by the presbyteries.

(2) In the case of use of the Senior Ordination Portfolios, the (Senior Ordination Portfolios) may be prepared by the candidate for ministry according to standards established by a body created by the presbyteries. The body responsible for

preparing candidates for ministry in the candidate's presbytery may evaluate the portfolio and subsequently submit both the portfolio and its evaluation to a body established by the presbyteries for final evaluation. Senior Ordination Portfolios, or any senior examination as approved by the presbytery, shall be evaluated using culturally competent, bias-aware standards established by a body created by the presbyteries. Presbyteries shall ensure that evaluation practices are consistent, transparent, and informed by anti-racism, intercultural competency, and equitable assessment principles.

Background and Rationale

More Academic Access by Relaxing Undergraduate Accreditation Requirements

The recommendation to delete the requirement for a transcript from a regionally accredited college or university can be especially important for inquirers and candidates from other countries or cultures, whose college experience may not be in a regionally accredited school. Other inquirers and candidates may have taken their coursework in a Bible college.

Reflection on the Current Standard Ordination Exams

The current system of ordination examinations was introduced to the Presbyterian Church in the United States at the 116th General Assembly (1976) and approved by the 117th General Assembly (1977). At the time, standardized assessment was understood to be the most reliable way to determine readiness for ordination. In the decades since, however, the church and the wider educational community have come to recognize significant limitations in standardized testing as a measure of vocational readiness.

Reliable studies have shown that standardized examinations, such as the Bible Content

Examination, often fail to assess candidates equitably. These tests can disadvantage candidates from immigrant churches whose primary languages, cultural frameworks, and worship practices differ from those assumed by the examinations. They also disadvantage individuals who do not perform well on standardized tests, regardless of their theological depth, pastoral capacity, or faithfulness. Perhaps most significantly, standardized examinations provide little opportunity to know the candidate as a whole person or to discern the depth of their call, formation, and commitment to ministry. (See Appendix G.)

At present, the church assesses candidate competencies through the Bible Content Examination (BCE) and four Standard Ordination Examinations in Polity, Worship and Sacraments, Theology, and Biblical Exegesis.

The BCE is a timed, multiple-choice assessment designed to test an inquirer's ability to recall specific biblical passages. It is offered only twice each year. Preparation typically requires extensive memorization, including study of a question bank containing hundreds of prior questions, alongside general biblical knowledge to respond to new material.

The structure of the BCE carries unintended pastoral consequences. Candidates who do not pass are often required to retake the examination repeatedly as a prerequisite for ordination, unless an alternative examination is offered by their presbytery. Because the exam is taken in shared settings, failure can be experienced publicly among peers, creating a sense of shame early in the ordination process. For some, this experience becomes discouraging enough to interrupt or end their pursuit of ordained ministry, not because of a lack of call or gifting, but because of the structure of the assessment itself. (See Appendices E and F.)

The Standard Ordination Examinations likewise present significant challenges. These examinations are offered only three times per year and require candidates to commit up to eight consecutive days of intensive testing. This schedule often conflicts with seminary coursework, employment obligations, caregiving responsibilities, and the need for rest and Sabbath. No alternative dates are provided, and limited consideration is given to the cumulative physical, emotional, and spiritual strain placed on candidates during the testing period.

Polity and Worship and Sacraments are each nine-hour, three-part examinations taken within a tightly prescribed four-day window, with strict word limits. The Biblical Exegesis examination overlaps this period and must be completed within a five-day window. Candidates are prohibited from sharing any personal information that might identify them, including name, gender or sexuality, racial or cultural identity, geographic context, seminary affiliation, disability status, or lived experience. While this anonymity is intended to promote fairness, it also prevents evaluators from understanding how a candidate's theology and interpretation are shaped by context, ministry setting, and lived faith.

Many presbyteries respond to repeated exam failures by offering alternative examinations. While this practice reflects pastoral concern, these alternatives vary widely and lack shared standards or evaluation criteria.

These realities suggest that the current examination model, while once well-intended, has its limitations in serving the church's discernment needs effectively or equitably. They underscore the need for assessment practices that are rigorous, contextual, pastoral, and capable of engaging the whole person in whom God's call is being discerned.

A New Option

The additional assessment model presented here as the Senior Ordination Portfolio offers a more comprehensive and whole-person approach to discernment. This option is intended to be considered fully equivalent to the standard ordination examinations for assessing a candidate's call and potential for ministry. In this time and place, the church recognizes the importance of attending to a candidate's cultural context and unique God-given gifts and experiences, which testify to the ways God has been faithfully at work in an individual's life and to how that call has taken shape within a particular ministry context.

The person behind an essay matters to God and therefore should matter to the body responsible for preparation for ministry. Who better to bear witness to their trust in Jesus Christ, articulate a lived relationship with God's Word, express sincere reception of the Reformed faith, and demonstrate their capacity to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love than the candidate themself? The

Senior Ordination Portfolio allows candidates to speak in their own voice and to present their formation as an integrated whole rather than as isolated responses to anonymous examination prompts.

The hope of this Task Force is to recenter the covenantal relationship between candidates and the body responsible for preparation for ministry toward collegiality and the spirit of friendship professed among colleagues in ministry in the ordination vows. We encourage these bodies to know candidates personally, to understand their unique gifts and ministry interests, and to accompany them with care and attentiveness. Such a process can strengthen the covenant partnership by helping candidates discern and thrive in their first ordained call.

By prioritizing person-centered assessment that identifies both strengths and areas for growth, this approach seeks to build the capacity of candidates and the presbyteries in which they learn and serve. Candidates with fresh senses of call often bring energy, creativity, and new imagination to presbyteries in need of renewal. Intentional encouragement, mentoring, and accompaniment can play a decisive role in sustaining candidates as they pursue new forms of ministry.

In practical terms, this approach removes the former requirement of anonymity and strict time constraints associated with traditional examinations. Instead, candidates are invited to reflect prayerfully on their education, experiences, gifts, and sense of call and to present a cumulative portfolio of work and theological reflection to the body responsible for preparation for ministry. In doing so, the church affirms that the diverse and intersectional identities of those whom God calls, along with the varied contexts in which they serve, are not obstacles to discernment but essential dimensions of God's call into ordained ministry.

Usage of this Model

This Task Force envisions the Senior Ordination Portfolio and the Standard Ordination Examinations as equally acceptable and comprehensive options. We recommend that the Senior Ordination Portfolio be offered at the point of candidate assessment ordinarily associated with the Standard Ordination Examinations—after a candidate has been received as a candidate and prior to being certified as call ready, typically during the final year of seminary education or shortly after graduation.

The portfolio should be holistic in nature and submitted as a single, comprehensive body of work that addresses all required areas of assessment. It should be presented to the body responsible for preparation for ministry during the period following candidacy and prior to a determination of readiness to receive a call.

The Senior Ordination Portfolio is recommended by the Task Force as an alternative option for evaluating the readiness of candidates for ministry. Candidates should be permitted, in consultation with the body responsible for preparation in their presbytery, to select the assessment model by which they prefer to be evaluated—either the Standard Ordination Examinations or the Senior Ordination Portfolio.

We further recommend that candidates consult with academic advisors, supervisors, or personal mentors as needed when curating their portfolios. Candidates are encouraged to draw upon and adapt

work from seminary coursework, field education, church or chaplaincy internships, and other ministry experiences. Portfolio materials should reflect the candidate's educational formation, spiritual discernment, and leadership in real ministry contexts.

The portfolio may also serve as a resource for a candidate's Personal Discernment Profile, highlighting ministry interests, gifts, and skills as candidates seek their first call. Portfolio elements may consist of distinct pieces addressing different competencies or may be woven together around a common theme, according to the candidate's preferences and sense of call.

Advice for the Body Responsible for Preparation for Ministry Evaluation Process
The purpose of this process is to provide candidates with a meaningful opportunity to present their education, experiences, and sense of call, enabling the body responsible for preparation for ministry to understand and affirm the candidate's unique gifts and readiness for ordained service.

A specific recommendation for evaluation of the Senior Ordination Portfolio is provided in Appendix C.

The Scope of the Portfolio

Competencies to be Included in a Candidate's Portfolio:

1. Polity
2. Exegesis & Bible Content
3. Worship & Sacraments
4. Classical & Modern Theology

1. Polity

Candidates should demonstrate their ability to appropriately reference and adhere to the PC(USA) Book of Order in their ministry setting.

Candidates will provide a reflective piece that demonstrates how a ministry experience was navigated using the Book of Order. The reflection should, at minimum, include:

a. An overview of the ministry context,
b. A description of the experience to be evaluated,
c. 5 or more citations from the Book of Order, and
d. A thoughtful reflection of the candidate's subjective and objective evaluation of the experience and their recommendations for best practice.

2. Biblical Content and Exegesis

The Task Force has deemed the Bible Content Examination unnecessary for evaluating a candidate's fitness for ministry. The completion of Hebrew Bible and New Testament courses, and completion of exegesis assessment by portfolio or exam, shall suffice for assessing basic biblical literacy.

Candidates should demonstrate their ability to appropriately exegete passages from the Hebrew Bible and New Testament, draw upon scholarly resources, and apply biblical exegesis to thoughtfully engage a ministry setting.

Candidates will provide two exegetical projects – one passage from the Hebrew Bible, and one passage from the New Testament. Candidates will thoroughly exegete a passage, then incorporate their exegesis into a creative piece (sermon, Bible study, presentation, multimedia artwork, etc.) that applies their exegesis to a modern ministry context.

Each reflective piece should, at minimum, include:

a .Scholarly Exegetical Work

i. A selected translation, or a candidate's original translation, of a biblical text,

ii. A word study of at least three words of the original language of the text, and referencing scholarly resources,

iii A thorough review of commentaries an historical context of the text,

iv Citations for any references used, and a bibliography.

b Ministry Presentation

i An overview of the ministry context and intended audience.

ii An original piece that applies exegesis to a modern ministry context.

iii This presentation could take a variety of creative forms – sermon, Bible study, presentation, multimedia artwork, etc. – that apply exegesis to a modern ministry context. Note: Candidates should complete two projects – one project for a passage from the Hebrew Bible and one project for a passage in the New Testament.

3. Worship & Sacraments

Candidates should demonstrate their ability to prepare Presbyterian worship liturgies that show people the pattern of the gospel to strengthen their witness and service, as well as, sacramental signs that show forth the mysteries of grace in word and action. [G-2.0501]

Candidates should prepare two liturgies. One of the liturgies should specifically include observing a sacrament, and the second liturgy should point to a special season or celebration in the life of a church.

Both liturgies should include:

a An overview of the ministry context and description of the liturgical occasion/season, participants, and worship space.

b As many original components as possible but may also draw upon a variety of liturgical resources, with citations.

c Elements of Presbyterian worship, including scripture, prayers, music selection, and a sermon/message outline.

d A brief reflection on how this liturgy adheres to Book of Order guidelines, with citations.

e A brief reflection of the candidate's liturgy planning process and the spiritual impact of the worship experience.

f Candidates may optionally submit multimedia files of recordings, song selections, bulletins, worship visual presentations, pictures of the worship space, or other creative worship planning expressions.

4. Classical & Modern Theology

Candidates should demonstrate their ability to communicate central concepts of Reformed theology and connect this theology to ministry settings or contemporary issues.

Candidates will provide a reflective piece that incorporates:

a A central theme of Reformed Theology Scripture
b 3 citations from the Book of Confessions
c A Classical-era theologian (before 1900)
d A Modern-era theologian (after 1900)
e Application of concept to a ministry setting or contemporary issue

See Appendix B for a presbytery evaluation tool. See Appendix D for portfolio models from other denominations.

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

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 227th General Assembly to approve Item ORD-07-C.

Rationale

This item intends to amend Book of Order G-2.0607 by modifying the current list of evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry. These recommended modifications include a proposed change to the undergraduate degree transcript requirements to remove the required attainment and reporting of satisfactory grades and to remove the requirement that the college or university at which the undergraduate degree is earned be regionally accredited. Secondly, a Senior Ordination Portfolio has been proposed as an alternative equivalent form in which examination materials may be presented for evaluation by a presbytery to declare such materials as "satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly" (G-2.0607d).

A substantive consideration of the process of preparation for ministry and the ordination and examination process occurred at the 2012 and 2014 General Assemblies. In response to the referral from the 220th General Assembly (2012): Item 07-07, On Reevaluating the Process by Which Ordination Exams Are Written, Administered, and Graded (Minutes, 2012, Part I, p. 682), the Special Committee to Review the Preparation for Ministry Process and Standard Ordination Exams noted the following distinction between "fitness or readiness" and "suitability" in the rationale of its 2014 report (Minutes, 2014, Section 2, 06 - Church Polity and Ordered Ministries, Item 06-12) to further delineate the intended role of ordination exams:

> The standard written ordination exams are not designed to discern "suitability" for ministry. In the candidacy phase, "fitness and readiness" are to be established (G-

2.0604), with the standard written exams to be one tool for that work (G-2.0607d). "Suitability," in the language of the Book of Order, is to be established during the inquiry phase (G-2.0603). The committee proceeded with its work with this understanding of the exams' purpose.

The committee considered the history of the standard written ordination exams. They were established in order that presbyteries would have some method to test all candidates on a denomination-wide basis. Individual calling presbyteries could then trust that a candidate coming from another presbytery was able to articulate adequate responses to ministry situations with both Reformed theological and pastoral concerns in view. This method of examination continues to stand as the only denomination-wide standard for evaluating candidates, and for this reason the committee deemed it valuable enough to keep.

We confirmed that seminaries continue to use written, timed examinations as part of their assessment of students. Therefore, such exams in and of themselves are not a strange and foreign concept to candidates. However, we also noted that during seminary studies particular students may be allowed to substitute other work and forms of examination, and that some specific courses do not require exams at all.

We concluded that retaining written, timed exams simply in order to mirror seminary methods does not have a viable basis.

This rationale affirms the potential admissibility of alternative equivalent forms in which examination materials may be presented for evaluation by a presbytery to declare such "materials as satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly" (G-2.0607d). Thus, there are no constitutional prohibitions to the use of alternate forms of examination, provided these forms are approved by the General Assembly.

Comment – Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examination for Candidates (PCC)

The Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examination for Candidates (PCC) affirms the call to revisit and possibly revise the examination process. However, given the pastoral, financial, and logistical implications, the PCC recommends the Assembly disapprove Recommendation Cii.

Recommendation Cii refers to "a body created by the presbyteries," which constitutionally is the PCC (G-2.0607).

Rationale

Established in 1965, the PCC exists "to assist and support the work of presbytery committees which are responsible for the examination of candidates for ordination, to provide a more equitable standard of expectation among all the presbyteries, and to offer candidates a more uniform basis for their preparation for ordination examination" (PCC Guiding Principles).

