

1
2
3 **Item _____**
4

5 ***2004 Referral: Item 04-12 On Undertaking a Cycle of Consultation Regarding the Form of***
6 ***Government--Office of the General Assembly (Minutes, 2004, Part I, p. 86).***
7

8 ***Response: Office of the General Assembly recommends that the 217th General Assembly***
9 ***(2006) answer the Item 04-12 by approval of the following actions:***
10

11 **1. That, in consultation with the General Assembly Nominating Committee, the**
12 **Moderators of the 215th, the 216th, and the 217th (2003, 2004, 2006) General Assemblies**
13 **appoint a Form of Government Task Force (hereafter FOG Task Force) composed of**
14 **composed of nine members including: at least one clerk of session, one session**
15 **moderator, one new immigrant pastor, one executive/general presbyter, one stated**
16 **clerk, one committee on preparation for ministry member/staff, one committee on**
17 **ministry member/staff, and one member of the Advisory Committee on the**
18 **Constitution; and**
19

20 **a. That the 217th General Assembly (2006) instruct the FOG Task Force to**
21 **undertake a revision of the Form of Government in light of the foci and**
22 **priorities described in 1) – 5) below and bring it back to the 218th General**
23 **Assembly (2008).**
24

25 **1) The new Form of Government shall preserve our foundational polity (perhaps**
26 **most concisely laid out in the first four chapters of the current Form of**
27 **Government.)**
28

29 **2) The focus of the Form of Government shall be on providing leadership for local**
30 **congregations as missional communities.**
31

32 **3) The presbytery shall continue as the central governmental unit, as it has been**
33 **throughout most of our history. The Form of Government shall provide**
34 **sufficient authority and flexibility to allow the presbytery to assist congregations**
35 **in addressing the changing cultural, economic, and societal challenges in our**
36 **new millennial world. The FOG Task Force shall take notice of and address the**
37 **institutional and structural impediments that currently cripple so very many of**
38 **our presbyteries.**
39

40 **4) The new Form of Government shall provide flexibility at all levels, granting**
41 **authority while permitting governing bodies to develop the structures to carry**
42 **out their respective missions.**
43

44 **5) The FOG Task Force shall be guided by the principles proposed by**
45 **recommendations 1-4 from the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity and**
46 **Purity of the Church, using those principles as a guide for its own processes and**
47 **deliberations. They shall incorporate this new Presbyterian ethos into the Form**

48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72

of Government so that it truly functions as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s guidebook for mission.¹

- b. As the FOG Task Force considers its proposals of the Form of Government, G-6.0106b and G-8.0201 shall be excluded from this process. The 217th General Assembly (2006) has overtures proposing changes in both provisions; such proposals should be considered on their own merits outside of this Constitutional Renewal project. Both provisions have the capacity to obfuscate the Constitutional Renewal efforts.**

- 2. That the 217th General Assembly (2006) direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed revision of Chapter 14 of the Form of Government (Amendments A)-to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes.- If the revision is approved, the Stated Clerk shall be authorized to make editorial changes as may be needed to conform other sections of the *Book of Order* (including internal cross-references) to the changes and report such changes to the 218th General Assembly (2008).**

- 3. That the 217th General Assembly (2006) direct the Stated Clerk to send the following six additional separate amendment possibilities (Amendments B), to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes, and that the Stated Clerk be authorized, for any of these amendments that may be approved, to make editorial changes as may be needed to conform other sections of the *Book of Order* (including internal cross-references) to the changes and report such changes to the 218th General Assembly (2008).**

¹ 1. The Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church recommends that the 217th General Assembly (2006) strongly encourage:

- a. every member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the church’s visible oneness, to avoid division into separate denominations that obscure our community in Christ, and to live in harmony with other members of this denomination, so that we may with one voice together glorify God in Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit; and
- b. all sessions, congregations, presbyteries, and synods to renew and strengthen their covenanted partnership with one another and with the General Assembly.

2. The Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church recommends that the 217th General Assembly (2006) urge governing bodies, congregations, and other groups of Presbyterians to follow the example of the task force and other groups that, in the face of difficult issues, have engaged in processes of intensive discernment through worship, community building, study, and collaborative work.

3. The Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church recommends that the 217th General Assembly (2006) commend for study the Theological Reflection that heads the task force report.

4. The Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church recommends that the 217th General Assembly (2006) direct the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, and urge those who plan and moderate meetings of other governing bodies, to explore the use of alternative forms of discernment and decision-making as a complement to parliamentary procedure, especially in dealing with potentially divisive issues.

