

**16-E. Certified Service Requirements
On Amending G-2.1101 (Item 06-15)**

A.13

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.1101 be amended as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“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 ~~in a handbook provided by~~ 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.”

Background and Rationale

This proposed amendment originated as an overture from the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA) as Item 06-15. COGA offered the following rationale:

Current language in the *Book of Order* calling for a “handbook” seems antiquated and limiting. Most organizations maintain certification requirements on-line or in other electronic formats. This change would provide clarification and reflect current practice.

Advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The Advisory Committee on the Constitution recommended that the 222nd General Assembly (2016) approve Item 06-15 for the reasons cited in the rationale.

The Assembly Committee on Church Polity and Ordered Ministry (06) voted to approve Item 06-15 59/0. The 222nd General Assembly (2016) approved the committee’s recommendation by consensus.

For the full report of Item 06-15 <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/committee/563/business>