The PCC is tasked primarily with the preparation and administration of the ordination examinations, in addition to organizing and training presbytery-elected readers to evaluate the exams. The General

Assembly has approved five exam areas: Bible Content, Biblical Exegesis, Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity.

The PCC meets annually in-person to write the exams and on-line for three additional weeks each year to administer and oversee evaluation of exams by presbytery-elected readers.

The proposed amendment expands the PCC's responsibilities to include an additional method of testing, the senior portfolio. The recommendation also gives the PCC a direct role in evaluation of the portfolio and the standard exams, a role and unprecedented authority that has never been granted to the PCC.

The ordination exams provide a common tool for assessment of all candidates. When circumstances require, G-2.0610 authorizes presbyteries to administer and evaluate alternative exams, which can be formulated in ways suitable for individual candidates. Therefore, adding a portfolio option to G-2.0607 is unnecessary.

Pastoral Implications

As currently administered, the exams are evaluated anonymously by readers elected by all presbyteries. The PCC continues to affirm the importance of anonymous review because it minimizes unconscious bias toward or against an individual or a group. Anonymity at this step seeks to provide as much equity as possible in assessing candidates.

The addition of evaluation to the role of the PCC, per the proposed G-2.0607d(1), would reduce the number of evaluators from several hundred presbytery-elected readers to the current roster of 24 PCC members, increasing the chance that diverse voices are excluded from the evaluation process.

In the proposed amendment, it is unclear if a presbytery is required to adopt both options, exam and portfolio, or if a presbytery can choose to require one or the other. This would create a system in which one presbytery may have more assessment options than another, creating imbalance among presbyteries and inequity toward candidates. If a presbytery is allowed to require exams only, the purpose of the amendment is null.

The proposed G-2.0607d(2) states that final evaluation of the portfolio rests with the PCC. Equity and constitutional questions arise when a group outside a presbytery determines whether G-2.0607d has been satisfied.

Financial Implications

The PCC’s work is funded by exam registration fees. The changes necessitated by this proposal would place a substantial financial burden on candidates. This consequence alone counsels against approval.

The amended G-2.0607d requires the PCC to develop a format, guidelines, and evaluation standards for portfolios, while also assessing completed portfolios. This requirement assumes that the PCC would also oversee portfolio revisions.

In the proposed amendment, the PCC must still administer the existing exams. Adding the portfolio requires expanding PCC membership by at least 6 members increasing the cost of the annual meeting by approximately $2,500.00 per additional participant.

Making this body responsible for evaluating the portfolio rather than organizing and training presbytery-elected readers to evaluate exams could require additional in-person meetings resulting in additional costs.

Since the portfolio combines competencies, a portfolio covering all five exam competencies required by the General Assembly would cost the candidate at least the same amount as five standard exams.

Logistical Implications

The addition of "evaluation" to the PCC's mandate would require members to give additional weeks of in-person service above and beyond other commitments to their local congregation, presbytery, jobs, and family. The PCC believes this change will preclude young adults, ruling elders, bi-vocational pastors, those with children or others under their care at home, and many solo pastors from bringing their wisdom and experience to the PCC. This will compound the already difficult task of ensuring that the breadth of the church's voices is part of the examination process.

Approval of recommendation Cii would require significant changes to the PCC's Guiding Principles. This document is amended and approved by the PCC itself before coming to the Assembly for approval. Any changes to the PCC's Guiding Principles would need to come to the 228th General Assembly in 2028. This could prevent implementation of a portfolio until after that meeting.

A new assessment method that meets the current constitutional standards would require recruiting, electing, and training new members of the PCC. This could further delay implementation.

In accordance with the current Guiding Principles, the PCC will continue to implement changes to the exam process to better serve candidates and the church. The PCC is already engaged in conversations concerning revision to better meet the changing landscape of theological education and the emerging needs of the church. The PCC is committed to continuing that work to find more equitable, sustainable, and appropriately rigorous means of assessing candidates for ministry in the PC(USA).

Because of the importance of this work, the financial implications of any change, and the need to ensure that any change benefits candidates, the PCC recommends disapproval of Recommendation Cii.

Advice - From the Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity (ACQ+E)

ACQ+E recommends that the Assembly approve amendment C with the following addition.

(2) Senior Ordination Portfolios shall be prepared by the candidate for ministry according to standards established by a body created by the presbyteries. The body responsible for preparing candidates for ministry in the candidate's presbytery shall evaluate the portfolio and subsequently

submit both the portfolio and its evaluation to a body established by the presbyteries for final evaluation. [***The evaluation of the portfolio shall recognize the validity of diverse Reformed theological perspectives, including those arising from the lived experiences of LGBTQIA+ persons and the contributions of Queer Theology to the life of the Presbyterian Church.***]

LGBTQIA+ individuals continue to face barriers to full inclusion in the Church. Our Book of Order clearly stipulates that our Church is committed to full inclusion, and individuals cannot be discriminated against due to sexual orientation and gender identity. These amendments ensure that inquiries and candidates under care will receive appropriate support and guidance from the overseeing body appointed by the presbytery for their journey to ordered ministries.

Advice -From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC)

REAC recommends that the Assembly approve amendment C with the following addition to ensure equity, consistency, and accountability.

(Text to be added is [in brackets and underlined].)
[(3) Senior Ordination Portfolios shall be evaluated using culturally competent, bias-aware standards established by a body created by the presbyteries. Presbyteries shall ensure that evaluation practices are consistent, transparent, and informed by anti-racism, intercultural competency, and equitable assessment principles.]

REAC urges caution, as this represents a significant structural shift without the infrastructure needed for equitable implementation. Without shared standards, clear guidance, and sufficient resourcing, portfolios risk becoming a new site of inequity rather than a remedy for existing disparities.

REAC encourages the Assembly to consider a more coordinated and sustainable approach, especially if the structures required are not yet in place. A phased implementation, including pilot contexts and shared evaluation frameworks, may better support equitable and consistent outcomes.

REAC strongly supports removing the "regionally accredited" undergraduate requirement, which expands access for candidates from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds.

Portfolios offer promise as a more holistic way to assess readiness, reducing reliance on standardized exams and better supporting diverse candidates. However, presbyteries vary widely in capacity and resources. Without safeguards, this may lead to uneven expectations and outcomes.

REAC supports maintaining standard exams as an option, while calling for continued review for equity, stronger language accommodations, and greater diversity among evaluators. Flexibility alone does not ensure equity.

This amendment raises an important theological question: how does the Church discern readiness for ministry? REAC affirms that readiness is not measured solely by academic performance and that the Church must be able to recognize gifts across diverse communities and contexts.

Comment – From the Committee on Theological Education

Recommendation C(ii) provides the opportunity for assessment for readiness to receive a call as minister of word and sacrament through Senior Ordination Portfolios, with the initial responsibility for evaluation granted to the presbytery of care and final evaluation by a body established by the presbyteries. While we agree that clear alternate paths for assessment of candidates are in order, we note two concerns: (1) there is no standard for the creation or evaluation of the portfolios, and (2) the portfolio model creates opportunities for inequity.

No standard for the creation or evaluation of the portfolios — The Task Force's rationale provides a potential framework for the portfolio; however, the amendment states that the portfolio should be prepared according to "standards established by a body created by the presbyteries" (G-2.0607d.2). The amendment provides for an alternate form of evaluation when the tool/standard for evaluation has not been established. We seek clarity on the following matters:

It seems to be presumed that "a body created by the presbyteries" will be the same body created by the presbyteries to prepare, evaluate, and administer the Standard Ordination Exams: the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates (PCC). Is this indeed the body, and is it the correct body based upon expertise and bandwidth?

The institutions associated with COTE are experienced with upholding standards for accreditation, designing evaluations which measure the intended knowledge and capacities, and crafting curricula to form learners to meet the intended goals. We know that forming an evaluation tool as important as a single capstone assessment for ordination will require great intentionality and time. To change the book of order without the intentionality to design the appropriate assessment seems premature.
The PC(USA)-related seminaries have a responsibility to ready their students for service in the PC(USA). Will the preparation required for successful completion of the Portfolio and assessment of Ordination Exams be the same?

The portfolio model creates opportunities for inequities and discrimination — Again, COTE agrees with the Task Force that Ordination Exams, alone, are not an adequate measure of a candidate's readiness for call. However, we are concerned that without greater discernment and shifted oversight, the portfolios may fail to solve and may even perpetuate the inequities they are designed to eliminate. Ordination exams were introduced in the Presbyterian Church in the United States (1977), not simply as a reliable way to assess readiness for ministry but also as a way of creating equitable evaluation. Removing the evaluations from presbyteries, helps to prevent from candidates being denied ordination because of their race, gender, sexuality, or general chemistry with the local body. Different presbyteries have different cultural competencies, which may value, prepare, and nurture one candidate over another. The recommended amendments provide room for inequity and discrimination in two ways:

(1) G-2.0607d.2 says that the body responsible for preparation for ministry and the candidate "shall together determine which examination materials to use," allowing for lack of uniform application of criteria and decision making across the denomination.
(2) G-2.0607d.2 establishes the body responsible for preparation for ministry as the first evaluator of the portfolio, eliminating the protections put in place by the anonymity of the Ordination Exams.

The Task Force's rationale upholds the Standard Ordination Exams and Senior Ordination Portfolios as "fully equivalent." Without the tool established for the compilation and evaluation of the portfolios, it is impossible to tell whether the expectations and assessment are indeed equivalent. This creates a two-tiered examination process, which may be compounded by presbyteries applying different criteria for determining the exam of choice.

Editor's Note: If 26-H and/or 26-I are approved, the numbering of the paragraphs will be adjusted accordingly.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-07 C 50/9. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-07 C, 389/85.

For the full report on ORD-07, the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination and all advice and advocacy go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001487

26-L — G-2.0607

G-2.06 PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

G-2.0607 Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service (ORD -02)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0607 Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

A candidate may not enter into negotiation for his or her service as a minister of the Word and Sacrament without approval of the presbytery of care. The presbytery shall record when it has certified a candidate ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call. Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a minister of the Word and Sacrament shall include:

a. a candidate's wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment;

b. a transcript showing graduation, with satisfactory grades, at a regionally accredited college or university;

c. a transcript from a theological institution ~~accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery~~, showing ~~a course of study including Hebrew and Greek, exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek,~~ satisfactory grades in all areas of study ***in accordance with the educational requirements in G-2.0606*****,** and graduation or proximity to graduation; and

d. examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly. Such examinations shall be prepared and administered by a body created by the presbyteries.

Background and Rationale

... by adding a subsection that explicitly spells out the required education and training that must be completed prior to Ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament…[24-I]

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

The overture would amend the Book of Order by relabeling and reordering certain sections under G-2.06 Preparation for Ministry and G-2.07 Ordination. The overture does not appear to change the substance of the sections.

The ACC advises that reorganization of the Book of Order to provide clarity and better alignment with subject headings is a worthwhile effort that, in itself, does not pose any constitutional issues. Because of the numerous cross-references to numbered sections, it will be necessary to correct those references as well. See, e.g., G-2.0104b, G-2.0505, G-2.0610 (internal references).

Coordination

The ACC also notes that other Items of Business are proposing changes to or reorganization of the educational and training requirements for inquirers and candidates. Coordination will be required to ensure consistency.

Editor's Note: If 26-H and/or 26-I are approved, the numbering of the paragraphs will be adjusted accordingly. The reference number in this item will also be edited accordingly. This item goes with 24-I and seems to be dependent upon 24-I being approved.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-02, 52/5. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-02, 447/10.

For the full report on ORD-02, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001442

26-M — G-2.07

G-2.07 ORDINATION (ORD-02)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.07 ORDINATION title be amended as follows:
(Added text is in *italics*.)

G-2.07 ORDINATION ***TO THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT***

Background and Rationale

The term "ministry" has always been more expansive than just the ordered ministry of the Word and Sacrament. There are many types of church ministries and vocations. Increasingly, the church is recognizing that the ministry of ruling elders, deacons, and non-ordained members of congregations is an invaluable part of the life of a congregation. Chapter Two of the Book of Order begins with sections about some of these forms of ministry.

Renaming sections G-2.06 and G-2.07 to specify the type of ministry they apply to clarifies their purpose and presents a more inclusive attitude toward the meaning of "ministry" and the various different types of ministry that exist in the church.

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

The overture would amend the Book of Order by relabeling and reordering certain sections under G-2.06 Preparation for Ministry and G-2.07 Ordination. The overture does not appear to change the substance of the sections.

The ACC advises that reorganization of the Book of Order to provide clarity and better alignment with subject headings is a worthwhile effort that, in itself, does not pose any constitutional issues. Because of the numerous cross-references to numbered sections, it will be necessary to correct those references as well. See, e.g., G-2.0104b, G-2.0505, G-2.0610 (internal references).

Coordination
The ACC also notes that other Items of Business are proposing changes to or reorganization of the educational and training requirements for inquirers and candidates. Coordination will be required to ensure consistency.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-02, 52/5. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-02, 447/10.

For the full report on ORD-02, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001442

26-N — G-2.1002

G-2.10 COMMISSIONING RULING ELDERS TO PARTICULAR PASTORAL SERVICES

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning (ORD-07 F)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. ***This shall include completion of a denominational baseline for education and preparation of ruling elders for limited pastoral service, study not necessarily at a master's level, and demonstration of competent understanding and application of Presbyterian polity, Reformed worship and sacraments, Reformed theology, biblical interpretation of the Old and New Testaments, preaching, Christian Education, and pastoral care.*** Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements. The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve, but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery.

Background and Rationale

The Book of Order (G-2.1001) affirms the authority of presbyteries to commission ruling elders for pastoral service but does not establish baseline educational expectations for commissioned pastors. As a result, preparation standards vary widely across presbyteries, creating inconsistency, inequity, and confusion for candidates, congregations, and presbyteries alike.

Establishing a denominational baseline for education—while preserving presbytery authority to adapt, expand, or grant exceptions—provides clarity and shared expectations without undermining contextual discernment. A common framework affirms the seriousness of pastoral responsibility while allowing presbyteries to respond flexibly to local needs.

A baseline educational standard strengthens the integrity of commissioned pastor ministry by ensuring consistent preparation in theology, polity, worship and sacraments, biblical interpretation, preaching, Christian education, and pastoral care. It also supports cross-presbytery recognition and mobility, offering continuity for leaders who move between contexts and confidence for congregations served by commissioned pastors.

This recommendation does not impose a master's-level requirement or replace presbytery judgment. Instead, it provides a shared foundation that enhances accountability, equity, and pastoral readiness while honoring the Presbyterian commitment to ordered ministry and local discernment.

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

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 227th General Assembly that Item [], while constitutional in purpose, presents the following issues that the Assembly should consider.

G-2.1002 specifies presbytery authority in the training process for those ruling elders seeking to serve in limited pastoral service as CREs:

… presbyteries currently have constitutional authority to determine the specific preparation and instruction appropriate to service in each particular commission, as well as approve which trainings meet the criteria for completion of boundary training, including the topics of sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention.