73 **Summary for Response to Referral of Item 04-12**

74
75 A. This is the response of the Office of the General Assembly to a referral from the 216th
76 General Assembly (2004), which directed consultation across the denomination regarding
77 interest in a revised Form of Government. This comes after more than fifteen years of
78 requests to substantively revise this part of the *Book of Order* (see Appendix A). The
79 OGA has widely consulted with many groups in the Church and offers this response:
80

- 81 1. A request that a Task Force be appointed to draft a proposal for a new simplified
82 Form of Government to be brought to the 218th General Assembly.
- 83 2. A proposal for immediate simplification of current Chapter 14 of our Form of
84 Government to provide more flexibility to presbyteries in candidacy and minister
85 placements.
- 86 3. A proposal for six other amendments to Chapter 14 to be sent, each to be voted upon
87 separately, in response to requests from around the denomination.
88

89 B. The parts that make up the response are the following:

- 90 1. **Proposed Action for the 217th General Assembly (2006)** which includes:
91 a) **Recommendation to create the Form of Government Task Force**
92 b) **Recommendation for changes to Chapter 14** – gives the recommendations
93 OGA makes to the GA to be acted on and the rationale for those
94 recommendations; and includes:
95 2. **Amendments A**, contains
96 a) **Amendment A.1.** - the changed wording of Chapter 14, (this revision includes a
97 re-ordering and a simplifying of the current Chapter 14 that does not intend to
98 introduce new or different provisions or practice), and
99 b) **Amendments A.2.** - the accompanying amendments to other chapters.
100 3. **Amendments B.1-6** are individual amendments that will be voted on separately; each
101 contains a short rationale explaining why it is included. They reflect strong desires of
102 many Presbyterians with whom OGA consulted in preparing this response.
103 4. **Table of Contents and Cross-Reference document** in new Chapter 14 order, to aid
104 in finding the location of all Chapter 14 paragraphs
105 5. **Cross-Reference document** in current Chapter 14 order, to aid in finding the
106 location of all Chapter 14 paragraphs
107 6. **Rationale** for this response, including **Appendix A**, which gives the **background** of
108 15 years of requests for change to the Form of Government
109

110 C. **What is different in the revised Chapter 14?**

- 111 1. slightly different numbering of paragraphs
- 112 2. creation of advisory handbooks; some material will be moved into such handbooks
- 113 3. condenses inquiry and candidacy processes – moves most details to a Handbook
- 114 4. collapses pastoral positions – installed (permanent or designated) & temporary
- 115 5. combines certified Christian educators and other certified persons into one section
- 116 6. moves sections on dissolution of relationship for elders and deacons & release from
117 ordained office to Chapter 6
- 118 7. moves paragraph on validated ministry to Chapter 11 with similar subject matter

119
120
121
122
123
124
125
126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
135
136
137
138
139
140
141
142
143
144
145
146
147
148
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
159
160
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168

Amendments A.

The Office of the General Assembly recommends that the 217th General Assembly (2006) direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments (revision of Chapter XIV, and amendments to the Preface and in Chapters VI, IX, and XI to facilitate some of the revisions) to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Amendment A.1.

Shall Chapter XIV be amended by striking the existing text and inserting the following in its place:
[Text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

“CHAPTER XIV. ORDINATION, CERTIFICATION, AND COMMISSIONING

“G-14.0100 Leadership in the Church

“G-14.0110 Servant Style

“The purpose and pattern of leadership in the church in all its forms of ministry shall be understood not in terms of power but of service, after the manner of the servant ministry of Jesus Christ.

“G-14.0120 Ordained Ministry

“Ordination is the act by which the church sets apart persons to be presbyters (ministers of the Word and Sacrament or elders) or deacons, and is accompanied with prayer and the laying on of hands. Ordination to the office of minister of the Word and Sacrament is an act of the presbytery. Ordination to the offices of elder and deacon is an act of the session, except that when a new church is organized, the presbytery may examine, ordain, and install the officers. (G-7.0202)

“G-14.0130 Certified Ministry

“Persons called to particular service in the church may be certified by recognized agencies affiliated with the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as having achieved proficiency in their field of expertise. The congregation and presbytery, in appropriate services, may recognize such certification. (See G-14.0700.)

