

**GENERAL COUNCIL**  
**Sarah Thornburg, Chair**  
**April 25, 2023**

The General Council of the Presbytery submits the following as information:

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

1. **THAT the General Council presents three (3) amendments to the Presbytery as part of their report for your consideration. (General Council Attachment 1)**
  - 22-O (adds language regarding boundary training)
  - 22-T (adds to list of appropriate actions)
  - 22-U (adds language regarding invitation to baptism for those who come to the table)
  
2. **THAT the General Council approved a request from the Montreat Presbyterian Church that an offering to be received at the Presbytery meeting on April 25, 2023 and to be designated for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Earthquake Relief.**
  
3. **THAT the General Council granted permission to the First Presbyterian Church, Burnsville in Burnsville, NC, to sell a piece of property that is not being utilized in the church’s ministry.**
  
4. **THAT the following Small Church Synod Grant was awarded at the 251<sup>st</sup> Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Assembly in March 2023:**  
     Sweetwater Presbyterian Church - \$5,000
  
5. **THAT the General Council approved the grant application developed by the Missions Committee for the \$200,000 fund previously created by General Council.**
  
6. **THAT a list of upcoming PWNC events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.**
  
7. **THAT the following dates have been set for 2023 and 2024 Presbytery Meetings:**

**2023**  
     Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – Montreat Conference Center  
     Saturday, July 29, 2023 - Virtual  
     Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – Southminster Presbyterian Church

**2024**  
     Saturday, January 27, 2024 – Virtual  
     Tuesday, April 30, 2024 – Montreat Conference Center  
     Saturday, July 27, 2024 – Virtual  
     Tuesday, October 29, 2024 – Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian
  
8. **THAT the General Council reports approval of the following Regional and International Daily Change Hunger Grants:**

Agency	Requested Amount	Approved Amount
<b>Regional Requests</b>		

Feeding Avery Families	\$10,000	\$5,000
Clay Co Food Pantry	\$5,000	\$5,000
Haywood Christian Ministry (Healthy Food)	\$7,000	\$5,000
LINC Home Meals	\$5,000	\$5,000
N Buncombe Snack Sacks	\$3,100	\$3,000
<b>International Requests</b>		
Nkhoma Hospital-Malawi (Children's Ward/patient nutrition)	\$23,000	\$15,000

# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1

## 22-O — G-3.0106

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COUNCILS

#### G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION (HSB-05 9)

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

**Shall G-3.0106 in the Form of Government be amended as follows?**

(Added text is in *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 a sexual misconduct policy and a child and youth protection 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.*”**

#### **Background and Rationale**

This proposed amendment originated as a recommendation from the GA Health Safety and Benefits Committee as Recommendation 9 attached to the Survivors of Sexual Misconduct Task Force recommendations. The HSB committee concluded that the denomination needs to mandate boundary training and child protection training for all members of councils including sessions of congregations, presbyteries, synods and the general assembly.

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The Assembly Committee on Health Safety and Benefits amended the original Recommendation 4 and then approved Item HSB-05 9, 36/2. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item HSB-05 9, 351/24.

For the full report on HSB-05, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000084/business>.

## 22-T — W-3.0205

### GATHERING

#### W-3.0205 CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (TWE-05 1)

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

#### **Shall W-3.0205 in the Directory for Worship amended as follows?**

(Added text is in *italics*.)

#### **“W-3.0205 Confession and Forgiveness ...**

**“... Other actions may follow—a song of praise, such as ‘Glory be to the Father’ or ‘Glory to God’; a summary of the law or call to faithfulness; *the sacrament of baptism*; and the sharing of peace as a sign of reconciliation in Christ.”**

#### **Background and Rationale**

The recommendations in TWE-05 are in response to the following referral: 2018 Referral: Item 14-02. On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship. Recommendation 1.–10. The Assembly Referred Recommendations 1.–10. To the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (*Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 14, 17, 355–58 of the print copy, pp. 1198–1205 of the electronic copy). This amendment acknowledges the common practice of celebrating the sacrament of baptism early in the Service for the Lord’s Day while retaining the Reformed emphasis on baptism as a response to the Word.

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

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) to disapprove Recommendation 1 of Item TWE-05. Recommendation 1 seeks to amend W-3.0205, a section in the Directory for Worship that describes confession and forgiveness as an element of the worship service. The proposed language would articulate the possibility that the sacrament of baptism might be administered following confession and proclamation of forgiveness in the worship service.

Although the language of this recommendation is clear and consistent with its intent, the ACC finds that it is unnecessary. Reformed theology commonly links Word and Sacrament as in W-1.0106, but W-3.0307 already provides for the sacrament of baptism to ordinarily be in response to the Word. It does not require that the sacrament only be administered at that time in the service.

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The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education approved Item TWE-05 1, 30/2. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item TWE-05 1, 395/4.

For the full report on TWE-05, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000081/business>.

## 22-U — W-3.0409

### SACRAMENT

#### W-3.0409 THEOLOGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (TWE-05 2)

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

**Shall W-3.0409 in the Directory of Worship be amended as follows?**

(Added text is in *italics*.)

**“W-3.0409     Theology of the Lord’s Supper ...**

**“... The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy, but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love. All who come to the table are offered the bread and cup, regardless of their age or understanding. If some of those who come have not yet been baptized, an invitation, *when appropriate*, to baptismal preparation and Baptism should be graciously extended.”**

#### **Background and Rationale**

The recommendations in TWE-05 are in response to the following referral: 2018 Referral: Item 14-02. On Amending Portions of the Directory for Worship. Recommendation 1.–10. The Assembly Referred Recommendations 1.–10. To the Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of Theology and Worship—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe (*Minutes*, 2018, Part I, pp. 14, 17, 355–58 of the print copy, pp. 1198–1205 of the electronic copy).

This amendment provides for gracious hospitality at the Lord’s Supper, emphasizes the theological connection between the sacraments, and underscores pastoral discretion in the invitation to baptism.

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

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises the 225th General Assembly (2022) to disapprove Recommendation 2 of Item TWE-05. This recommendation seeks to amend W-3.0409 to emphasize pastoral discretion regarding an invitation to baptismal preparation when persons who have not previously been baptized participate in the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. The ACC finds that the proposed change has the potential to weaken the link between baptism and the Lord’s Supper. The use of “should,” rather than the mandatory “shall,” already provides latitude for pastoral discretion in determining the appropriateness of an invitation to baptismal preparation.

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The Assembly Committee on Theology, Worship, and Education approved Item TWE-05 2, 30/2. The 225th General Assembly (2022) approved Item TWE-05 2, 395/4.

For the full report on TWE-05, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/3000081/business>.