Historical Note

The ACC further notes that a substantive consideration of the process of preparation for ministry occurred at the 2012 and 2014 General Assemblies. In response to Item 06-08 at the 221st General Assembly (2014), the Committee on Theological Education offered the following perspective concerning a systematized system of CRE preparation:

A recent Committee on Theological Education (COTE) sponsored study of Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) training programs found most severely lacking. The COTE is charged by the General Assembly to maintain and develop a system of theological education from the perspective of the whole church. Until adequate systems of preparation for CREs are normalized, we cannot endorse [expanded use of CREs in congregational settings.]

Comment – From the Committee on Theological Education

...The Task Force's recommendation takes a positive step by identifying the required areas of study. However, COTE is concerned that (1) the standards for preparation and evaluation remain unclear, and (2) potential exists for inequitable application of requirements and examination from presbytery to presbytery.

<u>The standards for preparation and evaluation remain unclear</u> — Amended G-2.1002 states that preparation and education "shall include completion of study, not necessarily at a master's level, and demonstration of competent understanding and application" of the prescribed areas.

We are grateful for the committees work to identify expected commissioned pastor competencies. However, study not necessarily at a master's level, may vary drastically from presbytery to presbytery.

We are aware of a great breadth of training requirements for commissioned pastors, with presbyteries requiring as little as three total hours of training, and as much as ≈1/3 of a Master of Divinity degree. Without identifying the core competencies required of a reformed pastoral leader, it is impossible to provide the appropriate training and to evaluate whether a candidate is adequately prepared for the call.

G-2.0601-G-2.607 guide the education, discernment opportunities, nurture, and timeframe for ministers of word and sacrament. This course of preparation informs the examination process (which further reinforces necessary education) and the work of Committees/Commissions on Preparation for Ministry responsibilities for equipping, nurturing, and assessing discerning ministers of word and sacrament. As increasing numbers of commissioned pastors step forward to serve, their nurture requires the same clarity of expectation and purposeful accompaniment in the preparation process.

We empathize with the urgency that mid councils and congregations feel to fill vacant pulpits. Unfortunately, without greater clarification, presbyteries still lack a clear roadmap for commissioned pastor education. Pastoral leadership is a tremendous honor and sacred responsibility. As trends in theological education and Christian vocation shift, commissioned pastors are increasingly stepping into the teaching-elder responsibilities, with the role of shepherding our reformed theological beliefs and practices in their congregations. COTE would welcome the opportunity to partner with a body overseeing commissioned pastor readiness to shape preparation in a way that honors both the anxious longing for pastoral leadership and the high calling to pastoral vocation.

<u>Potential exists for inequitable application of requirements from presbytery to presbytery</u> —

G-2.1002 states that a ruling elder who seeks to serve as a commissioned pastor "shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery." The proposed amendment expands that "this shall include . . . demonstration of competent understanding and application." If setting expectations and evaluating understanding are the responsibility of 166 different presbyteries, (1) it will remain difficult for commissioned pastors to serve across presbytery lines and (2) will compound the possibility — for the same reasons that senior ordination portfolio evaluation may perpetuate inequity — that favoritism and prejudice creep into the evaluation process. While it can feel like formalized study and a uniform, denominational examination process are hurdles to service, these guardrails protect congregations from well-intentioned but under-equipped pastoral leaders, and protect vulnerable ruling elders, whose preparation may be overshadowed by our human sinfulness to allow race, gender, socio-economic bracket, sexuality (and so on) to inform our evaluation.

Advice -From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC)

<u>Provide Evaluation Standards</u>

REAC recommends that the Assembly approve amendment G with the following addition:
(Text to be added is [in brackets and underlined].)

This shall include completion of study, not necessarily at a master's level, and demonstration of competent understanding and application of Presbyterian polity, Reformed worship and sacraments,

Reformed theology, biblical interpretation of the Old and New Testaments, preaching, Christian education, and pastoral care. [Presbyteries shall ensure that such training is culturally competent, accessible to candidates from racial/ethnic and immigrant communities, and evaluated using bias-aware standards.]

This amendment helps create more consistent preparation across presbyteries. However, without explicit attention to equity, training may continue to reflect dominant cultural assumptions and disadvantage some candidates. Differences in access to preparation and guidance may also lead to uneven outcomes.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-07 including F with Comment, 50/9. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-07 including F, 389/84.

For the full report on ORD-07 and the full report from the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001487

26-O — G-2.1002

G-2.10 COMMISSIONING RULING ELDERS TO PARTICULAR PASTORAL SERVICES

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning (RAC-04 4c)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, ~~and~~ child sexual abuse prevention training, ***and anti-racism training*** with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements. The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve, but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery.

Background and Rationale

The Work To Which All Presbyterians Are Called

Dismantling structural racism in the church will not happen unless it becomes the collective work of all of us. And so we end by challenging ourselves–all of us together–to be faithful to the previous faithful work. Because that is how we will expose White supremacy and tear it down.

We call the Church, each of our congregations, and all councils to engage the resources of our denomination to do this work locally and connectionally. We ask you and ourselves:

1. Since the 225th GA, sessions and mid councils have been required to adopt an anti-racism policy. Has your congregation or mid council adopted a policy? Does your presbytery know which congregations have and have not adopted a policy (we strongly encourage including it in the annual checklist for minutes review), and how does your presbytery follow up? Does your session or mid council review your policy annually and talk about how you are living into it together? This

requirement in the Book of Order is not simply to check off our councils' list but rather an invitation to deeper engagement.

Advice - from General Assembly Committee on Representation (GACOR)

GACOR wishes to support the overall arc of recommendations in this final report, including suggested changes for future assemblies, including participation in the many languages that make up our body. The church's unity in diversity is reflected in the variety of languages that are spoken in our worship services, councils, and fellowship together.

Speaking to points 4 and 5 of the recommendations, it is often true that antiracism training or education is often the first step needed to address the systems and structures of racism that harms BIPOC communities and destroys the unity of the church. This is invaluable work for all church leaders in their preparation for ministry, for congregations, and as continuing education along the way. Resourcing ourselves around history, systemic impacts, and interlocking systems of harm, as well as theological opportunities for repair, is critical and faithful work for any historically white-dominant denomination in the United States. The faithful work of equipping ourselves for the work of repair is a critical call of this moment in the life of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

That said, there is a body of research showing that compelling or requiring individuals to complete mandatory training about bias or antiracism has been shown to have mixed results, with medium to small effect sizes, and little clarity about long-term transformation.

This by no means implies the church should abandon the effort to equip itself broadly with antiracism training, as formal research is only one form of knowledge we can access. But given the amount of work that would need to go into this singular, compliance-focused effort, the lack of clear research outcomes might, at minimum, give us pause in terms of whether a Book of Order mandate is the correct or primary institutional lever by which to bring about the sort of broad and continuing transformation the report invites

GACOR might suggest that another effective but adaptable model for encouraging antiracism training/equipping that is well-developed, nuanced, and well-facilitated might be:

1 encouraging Presbyterian Life & Witness to provide robust training resources, in the context of item 2a of this report, including vetted and well-annotated antiracism training options for all councils of the church. This could include a mandate to collect and commission training resources that can be based on the best of current research and community knowledge, adapt to local dynamics and histories or contexts of racial and church history, and attend to the continuing education needed beyond the basics. Such a set of resources might also suggest "best practices" for trainings that make sense for a variety of contexts without shying away from our history or our current systems.

Rationale: A robust network of resources of this quality, with the capacity to consult with national staff around specific needs in any one locale, may be more effective in increasing the frequency, availability, and overall engagement with antiracism training than a series of mandates that our current national structure and midcouncils may struggle to resource and stay in compliance with.

2. And: Funding or offering need-based grants for presbyteries otherwise unable to fund skilled and high-quality antiracism training.

Rationale: Exploring needs-based grant funding would go far in MidCouncils where the capacity to offer appropriate and helpful antiracism education and training may be being hindered by more pragmatic barriers than motivation or requirement.

We might imagine a future where a more focused effort (or even preparation) of this sort – to require development of this sort of clear and high-quality antiracism training options and a pathway toward properly funding long-term implementation of training – could helpfully highlight the ongoing barriers to broader mandatory training becoming more effective to implement in the very near future, offer a more straightforward path toward high-quality and consistent implementation, and define clearer desired outcomes. A measured strategy like this might then become not a dilution or a harmful delay of the necessary work called for in the Special Committee's recommendations - but rather a means to strengthen what we all collectively long to do with deep effectiveness, faithfulness, and heartfulness.

Either way, we offer this feedback and set of alternative possibilities in the spirit of deep affirmation and support of the Special Committee's work, resources, and invitations – while also seeking collaboration and discernment from the Assembly around what must be our core goal: meaningful formation that leads to liberatory action and restorative practice within the PC(USA), that the church's true unity in diversity would be reflected more and more in our common life.

Advice –From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

The Advocacy Committee of Women and Gender Justice advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) **approve** RAC-04.

Our committee advises the General Assembly to approve this resolution and consider further reflect ion on the robust questions it poses to every congregation concerning the adoption and attention to anti-racist policies throughout leadership and congregational life.

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

The ACC reviewed the work of the Special Committee prior to the preparation of their final report and provided advice concerning the constitutional issues raised by their recommendations. Those discussions are reflected in the final report. The proposed amendments are constitutional, and we recommend approval.

Coordination

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution also notes that other Items of Business propose changes to or reorganization of educational and training requirements. Coordination will be required to ensure consistency throughout the Book of Order.

The Assembly Committee on Racial Justice approved Item RAC-04 4c 59/0. The 227th General Assembly (2026) Item RAC-04 4c, 448/26.

For the full report on RAC-04 and the Special Committee on the PC(U.S.A.) and Race, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001512

26-P — G-2.1002

G-2.10 COMMISSIONING RULING ELDERS TO PARTICULAR PASTORAL SERVICES

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning (CON-09)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. ~~Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months.~~ ***Those preparing to be commissioned shall complete boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct; shall complete training in the prevention of abuse of children, youth; and shall provide the presbytery with certificates of completion of these trainings, with recertification at least every thirty-six months***. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements. The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve, but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery.

Background and Rationale

When the training requirements were added to the Book of Order, the language that was inserted was worded poorly, and as a result it is ambiguous. In its current form, it is unclear whether boundary training must be recertified every thirty-six months, or if the 36 months applies only to child abuse prevention. Also, the language about the training does not match the policy requirements: "child sexual abuse prevention training" vs. "child, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities protection policy". Some of the insertions were also misplaced when the requirements were added. While the intent was to apply the training requirements to certain categories of people, in some cases the placement of the language needs to be reconsidered.

For Commissioned Ruling Elders (and those preparing to be commissioned), the location of the language is appropriate, but the language itself is nonsensical, stating: "Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion…" However, a certificate is not in itself "preparation".

The proposed set of revisions adjusts the language of the training requirements to remove ambiguity and more appropriately places the language within the sections of the Book of Order to apply to the people it was intended to affect.

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

The overture proposes amendments that take a wholistic view of the placement and wording of training requirements in the Book of Order for sexual misconduct and abuse prevention for children, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities, which are found in G-2.0603 (inquirers and candidates), G-2.1002 (Commissioned Ruling Elders), G-2.1103 (Certified Christian Educators), and G-3.0106 (Councils).It adds two sections expressly requiring training of Sessions and ministers of the Word and Sacrament, which were assumed to be encompassed but not clearly so.

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that reorganization of the Book of Order to provide clarity and better alignment with subject headings is a worthwhile effort that, in itself, does not pose any constitutional issues. Because of the numerous cross-references to numbered sections, it will be necessary to correct those references as well. See, e.g., G-2.0104b, G-2.0505, G-2.0610 (internal references).

2. Child Abuse Training
The current language of the Book of Order requires "child sexual abuse prevention training." (E.g., G-2.1002). The proposed amendment refers instead to "training in the prevention of abuse of children, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities." The proposed language is broader than sexual abuse, and the General Assembly will want to be clear on its intentions if a change is made.

Coordination
The ACC alerts the General Assembly that other overtures are proposing changes to or reorganization of training requirements for the categories of persons affected by this Item and coordination will be needed.

Advice –From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

The Advocacy Committee on Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ) advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve CON-09.

The Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice supports this overture as a clear and thoughtful effort to strengthen the PC(USA)'s commitment to safety, accountability, and care. By clarifying and appropriately locating requirements for boundary and abuse prevention training, this action helps ensure consistent practices that better protect those who are most vulnerable, including women, children, and others at risk of harm. We affirm this work as an important step toward fostering communities of trust, integrity, and justice across the life of the Church.

The Assembly Committee on Constitutional Interpretation approved Item CON-09,.41/7. The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item CON-09, 465/4.

For the full report on CON-09, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001441

26-Q — G-2.1002

G-2.10 COMMISSIONING RULING ELDERS TO PARTICULAR PASTORAL SERVICES

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning (ORD-07 H)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements***. A presbytery may determine that a Certified Christian Educator, who is a Ruling Elder has met the education and training requirements for commissioning, provided they are also examined and commissioned in accordance with G-2.1002 and G-2.1004.*** The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve, but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery.

Background and Rationale

Certified Christian Educators who are ruling elders have already completed a rigorous process of theological and practical preparation that aligns closely with the competencies required for serving as a commissioned pastor. Their certification includes demonstrated proficiency in biblical interpretation, Reformed theology and polity, worship and sacraments, educational leadership, and pastoral care—areas that mirror the foundational requirements outlined in G-2.1002. Recognizing this preparation affirms the integrity and depth of their training while avoiding unnecessary duplication of coursework. It also promotes flexibility in meeting leadership needs across the denomination, particularly in contexts where pastoral resources are limited. Furthermore, this provision honors the denomination's standards by acknowledging a nationally recognized certification process governed by the PC(USA), ensuring accountability and consistency. By allowing Certified Christian Educators who are ruling elders to fulfill commissioning requirements, the church affirms their gifts, supports equity in leadership pathways, and strengthens its capacity for mission and ministry without compromising theological or pastoral integrity.

It is important to note that under current practice, many Certified Christian Educators are not members of the congregations they serve and are therefore not eligible to serve as ruling elders in those contexts. Recommendation J of the Task Force proposes a pathway that does not currently exist in PC(USA) polity. This proposed amendment provides a clear, accountable, and orderly pathway within the existing framework of ordered ministry and presbytery authority.

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

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 227th General Assembly that the proposed amendment to G-2.1002 (Training, Examination, and Commissioning) raises the following constitutional considerations.

The amendment would permit a presbytery to determine that a Certified Christian Educator who is also a ruling elder has satisfied the educational and training requirements for commissioning to pastoral service, provided that the individual is subsequently examined and commissioned in accordance with G-2.1002 and G-2.1004.