“G-14.0140 Commissioned Ministry

“In the life of the Christian community God calls people to particular acts of discipleship to use their personal gifts for service in the Church and in the world. These specific acts may be strengthened and confirmed by formal recognition and commissioning in worship. (W-4.3000)

“G-14.0200 Preparation for the Office of Elder and Deacon

“G-14.0210 The Office of Elder or Deacon

169 *“The office of elder or deacon is perpetual and no one can lay it aside at pleasure or be*
170 *divested of it except as provided in this Form of Government or the Rules of Discipline. Elders or*
171 *deacons are not divested of office when rotating out of active service on the session or board of*
172 *deacons, or by ceasing to be a member of that church. Elders shall be entitled to be commissioners to*
173 *presbytery from the particular church of which they are members if appointed by its session and to*
174 *serve as a commissioner to the synod or the General Assembly when duly elected, whether or not they*
175 *are in active service on the session.*

176
177
178 **“G-14.0220 Election Provisions**

179
180 **“G-14.0221 Fair Representation**

181
182 *“Every congregation shall elect men and women from among its active members, giving fair*
183 *representation to persons of all ages and of all racial ethnic backgrounds and to persons with*
184 *disabilities who are members of that congregation, to the office of elder and to the office of deacon (if*
185 *used in the congregation).*

186
187 **“G-14.0222 Terms**

188
189 *“An elder serving on session, or a deacon on a board of deacons, shall be elected for a term of*
190 *no more than three years, and service in consecutive terms, either full or partial, shall be limited to six*
191 *years. An elder or deacon having served a total of six years shall be ineligible for reelection to the same*
192 *board for a period of at least one year. A particular church may provide for a period of ineligibility*
193 *after one full term. Elders or deacons shall be elected in two or three classes as nearly equal in number*
194 *as possible, of which only one shall expire each year. Terms of elders or deacons shall expire when*
195 *their successors have been ordained and installed.*

196
197 **“G-14.0223 Nominating Committee**

198
199 *“Nominations shall be made by a representative nominating committee of active members of*
200 *the church. The committee shall itself include both women and men, giving fair representation to*
201 *persons of all age groups, of all racial ethnic members, and of persons with disabilities who are*
202 *members of that congregation. At least two members of this committee shall be elders designated by the*
203 *session, one of whom shall be currently on the session and serve as moderator of the committee. At*
204 *least one member of this committee shall be designated by and from the board of deacons, if the church*
205 *has deacons. Other members of the committee, in sufficient number to constitute a majority thereof*
206 *(exclusive of the pastor), shall be chosen by the congregation or by such organizations within the*
207 *church as the congregation may designate, none of whom may be in active service on the session or in*
208 *active service on the board of deacons. The pastor shall be a member of this committee, serving ex*
209 *officio and without vote.*

210
211 **“G-14.0224 Elected Annually**

212
213 *“The nominating committee shall be elected by the congregation annually and no member of*
214 *the committee shall serve more than three years consecutively.*

215
216 **“G-14.0225 Nominating Procedures**

217
218 *“All nominating procedures shall be subject to the principles of participation and*
219 *representation as stated in G-4.0403 and G-9.0104.*

221 **“G-14.0226 Exemptions for Certain Congregations**

222
223 *“The presbytery may approve requests by congregations for exemption from certain of these*
224 *rules, subject to review periodically by the presbytery, which may grant or revoke its approval:*

225
226 *“a. When a particular church is unable to conform to the provisions of G-14.0221, it shall*
227 *request of presbytery a waiver, stating the reasons for noncompliance and shall outline a plan for steps*
228 *to compliance. Presbytery may grant the waiver of G-14.0221 by three-fourths vote and for not more*
229 *than three years, subject to renewal by a three-fourths vote and to revocation by a majority vote.*

230
231 *“b. Any congregation of fewer than seventy members, at a regular congregational meeting,*
232 *may request approval from the presbytery to elect a small church nominating committee, which shall*
233 *consist of one member of the session, appointed by the session to be the moderator, and at least two*
234 *members of the congregation not in active service on the session. The pastor shall be a member ex*
235 *officio and without vote. Other provisions of fair representation and length of service continue to*
236 *apply.*

237
238 *“c. If in any church it is impossible because of limited membership to provide for the*
239 *rotation of terms, the congregation may request a waiver of the limitations on reelection after six years.*
240 *The presbytery may grant the exemption by majority vote for three years at a time, subject to renewal or*
241 *revocation at any time by majority vote.*

