

BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

Listening Session for Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Order* from the 2016 General Assembly on December 10 at First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul.

On Saturday, December 10, 9:00 a.m., at First Presbyterian Church in South St. Paul, we will host a listening session on proposed amendments to the *Book of Order* that were passed last summer by the 2016 General Assembly. All in our presbytery who would like to ask questions about these amendments and offer their own insights are welcome to attend.

We ask that the presbytery vote on these proposed amendments during its meeting on Saturday, January 21.

Please keep watching our presbytery's website for further details.

The Office of the General Assembly (OGA) has prepared a summary of all proposed amendments to the *Book of Order* at:

http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/2016_proposed_boa.pdf

Please note that the OGA's summary does *not* include full details about rationales of originally proposed amendments, precisely how the original overtures were amended (in committee or in plenary session), and also about advice from standing committees of the General Assembly (e.g., the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, or ACC). The above OGA document contains links at the end of each amendment to the website <http://www.pc-biz.org>. When you get to the appropriate webpage for a particular proposed amendment, click on the item number referred to in the OGA's summary to access further details.

The Association of Stated Clerks has also prepared a resource that compiles arguments for and against each proposed amendment that were expressed in committee. This Word document is called "2016 Analysis of Amendments to the Constitution GA 2016.docx," which is on the webpage: <http://www.statedclerks.org/resources>.

One proposed amendment is a complete re-write of the *Book of Order's* "Directory for Worship." A 36-minute webinar that gives an overview of a prior draft of the proposed Directory for Worship is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZmODxRuGTpU>.

An Overture to the PTCA regarding *Citizens United*

Last summer, an overture from Oak Grove Presbyterian Church (Bloomington, MN) was forwarded to the Bills & Overtures Committee in support of a "Move to Amend" the U.S. Constitution to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 *Citizens United* decision, to establish

that corporations are not persons and money is not speech. The committee will schedule a listening session at a future date.

While our presbytery must decide for itself what action to take on "Move to Amend," the 2016 General Assembly approved the statement "Election Protection and Integrity in Campaign Finance" written by the GA's Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP), which (in part) *"Supports the restoration of meaningful limits for political contributions by corporations, unions, political action committees, superPACs ("527's"), and individuals, while eliminating the capacity of 501.c.4's and 501.c.6's (nonprofit social welfare organizations) to contribute to election campaigns and political referenda."* You can read this statement and its accompanying rationale on www.pc-biz.org, 222nd General Assembly (2016), Assembly Committee: [11] Social Justice Issues, Item 11-13.

Please feel free to send questions or comments to the committee at bando@ptcaweb.org.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Soulen, Chair