The Constitution already assigns to the presbytery the authority to determine the training and preparation required for ruling elders who are to be commissioned to pastoral service. G-2.1002 provides that presbyteries are responsible for establishing and approving the training that prepares ruling elders for such service and for examining them prior to commissioning. Because this responsibility is already delegated to presbyteries, the proposed language does not substantially alter the constitutional allocation of authority. Rather, it would provide a specific example of preparation that a presbytery may recognize when determining whether the training requirements have been satisfied.

The Assembly may wish to consider, however, whether inserting a specific credential into the constitutional text could unintentionally narrow the flexibility currently afforded to presbyteries. The Form of Government generally avoids listing particular programs, certifications, or curricula, preferring instead to establish principles and leave the determination of appropriate preparation to the presbytery. In this case, the presbytery already retains discretion to recognize prior theological or educational preparation when evaluating candidates for commissioning.

The Assembly may also wish to consider whether naming one particular certification program in the Constitution could raise questions about the status of other forms of preparation that presbyteries might deem equivalent or appropriate for their contexts. The current language of G-2.1002 allows presbyteries to adapt their training requirements to local needs and circumstances without constitutional amendment.

Finally, the amendment does not change the constitutional requirements that the ruling elder must still be examined by the presbytery and commissioned to a specific ministry before exercising the functions described in G-2.1001. The presbytery's responsibility for examination, commissioning, and oversight would remain unchanged.

Accordingly, the Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that the proposed amendment is constitutionally permissible, but the Assembly may wish to consider whether the change is necessary given the discretion already granted to presbyteries under G-2.1002.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-07 including H with Comment, 50/9 . The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-07 including H, 389/84.

For the full report on ORD-07 and the full report from the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001487

26-R — G-2.1101

G-2.11 CERTIFIED CHURCH SERVICE

G-2.1101 Forms of Certified Church Service (RAC – 04 4d)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.1101 Forms of Certified Church Service be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.1101 Forms of Certified Church Service

Persons may be certified and called to service within congregations, councils, and church-related entities, serving in staff positions. These individuals endeavor to reflect their faith through their work and to strengthen the church through their dedication. They should be encouraged by their session and presbytery to meet, or be prepared to meet, the certification requirements of a national certifying body approved by the General Assembly. Names of those who have earned certification through a national certifying body shall be transmitted to the appropriate body of the General Assembly, which will forward them to the stated clerk of the presbyteries in which those persons labor.

Persons certified and called to service within congregations, councils, and church related entities, serving in staff positions, shall participate in ongoing formation and continuing education as required by the certifying body and the presbytery (G-3.0106.)

Background and Rationale

This Special Committee on the PC(USA) and Race is one of a myriad of entities over multiple decades that worked to "explore and expose where White supremacy is embedded institutionally and foundationally in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its governing documents and make recommendations."[1] The charge may not have been framed in precisely those words, but the need to address racism and inequity within our denomination and in our local and national experience has been raised repeatedly for years–by standing committees, special committees, caucuses, internal assessments, GA commissioners and leaders, denominational staff, the Matthew 25 movement, our Washington office, and many others. Although incremental and meaningful progress has been made, the PC(USA) has yet to be transformed into a faithful movement of Jesus-followers that more closely resembles the radically inclusive, beloved community, barrier-breaking kin-dom of God.

Our predecessor entity, the Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation, acknowledged the pattern in the PC(USA): "mobilizing a small group to 'fix racism,' proclaiming findings,

celebrating the report, followed by prompt institutional amnesia until a new group is created. Unfinished business on previous commitments to racial justice remains." Often, the Charge to the Special Committee on the PC(USA) and Race by the 225th GA (2022), contained in RGJ-12. burden of these cycles of work and attention is borne by people of color. We both lament the cycle and insist that the work must be a persistent, urgent commitment.

One challenge in having a fuller way to address racism and White supremacy at all levels of the PC(USA) is the difficulty in locating all past racial justice policies, recommendations, programs, projects, templates, and resources. There is no one location that houses GA actions related to racial justice in an accessible way that allows us to see our progress and failures. How can we be accountable toward eliminating White supremacy if we cannot clearly track what progress we have made?

We recognize that resources will not dismantle the culture of White supremacy in which we are entrenched. Along with the whole of the post-colonialization history and experience on this land, Presbyterianism in the United States is shaped by White supremacy culture. It is the water in which we all swim or the air we breathe. Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training describes this culture as a "hive" in which we, our institutions, and our societal structures all function, and recently explained:

The barrier to lasting change is right in front of us–and it's in all of us. Deeply rooted systems of domination don't just perpetuate inequality. They shape how we think, what we care about, and what we believe is possible. For real racial justice and equity, we must first see these systems clearly. Then face the hard truth: we've all been trained to believe in them–often without realizing it. Real transformation depends on our willingness to see and name what holds us back.[2]

Our starting point is this: we are all operating within the uniquely American and pervasive environment of White supremacy. As individuals, we may not have built it, and we may deeply oppose it. As churches, we may lift up a gospel message of Christ's love, justice, and inclusion. But White supremacy culture is, nonetheless, our shared reality in the United States, including in the Church. We all are responsible for seeing, understanding, and acknowledging it so that we can work to dismantle it. Thus, at the bottom of this rationale we include a series of questions with which we hope all Presbyterians will engage.

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

The ACC reviewed the work of the Special Committee prior to the preparation of their final report and provided advice concerning the constitutional issues raised by their recommendations. Those discussions are reflected in the final report. The proposed amendments are constitutional, and we recommend approval.

Coordination
The Advisory Committee on the Constitution also notes that other Items of Business propose changes to or reorganization of educational and training requirements. Coordination will be required to ensure consistency throughout the Book of Order.

The Assembly Committee on Racial Justice approved Item RAC 04 including 4d, 59-0 . The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item RAC -4 including 4d, 448/26.

For the full report on RAC 04, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001512

26-S — G-2.1103

G-2.11 CERTIFIED CHURCH SERVICE

G-2.1103 Christian Educators (CON 09)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.1103 Christian Educators be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-2.1103 Christian Educators

a. Skills and Training

Certified Christian educators are persons certified and called to service in the ministry of education in congregations or councils. They shall have skills and training in biblical interpretation, Reformed theology, worship and sacraments, human development, faith development, religious educational theory and practice, and the polity, programs, and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). ~~Certified Christian educators shall provide a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet these two requirements.~~

b. Presbytery Responsibility

The presbytery shall establish minimum requirements for compensation and benefits for Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators and shall provide access to the area of presbytery that oversees ministry (G-3.0307). During their term of service in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the presbytery, Certified Christian Educators are entitled to the privilege of the floor with voice only at all presbytery meetings, and in the case of Certified Christian Educators who are ruling elders, the privilege of voice and vote at all its meetings. ~~Certified Christian educators and Certified Associate Christian educators shall provide to the presbytery in which they serve a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months.~~ ***Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators shall complete boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct; shall complete training in the prevention of abuse of children and youth; and shall provide the presbytery in which they serve with certificates of completion of these trainings, with recertification at least***

every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet these two requirements. The presbytery shall report a certificate of completion to the national certifying body for these two trainings.

Background and Rationale

When the training requirements were added to the Book of Order, the language that was inserted was worded poorly, and as a result it is ambiguous. In its current form, it is unclear whether boundary training must be recertified every thirty-six months, or if the 36 months applies only to child abuse prevention. Also, the language about the training does not match the policy requirements: "child sexual abuse prevention training" vs. "child, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities protection policy".

Some of the insertions were also misplaced when the requirements were added. While the intent was to apply the training requirements to certain categories of people, in some cases the placement of the language needs to be reconsidered.

For Certified Church Service, the language was inserted twice. Although it might seem like the requirement should be in the "Skills and Training" section, because of the way G-2.1103 is structured, it really only belongs in the "Presbytery Responsibility" section.

The proposed set of revisions adjusts the language of the training requirements to remove ambiguity and more appropriately places the language within the sections of the Book of Order to apply to the people it was intended to affect.

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

1. Certification and Recertification

The proposed amendments change the process by which evidence of training is shown and how it is repeated after thirty-six months. In the case of inquirers and candidates, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and Certified Christian Educators, the current Book of Order language requires a "certificate" of completion, with "recertification" every thirty-six months. By contrast, G-3.0106 (which applies to all councils) requires training every thirty-six months, but does not require a certificate of completion or recertification. The proposed amendments require certification and recertification in all cases. This introduces an uncertainty about whether an outside organization or another council of the church must provide certification and the standards for such certification to ensure that a session's training, for example, adheres to the Book of Order requirements. The existing language for certification in the Book of Order has the same ambiguity, but the proposed amendments add to the ambiguity.

If the 227th General Assembly believes that the intent of Item __-__ to require certification and recertification is appropriate in all instances, the ACC advises that the proposed language can be made clearer and more consistent with that intent by clarifying the requirements for certification and identifying the bodies or types of bodies that can provide such certification.

2. Child Abuse Training

The current language of the Book of Order requires "child sexual abuse prevention training." (E.g., G-2.1002). The proposed amendment refers instead to "training in the prevention of abuse of children, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities." The proposed language is broader than sexual abuse, and the General Assembly will want to be clear on its intentions if a change is made.

Advice –From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

The Advocacy Committee on Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ) advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve CON-09.

The Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice supports this overture as a clear and thoughtful effort to strengthen the PC(USA)'s commitment to safety, accountability, and care. By clarifying and appropriately locating requirements for boundary and abuse prevention training, this action helps ensure consistent practices that better protect those who are most vulnerable, including women, children, and others at risk of harm. We affirm this work as an important step toward fostering communities of trust, integrity, and justice across the life of the Church.

Advice - From the Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity (ACQ+E)

The Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity (ACQ+E) advises that the 227th General Assem bly (2026) **approve** CON-09.

We agree that the "Education and Training for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament" should require boundary training including the topic of sexual misconduct and prevention of abuse of children, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities.

The Assembly Committee on Constitutional Interpretation approved Item CON-09, 41/7 . The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item CON-09, 465/4.

For the full report on CON-09, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001441

26-T — G-3.0106

G-3.01 GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COUNCILS

G-3.0106 Administration of Mission (RAC-04 4a)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0106 Administration of Mission be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-3.0106 Administration of Mission

Mission determines the forms and structures needed for the church to do its work. Administration is the process by which a council implements its decisions. Administration enables the church to give effective witness in the world to God's new creation in Jesus Christ and strengthens the church's witness to the mission of the triune God.

Councils higher than the session may provide examples of policies and procedures that may be gathered into advisory handbooks. These examples illumine practices required by the Constitution but left to councils for specific implementation. Such handbooks may also offer information that enhances or secures the ministry of the particular council.

Each council shall develop a manual of administrative operations that will specify the form and guide the work of mission in that council.

All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy, a harassment policy, a child, youth and adults with vulnerabilities protection policy, and an antiracism policy. Each council's policy shall include requirements for boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members at least every thirty-six months.

Synod and Presbytery anti-racism policies shall include a required training component at least every thirty-six months for teaching elders, commissioned ruling elders, persons certified and called to service within congregations, councils, and church related entities, serving in staff positions, and inquirers and candidates under their jurisdiction. Such training shall be designed to support faithful leadership, accountability, and the Church's commitment to public theology and ethical leadership. The training shall include measurable outcomes.

A council may delegate aspects of its tasks to such entities as it deems appropriate, provided that those entities remain accountable to the council.

The administration of mission demonstrates the unity and interdependence of the church, in that councils share with one another responsibilities, rights, and powers (F-3.0203). Through their members and elected commissioners, lower councils participate in planning and administration of the work of higher councils, and in consultation between bodies concerning mission, budget, staffing and fair employment practices, and matters of equitable compensation.

The funding of mission similarly demonstrates the unity and interdependence of the church. The failure of any part of the church to participate in the stewardship of the mission of the whole church diminishes that unity and interdependence. All mission funding should enable the church to give effective witness in the world to God's new creation in Jesus Christ, and should strengthen the church's witness to the mission of God.

Each council above the session shall prepare a budget for its operating expenses, including administrative personnel, and may fund it with a per capita apportionment among the particular congregations within its bounds. Presbyteries are responsible for raising their own funds and for raising and timely transmission of per capita funds to their respective synods and the General Assembly. Presbyteries may direct per capita apportionments to sessions within their bounds, but in no case shall the authority of the session to direct its benevolences be compromised.

Background and Rationale

This Special Committee on the PC(USA) and Race is one of a myriad of entities over multiple decades that worked to "explore and expose where White supremacy is embedded institutionally and foundationally in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its governing documents and make recommendations."[1] The charge may not have been framed in precisely those words, but the need to address racism and inequity within our denomination and in our local and national experience has been raised repeatedly for years–by standing committees, special committees, caucuses, internal assessments, GA commissioners and leaders, denominational staff, the Matthew 25 movement, our Washington office, and many others. Although incremental and meaningful progress has been made, the PC(USA) has yet to be transformed into a faithful movement of Jesus-followers that more closely resembles the radically inclusive, beloved community, barrier-breaking kin-dom of God.

Our predecessor entity, the Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation, acknowledged the pattern in the PC(USA): "mobilizing a small group to 'fix racism,' proclaiming findings, celebrating the report, followed by prompt institutional amnesia until a new group is created. Unfinished business on previous commitments to racial justice remains." Often, the Charge to the Special Committee on the PC(USA) and Race by the 225th GA (2022), contained in RGJ-12. burden of these cycles of work and attention is borne by people of color. We both lament the cycle and insist that the work must be a persistent, urgent commitment.

One challenge in having a fuller way to address racism and White supremacy at all levels of the PC(USA) is the difficulty in locating all past racial justice policies, recommendations, programs, projects, templates, and resources. There is no one location that houses GA actions related to racial justice in an accessible way that allows us to see our progress and failures. How can we be

accountable toward eliminating White supremacy if we cannot clearly track what progress we have made?

We recognize that resources will not dismantle the culture of White supremacy in which we are entrenched. Along with the whole of the post-colonialization history and experience on this land, Presbyterianism in the United States is shaped by White supremacy culture. It is the water in which we all swim or the air we breathe. Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training describes this culture as a "hive" in which we, our institutions, and our societal structures all function, and recently explained:

The barrier to lasting change is right in front of us–and it's in all of us. Deeply rooted systems of domination don't just perpetuate inequality. They shape how we think, what we care about, and what we believe is possible. For real racial justice and equity, we must first see these systems clearly. Then face the hard truth: we've all been trained to believe in them–often without realizing it. Real transformation depends on our willingness to see and name what holds us back.[2]

Our starting point is this: we are all operating within the uniquely American and pervasive environment of White supremacy. As individuals, we may not have built it, and we may deeply oppose it. As churches, we may lift up a gospel message of Christ's love, justice, and inclusion. But White supremacy culture is, nonetheless, our shared reality in the United States, including in the Church. We all are responsible for seeing, understanding, and acknowledging it so that we can work to dismantle it. Thus, at the bottom of this rationale we include a series of questions with which we hope all Presbyterians will engage.

