

## 2018 Proposed Book of Order Amendments

The Bills and Overtures Committee recommended that the amendments referred to the Presbytery of Milwaukee by the General Assembly be approved or disapproved as listed in this report, and on November 27, 2018, their recommendations were confirmed. Below are the final results of the PC(USA) voting.

Proposed Amendment	Bills & Overtures Committee Recommendation	PC(USA) Presbytery Voting Results
<b>18-A</b> <b>G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons</b> <p><b>“Ruling elders and deacons are men and women elected by the congregation from among its members. The nomination and election of ruling elders and deacons shall express the rich diversity of the congregation’s membership and shall guarantee participation and inclusiveness (F-1.0403). Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from and representative of its membership. <i>Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee. The rule shall meet the following criteria: (1) the minimum size of the committee as specified in the rule shall be at least three persons; (2) at least one member of the committee shall be an elder currently serving on session; and (3) a majority of those persons on the committee who are eligible to vote shall consist of persons not currently serving on session.</i> The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote. When elections are held, full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. A majority of all the active members present and voting shall be required to elect.”</b></p>	<b>Approve</b> This amendment provides clarification about the rules for nominating committees.	<b>Approved</b>
<b>18-B.1 &amp; 18-B.2</b> <b>G-2.0509</b> <p><b>“No congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be permitted to employ, for pay or as a volunteer, a former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused.</b></p> <p><b>“Any former minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) who has renounced jurisdiction and later wants to be restored to office can be restored only through application to the presbytery in which he or she renounced jurisdiction for restoration to office, in which case the provisions of D-10.0401d and D-12.0200 shall apply.”</b></p>	<b>Disapprove</b> These two amendments do nothing but make the process more confused and open the process to increased interpretation.	<b>Approved</b>
<b>D-10.0401d</b> <p><b>“For instances where a former minister of the Word and Sacrament who renounced jurisdiction while being accused in a disciplinary case rejoins the church, no time limit from the time of the commission of the alleged</b></p>		

<p>offense to the filing of charges shall apply. Charges based on all accusations that had been made by the time that the former minister of the Word and Sacrament had renounced jurisdiction may be brought regardless of the date on which any such offense is alleged to have occurred."</p>		
<p><b>18-C</b>  <b>G-3.0104</b>  <i>"No congregation, session, presbytery, synod, or national office of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), nor any individual acting on behalf of or in an official capacity for the above institutions, shall publicly endorse or oppose, or otherwise encourage or discourage others to vote for or against an individual running for public office."</i></p>	<p><b>Disapprove</b>  This amendment is not needed at the current time since the Johnson Amendment is still in force.  Additionally, it opens too many roads for additional judicial cases.</p>	<b>Disapproved</b>
<p><b>18-D</b>  <b>Fourth paragraph of G-3.0306</b>  <i>"Every minister of the Word and Sacrament shall ordinarily be a member of the presbytery where his or her work is situated or of the presbytery where she or he resides. The presbytery may grant a minister permission to engage in work validated ministry that is outside its geographic bounds or which is not under its jurisdiction, but no presbytery shall permit a minister to engage in work that is within the geographic bounds of another presbytery and which is properly within the responsibility of another presbytery without consent of that presbytery. Such permission shall be obtained from both presbyteries and shall be reviewed and renewed annually."</i></p>	<p><b>Approve</b>  Clarifies the relationship of presbyteries when members are laboring outside bounds.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
<p><b>18-E</b>  <b>G-3.0307 Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and Congregations</b>  <i>"Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations.</i>  <i>"Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor and counselor to its ministers of the Word and Sacrament commissioned pastors (also known as commissioned ruling elders]), and certified Christian educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, ministers of the Word and Sacrament, commissioned pastors, and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient."</i></p>	<p><b>Approve</b>  Provides clarification about the presbytery acting as pastor to enrolled members of the presbytery.</p>	<b>Approved</b>
<p><b>18-F</b>  <b>W-4.0202 Welcoming to the Table</b></p>	<p><b>Approve</b></p>	<b>Approved</b>

<p><b>"In cases where baptized children who have not yet begun to participate in the Lord's Supper express a desire to receive the Sacrament, <i>they shall be welcomed to the table and the session should ensure they receive ongoing instruction or formation in the meaning and mystery of the Sacraments.</i>"</b></p>	<p>Simplifies language about communion for children who have not been confirmed.</p>	
<p><b>18-G</b>  <b>D-2.0203b</b>  <b>"b. An offense is any act or omission by a member or a person in an ordered ministry of the church that is contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). <i>Sexual abuse as defined in Section D-10.0401c shall be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules.</i>"</b></p>	<p><b>Disapprove</b>  Language is redundant to other rules. Additionally, the current Rules of Discipline are undergoing significant revision to be presented at the next GA.</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p>
<p><b>18-H.1 and 18-H.2</b>  <b>D-10.0401b</b>  <b>"b. For instances of sexual abuse of another person, the five-year time limit shall not apply. <i>There is also no time limit for charging that a person who knew or reasonably should have known of the reasonable risk of sexual abuse of another as defined in D-10.0401c(1) or (2) failed to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk. Both charges may be brought regardless of the date on which an offense is alleged to have occurred.</i>"</b></p> <p><b>D-10.0401c(1)</b>  <b>"(1) any person under the age of eighteen years or anyone without the capacity to consent; or"</b></p>	<p><b>Approve</b>  Provides clarification about time limits for charges in the case of sexual abuse and knowledge thereof.</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p>