



Called Meeting • April 20, 2023  
virtual via Zoom

## Agenda

- 6:45** Pre-meeting Preparation and Instructions for Virtual Meeting
- 7:00** Call to Order, Prayer, Land Acknowledgment  
and Welcome.....Teaching Elder Rosalind Banbury  
POJ Moderator, Bethlehem Church
- Adoption of the Agenda.....Ruling Elder Kenna Payne  
Westminster Church, Richmond
- Welcome of First-time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and Guests
- 7:05** Scripture Reading and Evening Prayer.....Teaching Elder Kim Clayton  
The Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg
- 7:15** Committee on Nominations.....Teaching Elder Walter Canter  
Blue Ridge Church
- 7:20** Book of Order Amendments.....Ruling Elder Steve Hicks  
POJ Stated Clerk, Mitchells Church
- Adjournment and Closing Prayer.....Teaching Elder Rosalind Banbury

## A Brief Guide and Reference Sheet to *Robert's Rules of Order*

*Robert's Rules of Order* is a guide for conducting meetings and making decisions. In order for the Presbytery to carry out its responsibilities in the most fair and orderly fashion, it is helpful for teaching and ruling elders to understand the rules of order which will be followed. Familiarity with the *Book of Order* is very helpful and, where our constitution is silent, we have the following:

“Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, except when it is in contradiction to this Constitution. Councils may also make use of processes of discernment in their deliberations prior to a vote as agreed upon by the body.” [*Book of Order*, G-3.0105]

With this in mind, the following brief overview of parliamentary procedure is provided for you. It will serve as the basis for the handling of the Presbytery's business. Your familiarity and attention to these basic rules of order will be most appreciated.

Precedence Order	Description	Second Required?	Debatable?	Amendable?	Vote Required?
<b>Main Motions</b>					
1	Main (Principal) - to present a recommendation for consideration by the body	No – if coming from a committee Yes – if coming from the floor	Yes	Yes	Majority
<b>Subsidiary Motions</b> In order of precedence					
2	Postpone indefinitely	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
3	Amend - substituting, inserting, striking out, or striking out and replacing	Yes	Yes	Yes, but only one at a time	Majority
4	Refer / Commit to a Committee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
5	Postpone - to a subsequent meeting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
6	Limit or Extend Debate	Yes	No	No	2/3 vote
7	Call for the Previous Question - to end debate	Yes	No	No	2/3 vote
8	Lay on the table until later in the meeting - to take up more urgent business	Yes	No	No	Majority
<b>Privileged Motions</b>					
9	Order of the Day	No	No	No	Chair decides
10	Question of Privilege	No	No	No	Chair decides
11	To Recess	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
12	To Adjourn	Yes	No	No	Majority
13	To Fix a Time to adjourn	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
<b>Incidental Motions</b>					
	Point of order	No	No	No	Chair decides
	Request for Information	No			
	Parliamentary Inquiry	No	No	No	No vote taken
	Question a Voice Vote	No	No	No	No vote taken
<b>Other Motions</b>					
	Reconsider - can only be made by a person on the prevailing side and for a decision of the same day	Yes	Yes - if the motion being reconsidered is debatable)	No	Majority

NOTE – the above list does not include all possible motions or actions included in *Robert's Rules of Order*.

## Voting on the 2022 General Assembly proposed Book of Order changes.

The proposed amendments to the Book of Order are presented in eleven categories with similar amendments in the same category. Each category will be presented as one voting item. An affirmative vote on the category adopts all the amendments in that category. Members do have the right to request specific amendments be set aside from the category to be considered and voted on separately.

It should be noted that no amendments to the proposed language will be allowed. These amendments were perfected at the 2022 General Assembly session and are presented to presbyteries for vote only.

A brief summary of the proposed amendment is presented below the amendment to be voted on. For a greater understanding of the amendment, it is recommended that members [download and read the General Assembly packet](#) that is available on the POJ website.

### 1. Proposed Church Discipline section

- 22-GG Replacing the Rules of Discipline with a New “Church Discipline” Section
- 22-D G-1.0503 Business Proper to Congregational Meetings
  - *Adds receiving a disciplinary decision against a church member (as opposed to a minister) to the list of proper business at a congregational meeting*

### 2. Proposed changes to “Rules of Discipline”--*\*note\* if 22-GG passes, then we will automatically affirm these four changes. The new Church Discipline section supersedes these changes.*

- 22-CC D-3.0106 When Jurisdiction Ends
  - *Allows a disciplinary process to continue after an accused has renounced jurisdiction*
- 22-DD D-10.0302 If Charges Are to Be Filed
  - *Grammatical change to an existing provision of the Rules of Discipline*
- 22-EE D-10.0303 Petition for Review
  - *Amends the current Rules of Discipline to include notifying the person accused if no charges will be filed (instead of just the person(s) who made the accusation)*
- 22-FF Amending the Use of “The Accused” in the Current Rules of Discipline
  - *Changes “the accused” to “the person accused” wherever it occurs in the current rules of Discipline*

