

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

AMENDMENT	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE	RECOMMENDATION
10-A	Gifts and Requirements (Substitution in Ordination Requirements)	NONE	NONE
10-B	Removing Stated Clerk or Clerk of Session (Procedure for removing a Stated Clerk)	Council	APPROVE
10-C	Requiring Sexual Misconduct Policy	Council	APPROVE
10-D	Nominating Committees (Removes mandatory one-third requirement)	Nominating	APPROVE
10-E	Presbytery Rolls and Registers (Requires lists of CCE/CACEs & CLPs)	Christian Education	APPROVE
10-F	Certified Christian Educators (CCEs who are elders can have voice and vote at Presbytery meetings)	Christian Education	APPROVE
10-G	Synod Function (Permits reduced functions and shared services of Synods)	Council	APPROVE
10-H	Nominations Process (Removes mandatory one-third requirement)	Nominating	APPROVE
10-I	Prayer Added to Ordination and Installation Services	Council	APPROVE
10-J	Stay of Enforcement (Facilitates the filing and challenges of stays)	PJC	APPROVE
10-K	Preliminary Questions (Make dismissal automatic if there is no challenge)	PJC	APPROVE
10-L	Reviewing Work of Investigating Committee (Prevents repetitive allegations)	PJC	APPROVE
10-M	Time Limit (Allows more time to learn about offenses)	PJC	DISAPPROVE
10-N	Appeal of “Not Guilty” Verdict (Limits the right of the appeal to the accused)	PJC	DISAPPROVE
10-O	Decision of Permanent Judicial Commission (If prosecuting committee appeal is sustained, PJC shall remand the case for a new trial)	PJC	APPROVE

APPROVED CONSIDERATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

I. CONSENT LIST (To be voted on as a group)

(Any Commissioner may remove any item.)	(Recommendation)
10-B. Removing Stated Clerk or Clerk of Session	Approve
10-C. Requiring Sexual Misconduct Policy	Approve
10-D. Nominating Committees	Approve
10-E. Presbytery Rolls and Registers	Approve
10-F. Certified Christian Educators	Approve
10-G. Synod Function	Approve
10-H. Nominations Process	Approve
10-I. Prayer Added to Ordination and Installation Services	Approve
10-J. Stay of Enforcement	Approve
10-K. Preliminary Questions	Approve
10-L. Reviewing Work of Investigating Committee	Approve
10-M. Time Limit	Disapprove
10-N. Appeal of “Not Guilty” Verdict	Disapprove
10-O. Decision of Permanent Judicial Commission	Approve

II. Debate and Vote on any item removed from the Consent List.

III. Debate and Vote (by written ballot) on Proposed Amendment.

10-A Gifts and Requirements (Ordination Standards) (See page HH-3)

Rules Proposed by Coordinating Council (for Part III above):

1. Please observe the attached “Seeking to be Faithful Together” (HH-4) and some basic parliamentary rules (refer to Rules for Debate included in packet).
2. Discussion will begin with Silent Prayer.
3. Coordinating Council will assign one Pro Speaker (*Elder Bill Rupp, Grace Covenant*) and one Con Speaker (*Elder Jeff Crisp, Lenoir First*) (7 minutes each).
 - Up to one hour will be allotted for any subsequent speakers. Motions to end debate will not be in order.
 - Subsequent speakers will be limited to two minutes each (thoughtful conciseness will permit more to speak). No one can speak twice.
 - The Moderator will attempt to alternate Pro and Con speakers (lined up at different microphones)
4. There will be no recording of this debate, either audio or video. The actions of the Presbytery will be in the official minutes.
5. Discussion will end with Silent Prayer.
6. Only then please mark your ballot, fold once, and pass it along to the central aisle for the Tellers to count and report to the Moderator.

*“Christians who can no longer listen to one another
will soon no longer be listening to God either.”*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“To God alone be the glory.”

The 219th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Has sent to the presbyteries a host of amendments to ratify or disapprove including: Amendment 10-A G-6.0106b

CURRENT TEXT

Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

PROPOSED TEXT

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates."

Seeking to be Faithful Together:
Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will...

<p>Give them a hearing... listen before we answer</p> <p><i>John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13</i></p>	<p>1 Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange, - we will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others. <p>2 Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.</p> <p>3 State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.</p>
<p>Speak the truth in love</p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:15</i></p>	<p>4 Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.</p> <p>5 Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion. <p>6 Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.</p>
<p>Maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace</p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:3</i></p>	<p>7 Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.</p> <p>8 Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven. <p>9 Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously; - seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement; - be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience; - abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways which are consistent with these Guidelines. <p>10 Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.</p>