242
243 **“G-14.0230 Congregational Meeting**

244
245 *“The election of elders and deacons shall take place at a meeting of the congregation called for*
246 *that purpose by the session (G-7.0302).*

247 **“G-14.0231 Purpose of the Meeting**

248 *“The moderator shall explain the purpose of the meeting.*

249
250 **“G-14.0232 Nominations from the Floor**

251
252 *“Full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nominations by any active*
253 *member of the church present at the meeting. Persons to be nominated from the floor shall have given*
254 *prior permission to be nominated and declared assent to serve if elected, or, if present, shall be asked to*
255 *declare willingness to serve.*

256 **“G-14.0233 Ballots**

257 *“When the number of nominees equals the number of elders and deacons to be elected, the*
258 *congregation may vote by voice vote or show of hands. When the number of nominees is greater than*
259 *the number of elders and deacons to be elected, the congregation shall vote by secret ballot. A majority*
260 *of all the voters present and voting shall be required to elect.*

261
262 **“G-14.0240 Preparation and Examination for Office**

263
264 *“When persons have been elected to the office of elder or deacon, the session shall confer with*
265 *them as to their willingness to undertake the office. The session shall provide for a period of study and*
266 *preparation, after which the session shall examine the officers-elect as to their personal faith;*
267 *knowledge of the doctrine, government, and discipline contained in the Constitution of the church;*
268 *and the duties of the office. If the examination is approved, the session shall appoint a day for the*
269 *service of ordination and installation (see G-14.0300). If the examination is not approved for one or*

270 *more elected officers, the session shall report its action to the congregation’s nominating committee,*
271 *which shall bring nomination(s) to a meeting of the congregation for any office(s) not filled.*
272

273
274 **“G-14.0300 *Ordination as Officers of the Church***
275

276 **“G-14.0310 *Service of Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning***
277

278 *“The service of ordination and installation for elders, deacons, or ministers of the Word and*
279 *Sacrament, and for the commissioning of certified Christian educators, certified persons and*
280 *commissioned lay pastors, shall focus upon Christ and the joy and responsibility of serving him*
281 *through the mission and ministry of the church, and shall include a sermon appropriate to the*
282 *occasion. The minister presiding shall state briefly the nature of the office.*
283

284 **“G-14.0320 *Setting of the Service***
285

286 *“The service of ordination and installation, or commissioning, may take place during the*
287 *Service for the Lord’s Day as a response to the proclamation of the Word. (W-3.3503) Ordination and*
288 *installation, or commissioning, may also take place in a special service that focuses upon Jesus Christ*
289 *and the mission and ministry of the church and which includes the proclamation of the Word. The*
290 *service of installation of a pastor or associate pastor shall be conducted at a convenient time to enable*
291 *the substantial participation of the presbytery.*
292

293 **“G-14.0330 *Constitutional Questions to Officers and Commissioned Persons***
294

295 *“The moderator of the governing body of those to be ordained, installed, or commissioned shall*
296 *ask them to stand before the-body of membership and to answer the following questions:*
297

298 **“a. *Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the***
299 ***Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?***
300

301 **“b. *Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit,***
302 ***the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you?***
303

304 **“c. *Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as***
305 ***expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture***
306 ***leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the***
307 ***people of God?***
308

309 **“d. *Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of***
310 ***Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?***
311

312 **“e. *Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will***
313 ***you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s***
314 ***Word and Spirit?***
315

316 **“f. *Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and***
317 ***work for the reconciliation of the world?***
318

319 **“g. *Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?***
320

321 **“h. *Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?***

322
323
324
325
326
327
328
329
330
331
332
333
334
335
336
337
338
339
340
341
342
343
344
345
346
347
348
349
350
351
352
353
354
355
356
357
358
359
360
361
362
363
364
365
366
367
368
369
370
371

“i.(1) (For elder) Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?”

“i.(2) (For deacon) Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern, and directing the people’s help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?”

“i.(3) (For minister of the Word and Sacrament) Will you be a faithful minister, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the governing bodies of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?”

“i.(4) (for commissioned lay pastor) Will you be a faithful commissioned lay pastor, serving the people by proclaiming the good news, teaching faith and caring for the people, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?”

“i.(5) (for certified Christian educator) Will you be a faithful certified Christian educator, teaching faith and caring for people, and will you in your ministry try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?”