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

The ACC reviewed the work of the Special Committee prior to the preparation of their final report and provided advice concerning the constitutional issues raised by their recommendations. Those discussions are reflected in the final report. The proposed amendments are constitutional, and we recommend approval.

Coordination
The Advisory Committee on the Constitution also notes that other Items of Business propose changes to or reorganization of educational and training requirements. Coordination will be required to ensure consistency throughout the Book of Order.

Advice - from General Assembly Committee on Representation (GACOR)

GACOR wishes to support the overall arc of recommendations in this final report, including suggested changes for future assemblies, including participation in the many languages that make up our body. The church's unity in diversity is reflected in the variety of languages that are spoken in our worship services, councils, and fellowship together.

Speaking to points 4 and 5 of the recommendations, it is often true that antiracism training or education is often the first step needed to address the systems and structures of racism that harms BIPOC communities and destroys the unity of the church. This is invaluable work for all church

leaders in their preparation for ministry, for congregations, and as continuing education along the way. Resourcing ourselves around history, systemic impacts, and interlocking systems of harm, as well as theological opportunities for repair, is critical and faithful work for any historically white-dominant denomination in the United States. The faithful work of equipping ourselves for the work of repair is a critical call of this moment in the life of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

That said, there is a body of research showing that compelling or requiring individuals to complete mandatory training about bias or antiracism has been shown to have mixed results, with medium to small effect sizes, and little clarity about long-term transformation.

This by no means implies the church should abandon the effort to equip itself broadly with antiracism training, as formal research is only one form of knowledge we can access. But given the amount of work that would need to go into this singular, compliance-focused effort, the lack of clear research outcomes might, at minimum, give us pause in terms of whether a Book of Order mandate is the correct or primary institutional lever by which to bring about the sort of broad and continuing transformation the report invites

GACOR might suggest that another effective but adaptable model for encouraging antiracism training/equipping that is well-developed, nuanced, and well-facilitated might be:

2 encouraging Presbyterian Life & Witness to provide robust training resources, in the context of item 2a of this report, including vetted and well-annotated antiracism training options for all councils of the church. This could include a mandate to collect and commission training resources that can be based on the best of current research and community knowledge, adapt to local dynamics and histories or contexts of racial and church history, and attend to the continuing education needed beyond the basics. Such a set of resources might also suggest "best practices" for trainings that make sense for a variety of contexts without shying away from our history or our current systems.

Rationale: A robust network of resources of this quality, with the capacity to consult with national staff around specific needs in any one locale, may be more effective in increasing the frequency, availability, and overall engagement with antiracism training than a series of mandates that our current national structure and midcouncils may struggle to resource and stay in compliance with.

3. And: Funding or offering need-based grants for presbyteries otherwise unable to fund skilled and high-quality antiracism training.

Rationale: Exploring needs-based grant funding would go far in MidCouncils where the capacity to offer appropriate and helpful antiracism education and training may be being hindered by more pragmatic barriers than motivation or requirement.

We might imagine a future where a more focused effort (or even preparation) of this sort – to require development of this sort of clear and high-quality antiracism training options and a pathway toward properly funding long-term implementation of training – could helpfully highlight the ongoing barriers to broader mandatory training becoming more effective to implement in the very near future,

offer a more straightforward path toward high-quality and consistent implementation, and define clearer desired outcomes. A measured strategy like this might then become not a dilution or a harmful delay of the necessary work called for in the Special Committee's recommendations - but rather a means to strengthen what we all collectively long to do with deep effectiveness, faithfulness, and heartfulness.

Either way, we offer this feedback and set of alternative possibilities in the spirit of deep affirmation and support of the Special Committee's work, resources, and invitations – while also seeking collaboration and discernment from the Assembly around what must be our core goal: meaningful formation that leads to liberatory action and restorative practice within the PC(USA), that the church's true unity in diversity would be reflected more and more in our common life.

Advice –From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

The Advocacy Committee of Women and Gender Justice advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) **approve** RAC-04.

Our committee advises the General Assembly to approve this resolution and consider further reflect ion on the robust questions it poses to every congregation concerning the adoption and attention to anti-racist policies throughout leadership and congregational life.

The Assembly Committee on Racial Justice approved Item RAC-04 4a 59/0. The 227th General Assembly (2026) Item RAC-04 4a, 448/26.

For the full report on RAC-04 and the Special Committee on the PC(U.S.A.) and Race, go to

https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001512

26-U — G-3.0106

G-3.01 GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COUNCILS

G-3.0106 Administration of Mission (CON-09)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0106 Administration of Mission be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-3.0106 Administration of Mission

Mission determines the forms and structures needed for the church to do its work. Administration is the process by which a council implements its decisions. Administration enables the church to give effective witness in the world to God's new creation in Jesus Christ and strengthens the church's witness to the mission of the triune God.

Councils higher than the session may provide examples of policies and procedures that may be gathered into advisory handbooks. These examples illumine practices required by the Constitution but left to councils for specific implementation. Such handbooks may also offer information that enhances or secures the ministry of the particular council.

Each council shall develop a manual of administrative operations that will specify the form and guide the work of mission in that council.

All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy ***which shall include requirements for boundary training at least every thirty-six months***, ~~a harassment policy,~~ ***a policy on the abuse of children*** ~~a child~~**,** youth and adults with vulnerabilities ~~protection policy~~, ***which shall include requirements for abuse prevention training at least every thirty-six months; a harassment policy;*** and an antiracism policy**.** ***The policies listed here are minimum requirements and do not constitute an exhaustive list of policies that should be included in a council's manual of operations or bylaws.*** Each council's policy shall include requirements for boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members at least every thirty-six months.

A council may delegate aspects of its tasks to such entities as it deems appropriate, provided that those entities remain accountable to the council.

The administration of mission demonstrates the unity and interdependence of the church, in that councils share with one another responsibilities, rights, and powers (F-3.0203). Through their

members and elected commissioners, lower councils participate in planning and administration of the work of higher councils, and in consultation between bodies concerning mission, budget, staffing and fair employment practices, and matters of equitable compensation.

The funding of mission similarly demonstrates the unity and interdependence of the church. The failure of any part of the church to participate in the stewardship of the mission of the whole church diminishes that unity and interdependence. All mission funding should enable the church to give effective witness in the world to God's new creation in Jesus Christ, and should strengthen the church's witness to the mission of God.

Each council above the session shall prepare a budget for its operating expenses, including administrative personnel, and may fund it with a per capita apportionment among the particular congregations within its bounds. Presbyteries are responsible for raising their own funds and for raising and timely transmission of per capita funds to their respective synods and the General Assembly. Presbyteries may direct per capita apportionments to sessions within their bounds, but in no case shall the authority of the session to direct its benevolences be compromised.

Background and Rationale

When the training requirements were added to the Book of Order, the language that was inserted was worded poorly, and as a result it is ambiguous. In its current form, it is unclear whether boundary training must be recertified every thirty-six months, or if the 36 months applies only to child abuse prevention. Also, the language about the training does not match the policy requirements: "child sexual abuse prevention training" vs. "child, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities protection policy". Some of the insertions were also misplaced when the requirements were added. While the intent was to apply the training requirements to certain categories of people, in some cases the placement of the language needs to be reconsidered.

For Councils, the language that was inserted requires training of "all council members" — but for mid councils, by definition the "members" of the council include large bodies of people: congregations (within a presbytery) and presbyteries (within a synod). If a congregation is a council member, the requirement suggests either that every member of a congregation must be trained, or that the congregation's elected commissioner must be trained in order to represent them at the council. But that was never the intention of the overture that resulted in these amendments. What seems more likely is that "council members" was intended to apply to members of administrative commissions of the presbytery and the synod, which often were called the "Council" before the Book of Order defined the "councils of the church" as the session, the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly. Some mid councils have renamed their "Councils", but others still use the name "Council" for such an administrative commission. The proposed language in G-3.0106 establishes a general definition of such a body for mid councils and then requires that its members complete the training, while the insertion in G-3.0201 requires session members to be trained.

The proposed set of revisions adjusts the language of the training requirements to remove ambiguity and more appropriately places the language within the sections of the Book of Order to apply to the people it was intended to affect.

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

Coordination
The ACC alerts the General Assembly that other overtures are proposing changes to or reorganization of training requirements for the categories of persons affected by this Item [], and coordination will be needed.

Advice –From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

The Advocacy Committee on Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ) advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve CON-09.

The Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice supports this overture as a clear and thoughtful effort to strengthen the PC(USA)'s commitment to safety, accountability, and care. By clarifying and appropriately locating requirements for boundary and abuse prevention training, this action helps ensure consistent practices that better protect those who are most vulnerable, including women, children, and others at risk of harm. We affirm this work as an important step toward fostering communities of trust, integrity, and justice across the life of the Church.

Advice - From the Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity (ACQ+E)

The Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity (ACQ+E) advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) **approve** CON-09.

We agree that the "Education and Training for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament" should require boundary training including the topic of sexual misconduct and prevention of abuse of children, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities.

The Assembly Committee on Constitutional Interpretation approved Item CON-09, 41/7 . The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item CON-09, 465/4.

For the full report on CON-09, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001441

26-V — G-3.0206

G-3.02 THE SESSION

G-3.0206 Training (CON-09)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0206 Training be added as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-3.0206 Training

All members of session shall complete boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct; shall complete training in the prevention of abuse of children and youth; and shall provide the clerk of session with certificates of completion of these trainings, with recertification every thirty-six months. The session shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements.

Background and Rationale

When the training requirements were added to the Book of Order, the language that was inserted was worded poorly, and as a result it is ambiguous. In its current form, it is unclear whether boundary training must be recertified every thirty-six months, or if the 36 months applies only to child abuse prevention. Also, the language about the training does not match the policy requirements: "child sexual abuse prevention training" vs. "child, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities protection policy". Some of the insertions were also misplaced when the requirements were added. While the intent was to apply the training requirements to certain categories of people, in some cases the placement of the language needs to be reconsidered.
...
For Councils, the language that was inserted requires training of "all council members" — but for mid councils, by definition the "members" of the council include large bodies of people: congregations (within a presbytery) and presbyteries (within a synod). If a congregation is a council member, the requirement suggests either that every member of a congregation must be trained, or that the congregation's elected commissioner must be trained in order to represent them at the council. But that was never the intention of the overture that resulted in these amendments. What seems more likely is that "council members" was intended to apply to members of administrative commissions of the presbytery and the synod, which often were called the "Council" before the Book of Order defined the "councils of the church" as the session, the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly. Some mid councils have renamed their "Councils", but others still use the name "Council" for such an administrative commission. The proposed language in G-3.0106 establishes a

general definition of such a body for mid councils and then requires that its members complete the training, while the insertion in G-3.0201 requires session members to be trained.

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

The overture proposes amendments that take a wholistic view of the placement and wording of training requirements in the Book of Order for sexual misconduct and abuse prevention for children, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities, which are found in G-2.0603 (inquirers and candidates), G-2.1002 (Commissioned Ruling Elders), G-2.1103 (Certified Christian Educators), and G-3.0106 (Councils).It adds two sections expressly requiring training of Sessions and ministers of the Word and Sacrament, which were assumed to be encompassed but not clearly so.

The ACC also notes that creating a new G-3.0201d to house the training requirements for sessions might not be the best location in the Book of Order. The organization of G-3.0201a - G-3.0201c was designed to follow the marks of the Church (F-1.0302). Adding a subsection "D" suggests there is a new fourth mark of the Church pertaining to sessions. It might be cleaner to create a new section at G-3.0206.

2. Child Abuse Training

The current language of the Book of Order requires "child sexual abuse prevention training." (E.g., G-2.1002). The proposed amendment refers instead to "training in the prevention of abuse of children, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities." The proposed language is broader than sexual abuse, and the General Assembly will want to be clear on its intentions if a change is made.

Advice –From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

The Advocacy Committee on Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ) advises that the 227th General Assembly (2026) approve CON-09.

The Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice supports this overture as a clear and thoughtful effort to strengthen the PC(USA)'s commitment to safety, accountability, and care. By clarifying and appropriately locating requirements for boundary and abuse prevention training, this action helps ensure consistent practices that better protect those who are most vulnerable, including women, children, and others at risk of harm. We affirm this work as an important step toward fostering communities of trust, integrity, and justice across the life of the Church.

Advice - From the Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity (ACQ+E)

The Advocacy Committee for LGBTQIA+ Equity (ACQ+E) advises that the 227th General Assem bly (2026) **approve** CON-09.

We agree that the "Education and Training for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament" should require boundary training including the topic of sexual misconduct and prevention of abuse of children, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities.

The Assembly Committee on Constitutional Interpretation approved Item CON-09, 41/7 . The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item CON-09, 465/4.

For the full report on CON-09, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001441

26-W — G-3.0301

G-3.03 THE PRESBYTERY

G-3.0301 Composition and Responsibility (ORD-07 E)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0301 Composition and Responsibility be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-3.0301 Composition and Responsibility

The presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district and is composed of all the congregations i and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within that district. The presbytery shall adopt and communicate to the sessions a plan for determining how many ruling elders each session should elect as commissioners to presbytery, with a goal of numerical parity of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders. This plan shall require each session to elect at least one commissioner j and shall take into consideration the size of congregations as well as a method to fulfill the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103. Ruling elders elected as officers of the presbytery shall be enrolled as members during the period of their service. A presbytery may enroll, or may provide by its own rule for the enrollment of, ruling elders during terms of elected service to the presbytery or its congregations~~.~~***, and shall enroll ruling elders who are commissioned to limited pastoral service under G-2.1001 only for the duration of the active commission. The ruling elder so commissioned shall have voice and vote in the presbytery only during the term of the active commission under this section.***

The minimum composition of a presbytery is ten duly constituted sessions and ten ministers of the Word and Sacrament, unless an exception is approved by its synod and the General Assembly giving consideration to the responsibilities assigned to presbyteries in G-3-01 and G-3.03.

The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of its congregations, the presbytery shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304)

In light of this charge, the presbytery has responsibility and power **to:**

a. *provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard*. This responsibility shall include organizing, receiving, merging, dismissing, and dissolving congregations in consultation with their members; overseeing congregations without pastors; establishing pastoral relationships and dissolving them; guiding the preparation of those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament; establishing and maintaining those ecumenical relationships that will enlarge the life and mission of the church in its district; providing encouragement, guidance, and resources to congregations in the areas of mission, prophetic witness, leadership development, worship, evangelism, and responsible administration to the end that the church's witness to the love and grace of God may be heard in the world.

b. *provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received*. This responsibility shall include authorizing the celebration of the Lord's Supper at its meetings at least annually and for fellowship groups, new church developments, and other non-congregational entities meeting within its bounds; authorizing and training specific ruling elders to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper when it deems it necessary to meet the needs for the administration of the Sacrament; and exercising pastoral care for the congregations and members of presbytery in order that the Sacraments may be received as a means of grace, and the presbytery may live in the unity represented in the Sacraments.