### 3. Proposed changes to Foundations of Presbyterian Policy

- 22-A F-1.0302c The Catholicity of the Church
  - *Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity*
- 22-B F-1.0404 Openness
  - *Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity*

#### **4. Proposed changes to allow electronic meetings**

- 22-C G-1.0501 Meetings
  - *Establishes Robert’s Rules of Order (RONR) as the default parliamentary authority for congregational meetings, and authorizes electronic congregational meetings*
- 22-M G-3.0104 Officers
  - *Adds language that “it is appropriate” to adopt procedures for electronic session meetings*
- 22-N G-3.0105 Meetings
  - *Adds provision that all councils and their commissions and committees may meet electronically*

#### **5. Proposed changes to mandate boundary training**

- 22-G G-2.0603 Purpose of Inquiry
  - *Adds the requirement of boundary training during the inquiry phase of preparation for ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament*
- 22-H G-2.0605 Oversight
  - *Adds a requirement of sessions to “report to the presbytery of any matters of sexual misconduct” of their members who are enrolled as inquirers or candidates*
- 22-K G-2.1002 Training, Examining, and Commissioning
  - *Adds the requirement of boundary training for those elders seeking to be Commissioned Pastors*
- 22-L G-2.1103 Christian Educators
  - *Adds the requirement of boundary training for those elders seeking to be certified as Christian Educators*

#### **6. Proposed change from “honorably retired” to “retired”**

- 22-E G-2.0503 Categories of Membership
  - *Removes “honorably” before “retired” as the category for retired ministers*

#### **7. Proposed change to require family leave policy**

- 22-I G-2.0804 Terms of Call
  - *Adds the requirement of a minimum of twelve weeks of paid family leave in terms of call for all installed pastors/associate pastors*

## 8. Proposed changes to council policies

- 22-O G-3.0106 Administration of Mission
  - *Adds language regarding boundary training, including sexual abuse to the requirement for sexual misconduct policies required of councils*
- 22-P G-3.0106 Administration of Mission
  - *Adds the requirement of an antiracism policy to the required policies of councils, and clarifies other language in that list*
- 22-Q G-3.0303c Relations with Sessions
  - *Authorizes presbyteries to establish minimum requirements for severance packages in terms of call*

## 9. Proposed changes for synod representation and pastoral confidentiality

- 22-R G-3.0401 Composition and Responsibilities
  - *Authorizes synods to enroll those serving terms in elected offices of the synod as additional members of the synod as a way to fulfill principles of participation and representation*
- 22-S G-4.0301 Trust and Confidentiality
  - *Expands and clarifies “confidentiality” requirements for ministers and commissioned pastors*

## 10. Proposed changes for transfer of ministers and CREs

- 22-F G-2.0505a(1) Transfer of Ministers from Other Denominations
  - *Adds the requirement to consult with the other denomination when receiving immigrant pastors without otherwise acceptable PC(USA) ordination educational requirements*
- 22-J G-2.1001 Functions
  - *Adds language allowing Commissioned Pastors to be commissioned to more than one validated ministry at a time*

## 11. Proposed Changes to Directory for Worship

- 22-T W-3.0205 Confession and Forgiveness
  - *Adds administration of the sacrament of Baptism to the list of appropriate actions following the proclamation of forgiveness in a service of worship*
- 22-U W-3.0409 Theology of the Lord’s Supper
  - *Adds “when appropriate” to the recommended act of providing an invitation to baptismal preparation for those who come to the table who are unbaptized*
- 22-V W-3.0414 Communion
  - *Removes the current requirement that a minister of the Word and Sacrament lead the prayer of thanksgiving that concludes the Lord’s Supper liturgy*

- 22-W W-4.0403 Order of Worship
  - *Adds a sentence about “signs and symbols of blessing” to the section on ordination and installation services*
- 22-X W-5.0104 Household Worship
  - *Adds a sentence on the importance of household worship in faith formation in the Reformed tradition*
- 22-Y W-5.0104 Household Worship
  - *Adds an additional paragraph to the existing section on household worship*
- 22-Z W-5.0201 The Church’s Ministry within the Community of Faith
  - *Adds “discipleship” to a list of the Church’s ministries that are connected to its worship, and adds references to statements in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity*
- 22-AA W-5.0204 Pastoral Care
  - *Adds “particular specialized pastoral care” rather than adding to an existing list of such specialties*
- 22-BB W-5.0204 Pastoral Care
  - *Adds “particular specialized pastoral care” rather than adding to an existing list of such specialties*