“G-14.0340 Ordination or Installation of Elders or Deacons

“At the service of ordination or installation of elders and deacons

“G-14.0341 Questions to Congregation

“The elders- and deacons-elect having answered in the affirmative, an elder shall stand with them before the congregation and shall ask the congregation to answer the following questions:

“a. Do we, the members of the church, accept (names) _____ as elders or deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ?”

“b. Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?”

“G-14.0342 Prayer and Laying on of Hands

“The members of the church having answered these questions in the affirmative, those to be ordained shall kneel, if able, for prayer and the laying on of hands by the session. Those previously ordained ordinarily shall stand, along with the congregation, if able, for the prayer of installation. The session may invite other elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament to participate in the laying on of hands.

“G-14.0343 Statement

“The moderator shall say to those who have thus been ordained and installed:

372 *“You are now elders and deacons in the Church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation.*
373 *Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God*
374 *the Father through him. Amen.*

375
376 **“G-14.0344 *Session Welcomes***

377
378 *“Then the members of the session, and others as may be appropriate, shall welcome the newly*
379 *ordained and installed, or newly installed, elders and deacons into their fellowship in ministry.*

380
381 **“G-14.0345 *Congregation Greet***

382
383 *“After the service, it is appropriate for the members of the congregation to greet their new*
384 *elders and deacons, showing affection and support.*

385

386 **“G-14.0400 *Preparation for the Office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament***

387

388 **“G-14.0401 *Presbytery Responsibility for Inquiry and Candidacy***

389

390 *“It is important that those who are to be ordained as ministers of the Word and Sacrament*
391 *receive full preparation for their task under the direction of the committee on preparation for ministry.*
392 *(G-9.0902) For this purpose, presbyteries shall enter into covenant relationship with those preparing to*
393 *become ministers of the Word and Sacrament. This relationship shall be divided into the two phases of*
394 *inquiry and candidacy.*

395

396 **“G-14.0402 *Advisory Handbook***

397

398 *The process and requirements for the inquiry and the candidacy phases shall be provided in an*
399 *advisory handbook developed and updated as needed by the appropriate General Assembly agencies in*
400 *consultation with the Office of the General Assembly, which the presbytery may adopt or modify to*
401 *establish its own mandatory procedures. (G-9.0405)*

402

403 **“G-14.0403 *Time Requirements***

404

405 *“An inquirer shall have been a member of the sponsoring congregation for at least six months*
406 *prior to the inquirer phase. The inquirer and candidacy phases shall continue for a period of no less*
407 *than two years, including at least one year as a candidate.*

408

409 **“G-14.0404 *Inquiry Phase***

410

411 *“The purpose of the inquiry phase is to provide an opportunity for the church and those who*
412 *believe themselves called to ministry of the Word and Sacrament to explore that call together in such a*
413 *way that the decision regarding the inquirer’s suitability for ministry of the Word and Sacrament will*
414 *be based on knowledge and experience of one another.*

415

416 **“G-14.0405 *Candidacy Phase***

417

418 *“The purpose of the candidacy phase is to provide for the full preparation of persons to serve*
419 *the church as ministers of the Word and Sacrament. This shall be accomplished through the guidance*
420 *and evaluation of candidates, using learning contacts within the context of supportive relationships.*

421

422 **“G-14.0410 *Duties of Presbytery and Session***

423
424
425
426
427
428
429
430
431
432
433
434
435
436
437
438
439
440
441
442
443
444
445
446
447
448
449
450
451
452
453
454
455
456
457
458
459
460
461
462
463
464
465
466
467
468
469
470
471
472
473
474

“The presbytery, through a committee on preparation for ministry, shall seek to instruct sessions on their role in the inquiry and candidacy process. Particular direction shall be given a session that has endorsed an inquirer or candidate.

“G-14.0411 Oversight

“During the phases of inquiry and candidacy, the individual continues to be an active member of his or her particular church and subject to the concern and discipline of the session. In matters relating to preparation for ministry, the individual is under the oversight of the presbytery through the committee on preparation for ministry.

“G-14.0412 Presbytery Responsibility

“The presbytery shall exercise responsibility for the spiritual growth of inquirers and candidates, to support them with an understanding and sympathetic interest, and to give guidance in regard to courses of study, familiarity with the Bible and with the confessions, practical training and plans for education including the choice of institutions, field education, and the inquirer’s or candidate’s financial need. The presbytery shall also seek to give guidance and instruction to the inquirer or candidate in the faith and polity of the church (G-6.0108).