~~c.~~ *nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ.* This responsibility shall include ordaining, receiving, dismissing, installing, removing, and disciplining its members who are ministers of the Word and Sacrament l; commissioning ruling elders to limited pastoral service; promoting the peace and harmony of congregations and inquiring into the sources of congregational discord; supporting congregations in developing the graces of generosity, stewardship, and service; assisting congregations in developing mission and participating in the mission of the whole church; taking jurisdiction over the members of dissolved congregations and granting transfers of their membership to other congregations; warning and bearing witness against error in doctrine and immorality in practice within its bounds; and serving in judicial matters in accordance with Church Discipline.

Background and Rationale

The Book of Order (G-2.1001) clearly affirms the presbytery's authority to determine the scope of service for commissioned pastors, including whether they are granted voice and vote within the presbytery while actively commissioned to serve a congregation. This provision reflects the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s commitment to ordered ministry, local discernment, and contextual flexibility.

While commissioned pastors are not ministers of Word and Sacrament, they are entrusted with significant pastoral responsibilities and shall be granted voice and vote while serving in a commissioned ministry. Voice and vote acknowledges the commissioned pastors' active participation in the life and governance of the church, affirming their role as spiritual leaders and partners in ministry.

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

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 227th General Assembly (2026) to approve item __-__ with the following modifications.

This proposed amendment to G-2.1001 would make explicit that commissioned pastors, also known as commissioned ruling elders, would have a voice and vote in the presbytery while commissioned to a validated ministry. The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that the proposed amendment to G-2.1001 is constitutional in purpose, and recommends approval with a perfecting amendment to improve clarity with language that ties the proposed privilege directly to the active commission under G-2.1001 and its term. Such modifying language may be: "The ruling elder so commissioned shall have voice and vote in the presbytery only during the term of the active commission under this section."

The reason for this perfecting amendment is that though "commissioned to a limited pastoral service" in G-2.1001 constitutes a form of validated ministry, the phrase "validated ministry" could be misread as a separate or narrower category than a commission "to serve a congregation," which risks avoidable debate and uneven application. Modifying the language by anchoring voice and vote to "commission," as an act of the presbytery, this language will preserve the intent, reduce misinterpretation, and promote consistent implementation. Additionally, modifying with the use of the specific phrase, "the ruling elder so commissioned," avoids the ambiguous antecedent "they" by supplying a clear subject.

Coordination

If the General Assembly approves this amendment, G-3.0301 will also need to be amended to be in resonance with this section of the Book of Order. See ACC advice in Fb.

Advice -From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC)

...Voice and Vote for Commissioned Pastors

REAC recommends that the Assembly approve both amendments in section F.

REAC strongly supports granting voice and vote in presbytery to commissioned pastors while serving in a validated ministry. This amendment corrects a long-standing inequity that has disproportionately affected racial/ethnic, immigrant, and marginalized communities whose commissioned leaders have historically been excluded from full participation in presbytery governance.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-07 including E with Comment, 50/9 . The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-07 including E, 389/84.

For the full report on ORD-07 and the full report from the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001487

26-X — G-3.0301

G-3.03 THE PRESBYTERY

G-3.0301 Composition and Responsibility (ORD-07 G)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0301 Composition and Responsibility be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-3.0301 Composition and Responsibility

The presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district and is composed of all the congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within that district. The presbytery shall adopt and communicate to the sessions a plan for determining how many ruling elders each session should elect as commissioners to presbytery, with a goal of numerical parity of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders. This plan shall require each session to elect at least one commissioner j and shall take into consideration the size of congregations as well as a method to fulfill the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103. Ruling elders elected as officers of the presbytery shall be enrolled as members during the period of their service. A presbytery may enroll, or may provide by its own rule for the enrollment of, ruling elders during terms of elected service to the presbytery or its congregations.

The minimum composition of a presbytery is ten duly constituted sessions and ten ministers of the Word and Sacrament, unless an exception is approved by its synod and the General Assembly giving consideration to the responsibilities assigned to presbyteries in G-3-01 and G-3.03.

The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love, and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of its congregations, the presbytery shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304)

In light of this charge, the presbytery has responsibility and power to:

a. *provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard*. This responsibility shall include organizing, receiving, merging, dismissing, and dissolving congregations in consultation with their members; overseeing congregations without pastors; establishing pastoral relationships and dissolving them; guiding the preparation of those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament; establishing and maintaining those ecumenical

relationships that will enlarge the life and mission of the church in its district; providing encouragement, guidance, and resources to congregations in the areas of mission, prophetic witness, leadership development, worship, evangelism, and responsible administration to the end that the church's witness to the love and grace of God may be heard in the world.

b. *provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received.* This responsibility shall include authorizing the celebration of the Lord's Supper at its meetings at least annually and for fellowship groups, new church developments, and other non-congregational entities meeting within its bounds; authorizing and training specific ruling elders to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper when it deems it necessary to meet the needs for the administration of the Sacrament; and exercising pastoral care for the congregations and members of presbytery in order that the Sacraments may be received as a means of grace, and the presbytery may live in the unity represented in the Sacraments.

c. *nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ.* This responsibility shall include ordaining, receiving, dismissing, installing, removing, and disciplining its members who are ministers of the Word and Sacrament l; commissioning ruling elders to limited pastoral service; promoting the peace and harmony of congregations and inquiring into the sources of congregational discord; supporting congregations in developing the graces of generosity, stewardship, and service; assisting congregations in developing mission and participating in the mission of the whole church; taking jurisdiction over the members of dissolved congregations and granting transfers of their membership to other congregations; warning and bearing witness against error in doctrine and immorality in practice within its bounds; ~~and~~ serving in judicial matters in accordance with Church Discipline~~.~~***; and nurturing our inclusive diversity witness by providing for the membership and baptismal rolls of those desiring to be members of the PC(U.S.A.).***

Background and Rationale

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is called to be a church that reflects the full diversity of God's people and responds faithfully to the Spirit's movement in emerging communities. As affirmed in G-3.0103 and F-1.0403, the councils of the church are charged with giving full expression to the rich diversity of the church's membership and ensuring full participation and access to representation in decision-making.

Many new worshiping communities and immigrant fellowships are vibrant expressions of faith and mission, yet they often exist outside traditional congregational structures. As a result, their members may lack access to the full benefits of church membership, including inclusion in baptismal and membership rolls and representation in the councils of the church through voice and vote. This structural gap unintentionally marginalizes communities that are actively contributing to the life and witness of the PC(USA).

This overture proposes a change to G-3.0301(c) to explicitly include:
Provision for membership and baptismal rolls for individuals in new worshiping communities and fellowships who desire to be recognized as members of the PC(USA).

Engagement of voice and vote for commissioners from these communities, ensuring their participation in the discernment and governance of the church.

Why This Change Is Needed

Affirms the Church's Commitment to Inclusivity

This amendment aligns with the constitutional mandate to reflect the diversity of the church and to ensure equitable access to leadership and representation. It recognizes that mission communities are not peripheral but central to the church's future.

Strengthens Missional Engagement

New worshiping communities and fellowships are often at the forefront of mission innovation, reaching people and cultures not traditionally represented in the church. Including them fully in the life of the presbytery strengthens our collective witness and deepens our missional identity.

Provides Pastoral and Ecclesial Care

By establishing mechanisms for membership and baptismal rolls, the church affirms the belonging of individuals in these communities. It also ensures that they receive the same pastoral care, sacramental access, and ecclesial recognition as members of traditional congregations.

Promotes Representation and Equity in Governance

Granting voice and vote to commissioners from these communities ensures that decisions made at the presbytery level reflect the full breadth of its life. It also affirms the leadership gifts present in these communities and provides a pathway for their voices to shape its future.

This amendment to G-3.0301 is a faithful response to the Spirit's call to be a more inclusive, representative, and missionally engaged church. It honors the contributions of new worshiping communities and fellowships, affirms their members' place in the PC(USA), and ensures their full participation in the governance and discernment of the church. By making this change, the church lives more fully into its calling to be a welcoming table for all.

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

ACC Advice on Committee Recommendation G amending G-3.0301.

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 227th General Assembly that item - presents the following constitutional issues that the Assembly should consider.

This amendment seeks to accomplish two related aims at the presbytery level: (1) to ensure that persons participating in new worshiping communities who desire to be recognized as members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are included in membership and baptismal records, and (2) to provide representation in presbytery decision-making by granting "voice and vote" to commissioners from those communities.

Item ORD-07 G raises questions of constitutional clarity and internal consistency that the Assembly should consider.

First, the Constitution already establishes a framework for presbytery-recognized worshiping communities. Under G-1.0104, the sponsoring council maintains membership records for those participants who desire formal enrollment in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the presbytery determines the appropriate relationship of the worshiping community to the council that sponsors it. As proposed, the amendment could duplicate or blur this existing framework by inserting a new presbytery responsibility in G-3.0301(c) that might be interpreted as shifting recordkeeping responsibilities to the presbytery itself or creating a parallel set of membership or baptismal rolls.

Second, the proposed phrase "granting the voice and vote of commissioners from new worshiping communities or fellowships" raises constitutional and governance questions not addressed in the text. Currently, there is no language in the Book of Order to define commissioners from New Worshipping Communities or immigrant fellowships. Without this definition, the effect of this item is to mandate that presbyteries grant voice and vote to persons who may not hold membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and/or who may not be ordained as ruling elders.

More specifically, the amendment does not specify who selects these commissioners, whether they represent either the worshiping community or the sponsoring council, how they are credentialed, or whether they must be members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In addition, the Constitution presently recognizes "worshiping communities" and their relationship to a sponsoring council (G-1.0104). The inclusion of the term "fellowships," which is not otherwise defined in the Constitution, could lead to differing interpretations and uneven application across presbyteries.

Third, the phrase "provide for the membership and baptismal rolls" could be read as assigning the presbytery responsibility for maintaining such records, even when the presbytery is not the sponsoring council. Clarification may be needed to ensure that the amendment does not unintentionally alter the existing pattern in which recordkeeping responsibilities reside with the appropriate council.

If the Assembly determines that the intent of Item - is appropriate, the Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises that the language could be made clearer and more consistent with the existing constitutional framework by (1) using the Constitution's established relationship between worshiping communities and sponsoring councils as the mechanism for recordkeeping and participation, and (2) avoiding the creation of an undefined constitutional category of commissioners. Participation in presbytery, including voice and vote provided, may be more clearly addressed through presbytery rule or through the sponsoring council within the existing constitutional structure.

Editor's note: Rationale and Advice is based on former language which was eventually changed by the General Assembly.

The Assembly Committee on Theological Education and Ordination approved Item ORD-07 including G with Comment, 50/9 . The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item ORD-07 including G, 389/84.

For the full report on ORD-07 and the full report from the Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001487

26-Y — G-3.0306

G-3.03 THE PRESBYTERY

G-3.0306 Membership of the Presbytery (CON-09)

The 227th General Assembly (2026) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0306 Membership of the Presbytery be amended as follows:
(Deleted text is in ~~strikethrough~~; added text is in bold *italics*.)

G-3.0306 Membership of the Presbytery

Each presbytery determines the ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are its members and validates the ministries in which they are to be engaged. It shall be guided in this determination by written criteria developed by the presbytery for validating ministries within its bounds (G-2.0503a).

The presbytery shall examine each minister of the Word and Sacrament or candidate who seeks membership in it on his or her Christian faith and views in theology, the Sacraments, and the government of this church.

The presbytery may designate ministers of the Word and Sacrament to work as teachers, evangelists, administrators, chaplains, and in other forms of ministry recognized as appropriate by the presbytery. Those so designated may administer the Sacraments at times and places authorized by the presbytery.

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

Minister members of the presbytery shall complete boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct; shall complete training in the prevention of abuse of children and youth; and shall provide the presbytery with certificates of completion of these trainings, with recertification every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements, and may offer exemptions to these requirements at its discretion.

A minister of the Word and Sacrament who is serving in a church outside the United States may, with the approval of the presbytery, accept membership in that church for the period of such service without affecting his or her membership in a presbytery of this church.

Background and Rationale

When the training requirements were added to the Book of Order, the language that was inserted was worded poorly, and as a result it is ambiguous. In its current form, it is unclear whether boundary training must be recertified every thirty-six months, or if the 36 months applies only to child abuse prevention. Also, the language about the training does not match the policy requirements: “child sexual abuse prevention training” vs. “child, youth, and adults with vulnerabilities protection policy”.

Some of the insertions were also misplaced when the requirements were added. While the intent was to apply the training requirements to certain categories of people, in some cases the placement of the language needs to be reconsidered.

...For Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, the requirements were never directly applied to them. By inserting the requirements in the “Preparation for Ministry” phase and also applying them to all council members (which includes the ministers who moderate session), the trainings became required for new ministers and also for those serving a congregation, but they missed active ministers who had already been ordained but were now serving in other validated ministries (chaplaincy or campus ministry, for example). It would be more appropriate to explicitly require these trainings for all minister members while offering presbyteries the discretion to exempt retired ministers from the requirements.

The proposed set of revisions adjusts the language of the training requirements to remove ambiguity and more appropriately places the language within the sections of the Book of Order to apply to the people it was intended to affect.

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

4. Retired Ministers
The proposed amendment would exempt “retired ministers” from the requirement for boundary training and abuse prevention training “at the discretion of the presbytery.” At the 226th General Assembly (2024), the following authoritative interpretation was adopted by the General Assembly: G-3.0106 does not define the specific requirements for boundary training beyond the inclusion of “the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training" (G-3.0106). A presbytery may therefore determine for itself what those additional requirements should be. A presbytery could, for example, decide to waive boundary training for persons who are incapacitated, with the caution that age, per se, is not an incapacity. Alternatively, a presbytery could require boundary training only for those members of presbytery who are actively engaged in ministry, with the presbytery defining what “actively engaged in ministry” means. (https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001325).

In one sense, by limiting the exemption to "retired ministers," the proposed amendment narrows the scope of authority already granted to presbyteries to determine who might be exempted from the trainings as a matter of presbytery rule. Even with this amendment, it remains the case that presbyteries have the authority to determine for itself what trainings requirements should be for its members (G-3.0101, "[p]owers not mentioned in the Constitution are reserved to the presbyteries."), so the amendment does not add a meaningful change and might introduce more uncertainty.

If the 227th General Assembly believes that it would be valuable to codify the 2024 authoritative interpretation within the Book of Order, the ACC advises that the proposed language can be made clearer by more closely tracking the language of the authoritative interpretation:

"The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements[and whether to waive boundary training for certain persons]. Ministers who have been designated as retired may be exempted from these training requirements at the discretion of the presbytery.]"