“G-14.0413 Session Responsibility

“The session shall function in a supportive role during the phases of inquiry and candidacy to ensure that care is provided on a continuous basis. The session shall appoint an elder from the church to be a liaison with the inquirer or candidate and the appropriate presbytery committee. The session should consider the provision of financial support for the inquirer or candidate.

“G-14.0420 Service in Covenant Relationship

“The committee on preparation for ministry shall monitor the covenant among presbytery and inquirers and candidates and the session. Inquirers and candidates shall be encouraged to engage in some form of supervised service to the church. The advisory handbook for committees on preparation for ministry shall provide guidance for supervision, evaluation, and reports on the service and preparation for ministry of inquirers and candidates. No inquirer or candidate who has not been previously ordained as an elder may serve as moderator of a session, administer the Sacraments, or perform a marriage service. An inquirer or candidate previously ordained as an elder may be authorized to administer the Lord’s Supper. (See G-6.0304, G-7.0306, G-10.0103, G-11.0103z, and G-14.0562.)

“G-14.0421 Annual Reports

“The presbytery shall require the inquirer or candidate to submit an annual written report on progress in studies and service to the church. The seminary or institution of theological education shall make an annual report on the progress of the inquirer or candidate toward preparation for ministry. The presbytery shall conduct an annual consultation for the evaluation and nurture of the inquirer or candidate. In no case shall an inquirer or candidate be excused from these annual consultations.

“G-14.0430 Examinations

“G-14.0431 Five Ordination Exams

475 *“Inquirers or candidates are encouraged to take the Bible Content Examination in their first*
476 *year of seminary. The other four examinations may be taken by inquirers or candidates after*
477 *completion of two full years of theological education. These four examinations shall only be taken*
478 *upon approval by the committee on preparation for ministry of the inquirer’s or candidate’s presbytery.*
479 *The areas of examinations are:*

- 480 *“a. Bible Content.*
- 481 *“b. Open Book Bible Exegesis.*
- 482 *“c. Theological Competence.*
- 483 *“d. Worship and Sacraments.*
- 484 *“e. Church Polity.*

485
486 **“G-14.0432 Grading the Exams**
487

488 *“The examinations required in the five specified areas shall be graded by representatives of the*
489 *presbyteries under the supervision of the Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee on Examinations for*
490 *Candidates as provided in G-11.0103m. Descriptions of the examinations, the subjects, the schedule,*
491 *and the procedures for their administration shall be prepared by the Presbyteries’ Cooperative*
492 *Committee and approved by the General Assembly.*
493

494 **“G-14.0440 Negotiation for Non-Ordained Service**
495

496 *“A candidate who has completed two full years of theological education or its equivalent, has*
497 *had an annual consultation within the previous year, and has successfully completed all ordination*
498 *examinations may, with approval of the committee on preparation for ministry and the appropriate*
499 *committee on ministry, enter into negotiation for his or her service in a non-ordained position. This*
500 *could include work as a temporary supply pastor.*
501

502 **“G-14.0450 Final Assessment of Readiness to Begin Ordained Ministry**
503

504 *“In the final year of theological education or when a candidate has satisfied all of the*
505 *requirements of this section, and before the candidate has received a call, the committee on*
506 *preparation for ministry of the candidate’s presbytery shall conduct a final assessment of the*
507 *candidate’s readiness to begin ordained ministry. A summary of this assessment shall be reported to*
508 *the presbytery and shall be transmitted to a calling presbytery when requested. The committee on*
509 *preparation for ministry shall report to the presbytery when it has certified a candidate ready for*
510 *examination for ordination, pending a call. This consultation shall focus on the outcomes of inquiry*
511 *and candidacy and shall include each of the following requirements of certification:*
512

- 513 *“a. demonstration of readiness to begin ministry of the Word and Sacrament as required to*
514 *fulfill the candidacy phase of preparation.*
- 515
- 516 *“b. presentation of a transcript showing satisfactory grades at a regionally accredited*
517 *college or university, together with a diploma;*
518
- 519 *“c. presentation of a transcript from a theological institution accredited by the Association*
520 *of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery, the transcript showing satisfactory grades, and*
521 *presentation of a plan to complete the theological degree including Hebrew and Greek and exegesis of*
522 *the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek texts;*
523

524 *“d. presentation of satisfactory grades together with the examination papers in the five*
525 *areas covered by the Presbyteries’ Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates.*

526
527 **“G-14.0460 *Transfer of or Removal from Covenant Relationship***

528
529 **“G-14.0461 *Transfer of Relationship***

530
531 *“A presbytery may transfer the covenant relationship of an inquirer or candidate to another*
532 *presbytery, but only with the approval of the receiving presbytery and the inquirer or candidate. An*
533 *inquirer or candidate shall not transfer her or his membership to a particular church under the*
534 *jurisdiction of another presbytery without the approval of the presbytery responsible for the person’s*
535 *preparation for ministry. Whenever a presbytery approves such a transfer, it shall send to the other*
536 *presbytery a certificate of its approval, its records concerning the individual, and the reasons for the*
537 *request for transfer. Failure of an inquirer or candidate to follow this procedure shall result in the*
538 *forfeiture of standing as an inquirer or candidate. No presbytery may restore the candidate’s status*
539 *except by beginning again at the inquiry phase.*

540
541 **“G-14.0462 *Another Reformed Body***

542
543 *“When a candidate is called to work under the jurisdiction of some other Reformed body, he or*
544 *she may be dismissed as a candidate by certification. Likewise, candidates may be received for this*
545 *purpose from other Reformed bodies by transfer of certificate.*

546
547 **“G-14.0463 *Removal from Relationship***

548
549 *“An inquirer or candidate may, after consultation with the session and the committee on*
550 *preparation for ministry, withdraw from covenant relationship. A presbytery may also, for sufficient*
551 *reasons, remove an individual’s name from the roll of inquirers or candidates, reporting this action*
552 *and the reasons to the session, to the individual, and, if appropriate, to the educational institution in*
553 *which the individual is enrolled. In both instances, prior to final action, the committee on preparation*
554 *for ministry shall make a reasonable attempt to give the inquirer or candidate and other parties of*
555 *interest an opportunity to be heard by that committee.*

556
557 **“G-14.0470 *Extraordinary Circumstances***

558
559 *“All of the requirements for final assessment shall be met except in the following extraordinary*
560 *circumstances:*

561
562 **“G-14.0471 *Educational Requirements***

563
564 *“If the inquirer’s or candidate’s presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons*
565 *why certain of the educational requirements should not be met by an inquirer or candidate, it shall*
566 *make an exception only by three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery present. A full account of*
567 *the reasons for such an exception shall be included in the minutes of presbytery and shall be*
568 *communicated to the presbytery to which the inquirer or candidate may be transferred. The successful*
569 *completion of the course of study specified in such an exception shall fulfill the requirements for the*
570 *final assessment of readiness to begin ministry.*

571
572 **“G-14.0472 *Examination Requirements***

573
574 *“The examination requirements of G-14.0431 shall not be waived until an inquirer or*
575 *candidate has failed on two attempts to receive a satisfactory grade, unless the inquirer or candidate*

576 *has a disability, documented by a person or persons of the presbytery's choice, which disability affects*
577 *the individual's test-taking ability. If the presbytery believes that the person should be certified as ready*
578 *for examination for ordination, pending a call, it shall authorize an exception only by a three-fourths*
579 *vote of the members of the presbytery present, and must determine an alternate means whereby it will*
580 *satisfy itself of competence in the area(s) of difficulty. When the individual successfully completes the*
581 *alternate pattern, the presbytery may certify readiness in the usual manner. The minutes of presbytery*
582 *shall contain a full record of the reasons for the exception and the alternate pattern for determining*
583 *competence. Presbyteries shall submit to the synod the process by which a candidate, who has failed*
584 *one or more examinations twice, or who has such a documented disability, would be examined. Once*
585 *that process has been approved, presbyteries may proceed with particular candidates, and note such*
586 *exemptions in their minutes on each occasion. Such processes will be reviewed every three years.*

587
588 **“G-14.0473 Time Requirements**
589

590 *“The time requirements of the inquiry phase shall not be waived unless the presbytery judges*
591 *that there are good and sufficient reasons why the time requirement should not be met by an inquirer*
592 *or candidate. It shall make an exception only by three-fourths vote of the members of the presbytery*
593 *present. A full account of the reasons for such an exception shall be included in the minutes of*
594 *presbytery and shall be communicated to the presbytery to which the inquirer or candidate may be*
595 *transferred. Under no circumstances shall the time requirement be less than one year.*

596
597 **“G-14.0474 If Transferred**
598

599 *“The foregoing exceptions shall hold if the presbytery has received the inquirer or candidate*
600 *from another presbytery that approved the exemption of any of these requirements, the reception of the*
601 *candidate having confirmed the action of the dismissing presbytery.*