The Assembly Committee on Constitutional Interpretation approved Item CON-09, 41/7 . The 227th General Assembly (2026) approved Item CON-09, 465/4.

For the full report on CON-09, go to https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001441

The Presbytery Of New Harmony

2026.09.30 NHP Operating Budget

Date Range: Jan 1st 2026 - Sep 30th 2026 | Includes Open Transactions

Accounts	Actual Last Year Year to Date	Actual This Year Year to Date	Annual Budget This Year Year	Annual Budget Remaining This Year Year	Annual Budget % Used This Year Year
Revenues					
Budgeted Receipts					
400100 Shared Mission Support	252,375.32	182,096.68	375,500.00	193,403.32	48.49 %
400200 Per Capita Apportionment	97,902.22	93,034.68	138,982.00	45,947.32	66.94 %
400400 Trans - Candidate/Scholarship Fund	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00 %
400405 Trans - Mission & Ministry (M&M) Fund	0.00	0.00	80,500.00	80,500.00	0.00 %
400415 Trans - Small Church Support/Redevelopement Fund	0.00	0.00	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00 %
400424 Trans - Campus Christian Life Fund	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00 %
400900 Interest Income	955.66	1,647.56	831.00	(816.56)	198.26 %
Total Budgeted Receipts	351,233.20	276,778.92	632,813.00	356,034.08	43.74 %
Other Income					
400580 Mortgage Income	20,642.00	22,642.00	27,500.00	4,858.00	82.33 %
Total Other Income	20,642.00	22,642.00	27,500.00	4,858.00	82.33 %
Total Revenues	**$ 371,875.20**	**$ 299,420.92**	**$ 660,313.00**	**$ 360,892.08**	**45.35 %**
Expenses					
Mission					
520000 GA Shared Mission Support	53,333.34	37,500.00	50,000.00	12,500.00	75.00 %
520050 GA Per Capita	52,853.13	53,693.31	71,704.00	18,010.69	74.88 %
520100 Synod Shared Mission Support	4,875.75	4,768.50	6,368.00	1,599.50	74.88 %
520103 Synod Per Capita	7,313.64	9,537.00	15,920.00	6,383.00	59.91 %
520105 Presbyterian College	3,750.00	3,750.00	5,000.00	1,250.00	75.00 %
520110 SC Christian Action Council	3,750.00	3,750.00	5,000.00	1,250.00	75.00 %
520400 Presby Retirement Communities SC	7,500.00	7,500.00	10,000.00	2,500.00	75.00 %
520500 SC Inn at Montreat	3,750.00	3,750.00	5,000.00	1,250.00	75.00 %
520505 SC Campus Ministry	1,500.00	1,500.00	2,000.00	500.00	75.00 %
520600 GEHS/GCC	0.00	3,750.00	5,000.00	1,250.00	75.00 %
520810 P.A.D.D.	3,750.00	5,625.00	7,500.00	1,875.00	75.00 %
520815 Presbytery Leader Formation	250.00	250.00	250.00	0.00	100.00 %
520820 Global Covenant Partnership	0.00	73.69	15,000.00	14,926.31	0.49 %
Total Mission	142,625.86	135,447.50	198,742.00	63,294.50	68.15 %
Guiding Council					
522010 Council Expenses	57.40	485.19	300.00	(185.19)	161.73 %
522024 Administrative Commissions	232.71	845.84	2,000.00	1,154.16	42.29 %
522025 Presbytery Gatherings	694.99	3,348.22	6,000.00	2,651.78	55.80 %
522027 Presbytery Functions	1,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00 %
522029 Gifts and Memorials	376.19	25.00	500.00	475.00	5.00 %
522040 Communications Administrator	7,854.21	8,089.56	10,786.00	2,696.44	75.00 %
522042 Communication Services Mileage	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00 %
522045 General Assembly Expenses	519.37	3,034.65	2,500.00	(534.65)	121.39 %
522046 Moderators Conference	0.00	555.40	1,500.00	944.60	37.03 %
522047 Synod Commissioner Training	500.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	100.00 %
Total Guiding Council	11,234.87	17,383.86	27,786.00	10,402.14	62.56 %
Presbytery Office Expenses					
521020 Electricity	3,502.36	2,892.98	5,000.00	2,107.02	57.86 %
521030 Water & Sewer	166.00	177.00	200.00	23.00	88.50 %
521040 Telephone-Nextiva	1,115.85	1,485.05	1,670.00	184.95	88.93 %
521041 Cellular Phone	1,850.00	2,250.00	3,000.00	750.00	75.00 %
521042 Copier	1,296.33	2,119.82	1,600.00	(519.82)	132.49 %

Accounts	Actual Last Year Year to Date	Actual This Year Year to Date	Annual Budget This Year Year	Annual Budget Remaining This Year Year	Annual Budget % Used This Year Year
521050 Office Supplies	2,171.40	1,571.44	2,000.00	428.56	78.57 %
521060 Staff Travel	236.18	242.15	750.00	507.85	32.29 %
521070 Equipment Purchases	1,387.16	246.82	500.00	253.18	49.36 %
521080 Computer and Tech	10,903.76	12,276.32	11,500.00	(776.32)	106.75 %
521090 Postage	146.00	234.00	200.00	(34.00)	117.00 %
521100 General Insurance	3,969.00	6,901.00	8,000.00	1,099.00	86.26 %
521130 Audit	4,450.00	4,600.00	8,000.00	3,400.00	57.50 %
521140 Conferences and Training	1,771.18	2,994.15	7,500.00	4,505.85	39.92 %
521142 Coaching	750.00	900.00	1,800.00	900.00	50.00 %
521300 Constant Contact Subscription	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	0.00 %
521400 Miscellaneous	334.85	105.57	500.00	394.43	21.11 %
521402 Bank Analysis Charges	152.95	101.00	200.00	99.00	50.50 %
522600 Property Maintenance	3,839.86	2,085.00	2,500.00	415.00	83.40 %
Total Presbytery Office Expenses	38,042.88	41,182.30	55,320.00	14,137.70	74.44 %
Committee on Representation and Nominations (CORN)					
522100 Committee Expenses	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00 %
Total Committee on Representation and Nominations (CORN)	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00 %
Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)					
522700 Commission Expenses	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	0.00 %
522710 Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00 %
Total Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00 %
Committee on Ministry (COM)					
523010 Committee Expenses	0.00	619.57	100.00	(519.57)	619.57 %
523020 Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00 %
523030 Shared Grants	34.22	1,875.00	2,000.00	125.00	93.75 %
523044 Fall Ministers' Retreat	0.00	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00 %
523046 Coaching for Pastors	0.00	250.00	5,000.00	4,750.00	5.00 %
523048 Cluster Lunches	4,134.17	4,444.36	5,000.00	555.64	88.89 %
523049 Training and Workshops	2,041.76	2,500.00	2,000.00	(500.00)	125.00 %
523052 EP Visitation	718.04	1,839.29	1,500.00	(339.29)	122.62 %
523053 APC Visitation	331.94	211.46	500.00	288.54	42.29 %
523054 Background Checks	393.13	0.00	400.00	400.00	0.00 %
523055 ACOM Mileage	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00 %
523056 Events and Gatherings	4,602.77	3,166.07	6,000.00	2,833.93	52.77 %
523057 Commission Pastors Scholarship	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00 %
523058 Children/Youth M&M (Mission & Ministry)	0.00	0.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00 %
Total Committee on Ministry (COM)	12,256.03	14,905.75	28,350.00	13,444.25	52.58 %
Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)					
523810 Committee Expenses	17.88	308.62	200.00	(108.62)	154.31 %
523820 Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00 %
523830 Annual Consultations	0.00	0.00	300.00	300.00	0.00 %
523840 Consultations	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00 %
523845 Scholarships for Candidates	3,600.00	2,100.00	3,000.00	900.00	70.00 %
523850 Extraordinary Grants	441.75	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00 %
523860 Psychological Testing	0.00	2,323.12	10,000.00	7,676.88	23.23 %
523865 Scholarships Future Commissioned Pastors	0.00	390.00	2,000.00	1,610.00	19.50 %
523870 School of Theology	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00 %
523875 Background Checks	0.00	242.94	400.00	157.06	60.74 %
Total Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)	4,059.63	5,364.68	19,300.00	13,935.32	27.80 %
Cultivation & Empowerment Commission (CEC)					
522900 Committee Expenses	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00 %
522910 Grants	5,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00	50.00 %
522930 Scholarships	6,600.00	6,951.00	10,000.00	3,049.00	69.51 %
522950 Events	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00 %
522960 Resources	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00 %

Accounts	Actual Last Year Year to Date	Actual This Year Year to Date	Annual Budget This Year Year	Annual Budget Remaining This Year Year	Annual Budget % Used This Year Year
Total Cultivation & Empowerment Commission (CEC)	11,600.00	16,951.00	35,500.00	18,549.00	47.75 %
Personnel & Finance (P&F)					
527010 Committee Expenses	645.64	97.36	1,000.00	902.64	9.74 %
Total Personnel & Finance (P&F)	645.64	97.36	1,000.00	902.64	9.74 %
Self Development of People Committee (SDOP)					
528010 Committee Expenses	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00 %
528020 Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00 %
Total Self Development of People Committee (SDOP)	0.00	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00 %
Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission (PDAC)					
529010 Commission Expenses	0.00	0.00	400.00	400.00	0.00 %
529020 Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00 %
Total Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission (PDAC)	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00 %
Salaries & Benefits					
Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk					
530010 Salary & Housing	83,706.84	86,217.84	114,957.00	28,739.16	75.00 %
530020 Mileage/Cont. Ed/Prof. Expenses	8,231.79	5,304.33	8,500.00	3,195.67	62.40 %
530030 Board of Pensions	29,736.99	31,697.46	43,260.00	11,562.54	73.27 %
530040 SECA	6,403.50	6,595.56	8,794.00	2,198.44	75.00 %
Total Executive Presbyter & Stated Clerk	128,079.12	129,815.19	175,511.00	45,695.81	73.96 %
Assoc. Pastoral Concerns & Fellowship					
530310 Salary & Housing	16,852.20	15,621.84	20,829.00	5,207.16	75.00 %
Total Assoc. Pastoral Concerns & Fellowship	16,852.20	15,621.84	20,829.00	5,207.16	75.00 %
Associate for Committee on Ministry					
530320 Salary & Housing	0.00	20,420.28	20,829.00	408.72	98.04 %
Total Associate for Committee on Ministry	0.00	20,420.28	20,829.00	408.72	98.04 %
Financial Administrator					
530600 Salary	13,128.84	13,522.50	18,030.00	4,507.50	75.00 %
Total Financial Administrator	13,128.84	13,522.50	18,030.00	4,507.50	75.00 %
Office Administrator					
530700 Salary	32,752.00	30,015.00	40,020.00	10,005.00	75.00 %
530730 BOP/Major Medical & D&D	12,247.23	11,357.46	14,946.00	3,588.54	75.99 %
530740 Deferred Compensation	1,000.00	900.00	2,400.00	1,500.00	37.50 %
Total Office Administrator	45,999.23	42,272.46	57,366.00	15,093.54	73.69 %
Other Personnel Expenses					
530750 Employer Matching SS/Medicare	3,509.79	3,330.72	5,500.00	2,169.28	60.56 %
Total Other Personnel Expenses	3,509.79	3,330.72	5,500.00	2,169.28	60.56 %
Total Salaries & Benefits	207,569.18	224,982.99	298,065.00	73,082.01	75.48 %
Total Expenses	**$ 428,034.09**	**$ 456,315.44**	**$ 665,313.00**	**$ 208,997.56**	**68.59 %**
Net Total	**($ 56,158.89)**	**($ 156,894.52)**	**($ 5,000.00)**	**$ 151,894.52**	**3,137.89 %**

The Presbytery of New Harmony

Our Churches in Support of the Mission of the Whole Church

for Year-to-Date through December 2026

Pin	Church Name	(1) Shared Mission Support Pledge	(2) Shared Mission Support Pledge YTD Paid	(3) Direct Mission Support YTD	(4) Mission Support YTD Total (2+3)	(5) Other Mission Support YTD	(6) 2026 Per Capita Apportion-ment	(7) Per Capita YTD Paid
22464	BENNETTSVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CH	8,000	5,333.36	-	5,333.36	1,185.00	4,050.00	4,050.00
22493	CAROLINA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	2,500.00	-	2,500.00	4,355.00	562.50	562.50
11881	CELEBRATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	4,000	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	675.00	1,665.00	1,248.75
22467	CHERAW FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	9,000	6,750.00	-	6,750.00	5,743.00	3,937.50	2,868.00
22468	CHESTERFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	500	500.00	-	500.00	-	135.00	135.00
201	CONGRUITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	7,000	-	-	-	-	3,375.00	-
22432	COUSAR MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CH	2,000	-	-	-	-	1,350.00	-
182	EBENEZER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	3,500	1,750.00	-	1,750.00	250.00	3,420.00	1,596.00
22484	FORK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
191	FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	6,500	-	-	-	270.00	1,327.50	1,327.50
177	GEORGE W LONG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	2,500	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	425.00	450.00	450.00
22436	GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	18,410	13,805.00	-	13,805.00	9,530.00	7,110.00	7,110.00
188	GOODWILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	4,166.65	-	4,166.65	1,457.55	3,510.00	1,888.85
180	GRANDVIEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	495.00	-
169	HARMONY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,102.50	-
22487	HARTSVILLE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CH	30,000	22,500.00	-	22,500.00	1,862.18	10,215.00	7,661.25
22452	HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22438	INDIANTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	4,000	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	1,720.00	1,507.50	1,507.50
22490	JEFFERSON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	585.00	-
22480	JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	6,000	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	6,431.67	2,542.50	2,542.50
22485	KENTYRE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	225.00	-
22471	KINGSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	14,000	10,500.03	-	10,500.03	1,247.00	4,747.50	4,747.50
11233	KOREAN-AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN	-	-	-	-	-	517.50	-
22442	LAKE CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	3,500	1,750.00	-	1,750.00	300.00	787.50	394.00
22492	LATTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	250.00	855.00	765.00
22495	MARION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	1,774.00	2,857.50	2,858.00
22497	MCCOLL FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	2,000	2,000.00	-	2,000.00	700.00	180.00	180.00
197	MELINA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	3,000.00	-	3,000.00	-	4,320.00	1,831.26
22488	MORTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	5,000	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	531.00	652.50	585.00
170	MT LISBON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	300	300.00	-	300.00	110.00	720.00	720.00
22489	MT PISGAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	495.00	-
196	MT SINAI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	500.00	-	500.00	25.00	495.00	473.00
22455	MT ZION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	300.00	-	300.00	1,180.00	472.50	462.00
22449	MURRELLS INLET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	1,065.00	1,350.00	1,197.00
22501	MYRTLE BEACH FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CH	65,000	35,000.00	-	35,000.00	-	33,367.50	16,684.00
22474	NEW BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN DILLON	300	300.00	-	300.00	200.00	540.00	540.00
10761	NEW COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	100.00	1,057.50	200.00
11507	NEW HARVEST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22451	OLANTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	990.00	-
22482	PARKWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	1,200	800.00	-	800.00	-	472.50	472.50
22503	PATRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	697.50	-
22453	PAWLEYS ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	20,000	-	-	-	3,374.00	9,337.50	9,337.50
22445	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT MANNING	10,000	6,666.64	-	6,666.64	200.00	4,072.50	2,715.04

The Presbytery of New Harmony

Our Churches in Support of the Mission of the Whole Church

for Year-to-Date through December 2026

Pin	Church Name	(1) Shared Mission Support Pledge	(2) Shared Mission Support Pledge YTD Paid	(3) Direct Mission Support YTD	(4) Mission Support YTD Total (2+3)	(5) Other Mission Support YTD	(6) 2026 Per Capita Apportion-ment	(7) Per Capita YTD Paid
22504	RUBY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	1,250.00	-	1,250.00	340.00	540.00	250.00
22448	SALEM BLACK RIVER PRESBY CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
22506	SOCIETY HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	1,000	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	100.00	292.50	292.50
22439	ST PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	-	-	-	-	427.50	-
22457	SUMMERTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	1,500	-	-	-	-	810.00	-
22458	SUMTER FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	-	22,500.00	-	22,500.00	1,492.25	9,022.50	6,450.03
200	SUMTER SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	2,220	-	-	-	-	967.50	-
22462	SWAN LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	1,500	375.00	-	375.00	692.29	270.00	270.00
189	TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN MAYESVILLE	1,000	-	-	-	-	1,687.50	1,687.50
23382	TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN SURFSIDE BEACH	NO PLEDGE	-	-	-	-	2,745.00	-
23343	WEDGEFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	7,500	7,500.00	-	7,500.00	3,245.00	900.00	900.00
168	WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN ALCOLU	-	1,750.00	-	1,750.00	1,808.05	1,530.00	765.00
22505	WHITE OAK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	NO PLEDGE	-	-	-	235.00	652.50	652.50
22441	WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	1,000	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	3,966.00	4,657.50	4,657.50
	Individual Gifts	-	2,300.00	-	2,300.00	780.11	-	-
	Dismissed/Closed Churches	-			-	-		-
	TOTAL	239,430.00	182,096.68	-	182,096.68	57,619.10	141,052.50	93,034.68

The Presbytery Of New Harmony

2026.09.30 Summary of Funds and Accounts

Date Range: Jan 1st 2026 - Sep 30th 2026 | Includes Open Transactions

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
Restricted Net Assets				
Temporarily Restricted				
Pass-Through Funds				
General Assembly Pass-Throughs				
840420 One Great Hour of Sharing	0.00	10,360.50	10,360.50	0.00
840440 World Communion Offering	0.00	365.25	365.25	0.00
840445 PC(USA) Special Offerings	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
840450 Christmas Joy Offering	0.00	5,780.00	5,780.00	0.00
840460 ECO Projects	0.00	4,450.00	4,450.00	0.00
840480 GA Disaster Relief Projects	0.00	6,255.11	6,255.11	0.00
Total General Assembly Pass-Throughs	0.00	27,310.86	27,310.86	0.00
Other Pass-Throughs				
840470 Theological Education Fund	0.00	9,269.58	9,269.58	0.00
840510 Thornwell	0.00	3,711.50	3,711.50	0.00
840530 Presbyterian College	0.00	180.00	180.00	0.00
840560 Johnson C. Smith Seminary	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
840610 Presbyterian Retirement Comm of SC (PCSC)	0.00	925.00	925.00	0.00
840630 Mother's Day Offering for PCSC	0.00	11,650.16	11,650.16	0.00
840765 P.A.D.D.	0.00	3,572.00	3,572.00	0.00
840775 E.W. Matthew Memorial Fund	0.00	133.38	0.00	133.38
840777 Lee Memorial Fund #11 for PADD	0.00	2,807.57	2,807.57	0.00
840779 Lee Memorial Fund #16 for PeeDee Church	0.00	2,807.60	2,807.60	0.00
840850 Other Special Mission	0.00	900.00	800.00	100.00
850001 Youth Mission Trip Grant	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	(2,000.00)
850006 Ministry to Prisoners & Family Grants	0.00	0.00	3,484.82	(3,484.82)
850307 GA Meeting	0.00	0.00	122.00	(122.00)
850311 Green Grants	0.00	0.00	1,629.00	(1,629.00)
850520 Mission & Ministry (M&M) Fund	0.00	1,716.81	0.00	1,716.81
850530 Candidate/Scholarship Fund	0.00	53.34	0.00	53.34
850540 G.I.V.E. Fund	0.00	0.00	7,325.00	(7,325.00)
850660 Pastor's Assistance	0.00	1,524.00	2,000.00	(476.00)
850781 New Harvest	0.00	19,277.13	8,610.11	10,667.02
850782 Timmonsville	0.00	0.00	3,298.63	(3,298.63)
850783 Fraser Memorial	0.00	260,364.48	62,633.30	197,731.18
850784 Black Church Cornerstone Collaborative	0.00	60,000.00	50,917.01	9,082.99
850786 Marion	0.00	50,153.14	0.00	50,153.14
850980 Unrestricted Reserve	0.00	0.00	3,650.00	(3,650.00)
Total Other Pass-Throughs	0.00	429,145.69	181,493.28	247,652.41
Total Pass-Through Funds	0.00	456,456.55	208,804.14	247,652.41
Presbytery Invested Funds				
54398 Unrestricted Reserve and NHP Projects Fund				
800307 General Assembly Meeting	1,980.63	0.00	0.00	1,980.63
800311 Green Grants	14,200.00	0.00	0.00	14,200.00
800312 Youth Triennium	167.89	0.00	0.00	167.89
823006 Ministry to Prisoners & Family Grants	3,484.82	0.00	0.00	3,484.82

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
824001 Youth Mission Trip Grants	16,299.70	0.00	0.00	16,299.70
840640 NHP Mission Projects	10,545.00	0.00	0.00	10,545.00
840660 Pastor's Assistance	7,110.89	0.00	0.00	7,110.89
840715 Campus Ministry Grants	7,994.30	0.00	0.00	7,994.30
840740 NHP Disaster Assistance	26,239.12	0.00	0.00	26,239.12
840781 New Harvest Capital Improvements	0.00	2,328.77	2,328.77	0.00
840782 Timmonsville	8,519.32	0.00	0.00	8,519.32
840785 Peacemaking Grants	4,142.19	0.00	0.00	4,142.19
840980 Unrestricted Reserve	214,160.33	42,340.69	21,572.34	234,928.68
Total 54398 Unrestricted Reserve and NHP Projects Fund	314,844.19	44,669.46	23,901.11	335,612.54
54399 Mission & Ministry (M&M) Fund				
880520 Mission & Ministry (M&M) Fund	1,792,613.71	244,181.07	123,041.45	1,913,753.33
Total 54399 Mission & Ministry (M&M) Fund	1,792,613.71	244,181.07	123,041.45	1,913,753.33
54400 Candidate/Scholarship Fund				
880530 Candidate/Scholarship Fund	170,079.83	23,170.84	11,674.15	181,576.52
Total 54400 Candidate/Scholarship Fund	170,079.83	23,170.84	11,674.15	181,576.52
54401 G.I.V.E. Fund				
850111 New Covenant Funds PCFND	400,197.97	31,305.81	22,229.25	409,274.53
850114 PCUSA Invest & Loan Program (PILP)	108,099.50	2,155.97	0.00	110,255.47
880540 G.I.V.E. Fund	924,464.23	125,871.39	63,449.63	986,885.99
Total 54401 G.I.V.E. Fund	1,432,761.70	159,333.17	85,678.88	1,506,415.99
54402 Small Church Support/Redevelopment Fund				
880550 Small Church Support/ Redevelopment Fund	358,808.32	48,851.11	24,626.23	383,033.20
Total 54402 Small Church Support/ Redevelopment Fund	358,808.32	48,851.11	24,626.23	383,033.20
54404 Campus Christian Life Fund				
880570 Campus Christian Life Fund	53,666.96	7,336.88	3,685.44	57,318.40
Total 54404 Campus Christian Life Fund	53,666.96	7,336.88	3,685.44	57,318.40
Total Presbytery Invested Funds	4,122,774.71	527,542.53	272,607.26	4,377,709.98
Total Temporarily Restricted	4,122,774.71	983,999.08	481,411.40	4,625,362.39
Total Restricted Net Assets	**$ 4,122,774.71**	**$ 983,999.08**	**$ 481,411.40**	**$ 4,625,362.39**

The Presbytery of New Harmony

Concentration of All Funds at September 30, 2026

Bank Name	Bankrate.com Rating	Balance at 9/30/2026
Texas Presbyterian Foundation[(1)]	n/a	3,858,179.98
PC(USA) Foundation New Covenant Funds[(1)]	n/a	409,274.53
PC(USA) Investment & Loan Program[(1)]	n/a	110,255.47
South State Bank - Checking	****	50,384.32
South State Bank - Money Market		329,725.52
Miscellaneous Income	n/a	21,728.75
First Citizens Bank	****	23,027.59
Total		**$ 4,802,576.16**
(1) Not FDIC insured		

The Presbytery Of New Harmony

Statement of Financial Position

As of: Sep 30th 2026

Assets	
Current Assets	
Checking Accounts	
150010 First Citizens Payroll Checking Account	23,027.59
150012 SouthState Operating Disbursements	50,384.32
Southstate MM	
150022 SouthState Operating Receipts	329,725.52
150040 Miscellaneous Income	21,728.75
Total Southstate MM	351,454.27
Total Checking Accounts	424,866.18
Total Current Assets	424,866.18
Long-Term Investments	
150111 New Covenant Funds (Church Extension Fund)	409,274.53
150114 PCUSA Invest & Loan Program(Church Extension Fund)	110,255.47
TPF	
TPF - Acct #54398 (Unrestricted Reserve&NHP Proj)	
150160 Balanced Fund - 54398	267,536.47
150161 Money Market - 54398	68,076.07
Total TPF - Acct #54398 (Unrestricted Reserve&NHP Proj)	335,612.54
TPF - Acct #54399 (Mission & Ministry [M&M] Fund)	
150162 Balanced Fund - 54399	1,525,565.24
150163 Money Market - 54399	388,188.09
Total TPF - Acct #54399 (Mission & Ministry [M&M] Fund)	1,913,753.33
TPF - Acct #54400 (Candidate/Scholarship Fund)	
150164 Balanced Fund - 54400	144,745.31
150165 Money Market - 54400	36,831.21
Total TPF - Acct #54400 (Candidate/Scholarship Fund)	181,576.52
TPF - Acct #54401 (G.I.V.E. Fund)	
150166 Balanced Fund - 54401	786,704.81
150167 Money Market - 54401	200,181.18
Total TPF - Acct #54401 (G.I.V.E. Fund)	986,885.99
TPF - Acct #54402 (Sm ChurchSupport/Redevelopment)	
150168 Balanced Fund - 54402	305,338.28
150169 Money Market - 54402	77,694.92
Total TPF - Acct #54402 (Sm ChurchSupport/Redevelopment)	383,033.20
TPF - Acct #54404 (Campus Christian Life Fund)	
150172 Balanced Fund - 54404	45,691.87
150173 Money Market - 54404	11,626.53
Total TPF - Acct #54404 (Campus Christian Life Fund)	57,318.40
Total TPF	3,858,179.98
Total Long-Term Investments	4,377,709.98
Total Assets	**$ 4,802,576.16**
Liabilities & Net Assets	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
280020 Health Care Flexible Spending Account	(1,650.00)
280025 Option Dental - B of P	(668.43)
280030 Option Vision - B of P	(79.56)

280040 Supplemental Death	148.14
Total Current Liabilities	(2,249.85)
Total Liabilities	(2,249.85)
Net Assets	
Temporarily Restricted	
Pass-Through Funds	
Other Pass-Throughs	
840775 E.W. Matthew Memorial Fund	133.38
840850 Other Special Mission	100.00
850001 Youth Mission Trip Grant	(2,000.00)
850006 Ministry to Prisoners & Family Grants	(3,484.82)
850307 GA Meeting	(122.00)
850311 Green Grants	(1,629.00)
850520 Mission & Ministry (M&M) Fund	1,716.81
850530 Candidate/Scholarship Fund	53.34
850540 G.I.V.E. Fund	(7,325.00)
850660 Pastor's Assistance	(476.00)
850781 New Harvest	10,667.02
850782 Timmonsville	(3,298.63)
850783 Fraser Memorial	197,731.18
850784 Black Church Cornerstone Collaborative	9,082.99
850786 Marion	50,153.14
850980 Unrestricted Reserve	(3,650.00)
Total Other Pass-Throughs	247,652.41
Total Pass-Through Funds	247,652.41
Presbytery Invested Funds	
54398 Unrestricted Reserve and NHP Projects Fund	
800307 General Assembly Meeting	1,980.63
800311 Green Grants	14,200.00
800312 Youth Triennium	167.89
823006 Ministry to Prisoners & Family Grants	3,484.82
824001 Youth Mission Trip Grants	16,299.70
840640 NHP Mission Projects	10,545.00
840660 Pastor's Assistance	7,110.89
840715 Campus Ministry Grants	7,994.30
840740 NHP Disaster Assistance	26,239.12
840782 Timmonsville	8,519.32
840785 Peacemaking Grants	4,142.19
840980 Unrestricted Reserve	234,928.68
Total 54398 Unrestricted Reserve and NHP Projects Fund	335,612.54
54399 Mission & Ministry (M&M) Fund	
880520 Mission & Ministry (M&M) Fund	1,913,753.33
Total 54399 Mission & Ministry (M&M) Fund	1,913,753.33
54400 Candidate/Scholarship Fund	
880530 Candidate/Scholarship Fund	181,576.52
Total 54400 Candidate/Scholarship Fund	181,576.52
54401 G.I.V.E. Fund	
850111 New Covenant Funds PCFND	409,274.53
850114 PCUSA Invest & Loan Program (PILP)	110,255.47
880540 G.I.V.E. Fund	986,885.99
Total 54401 G.I.V.E. Fund	1,506,415.99
54402 Small Church Support/Redevelopment Fund	
880550 Small Church Support/Redevelopment Fund	383,033.20
Total 54402 Small Church Support/Redevelopment Fund	383,033.20
54404 Campus Christian Life Fund	
880570 Campus Christian Life Fund	57,318.40

Total 54404 Campus Christian Life Fund	57,318.40
Total Presbytery Invested Funds	4,377,709.98
Total Temporarily Restricted	4,625,362.39
Unrestricted Net Assets	
290010 Gen. Fund Principal (Excess Cash)	179,463.62
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	179,463.62
Total Net Assets	4,804,826.01
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	**$ 4,802,576.16**