602
603 **“G-14.0480 Ordination an Act of the Whole Church**
604

605 *“Ordination for the office of minister of the Word and Sacrament is an act of the whole church*
606 *carried out by the presbytery, setting apart a person to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament.*

607
608 **“G-14.0481 Place of Examination and Ordination**
609

610 *“The presbytery placing the call to a candidate for ministry shall ordinarily examine and,*
611 *contingent upon the candidate's successful completion of that examination and all requirements in G-*
612 *14.0450, the presbytery responsible for the candidate's preparation for ministry shall ordinarily ordain*
613 *the candidate.*

614
615 **“G-14.0482 Examination for Ordination**
616

617 *“The candidate shall appear before the presbytery and shall make a brief statement of personal*
618 *faith and of commitment to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. The presbytery shall receive the*
619 *report of its appropriate committee that the candidate has completed all requirements, and has been*
620 *certified ready for ordination pending approval of the call. The report shall include a summary of*
621 *waivers and exceptions of requirements granted. The presbytery may conduct further examination of*
622 *the candidate's Christian faith and views in theology, the Bible, the Sacraments, and the government*
623 *of the church as it deems necessary. If the presbytery is fully satisfied of the candidate's qualifications,*
624 *it shall approve the call and vote to proceed to his or her ordination and installation.*

625

626 “G-14.0483 *Presbytery of Call*

627

628 “*The presbytery of call shall certify to the presbytery responsible for the candidate’s*
629 *preparation for ministry that the candidate has been approved for ordination and installation.*
630 *Ordinarily, the presbytery responsible for the candidate’s preparation for ministry shall ordain the*
631 *candidate. (See G-14.0300.) Following the ordination, the stated clerk of the ordaining presbytery shall*
632 *record the action, notify the session of the particular church of which the candidate has been a*
633 *member so that the session may record the fact that the candidate is now ordained and has been*
634 *transferred to the roll of the presbytery, and issue a letter of dismissal to the calling presbytery, which*
635 *shall enroll the minister and proceed to install the minister.*

636

637 “G-14.0484 *Agreement on Place of Ordination*

638

639 “*The presbyteries and the candidate may agree that the ordination take place in the calling*
640 *presbytery, in which case the presbytery may ordain and install the candidate at the same time at a*
641 *service of worship in the presence of the calling congregation.*

642

643 “G-14.0485 *Recording the Ordination*

644

645 “*The presbytery shall record the ordination and installation as a part of its official records*
646 *along with the acceptance and subscription of the new minister to the obligations undertaken in the*
647 *ordination vows. It shall also be the duty of the stated clerk of the presbytery to enroll the newly*
648 *ordained minister as a member of the presbytery and to report these actions to the Office of the*
649 *General Assembly.*

650

651 “G-14.0490 *Ordination of Minister of the Word and Sacrament*

652

653 “*At the service of ordination to the office of minister of the Word and Sacrament*

654

655 “G-14.0491 *Ordination Questions*

656

657 “*The presbytery shall utilize the ordination questions laid out at G-14.0300, using these words*
658 *for Question i: Will you be a faithful minister, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament,*
659 *teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the*
660 *governing bodies of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus*
661 *Christ?*

662

663 “G-14.0492 *Prayer and Laying on of Hands*

664

665 “*The candidate, having answered the questions in the affirmative, shall kneel, if able, and the*
666 *presbytery, or presbytery commission, shall, with prayer and the laying on of hands, ordain the*
667 *candidate to the office of minister of the Word and Sacrament. The member presiding shall then say:*

668

669 “(Name) _____, you are now ordained a minister of the Word and Sacrament
670 in the church of Jesus Christ. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord
671 Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.

672

673 “G-14.0493 *Presbytery Welcomes*

674

675 *“Then the members of the presbytery, and others as may be appropriate, shall welcome the new*
676 *minister into the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. At the conclusion of the ordination service, the*
677 *new minister may make a brief statement and shall pronounce the benediction.*

678
679
680 **“G-14.0500 *Pastoral Relations***

681
682 **“G-14.0501 *Installed or Temporary Relations***

683
684 *“Every church should have the pastoral services of a minister of the Word and Sacrament. The*
685 *pastoral relations that may exist between a particular church and a minister of the Word and*
686 *Sacrament are installed (permanent or designated) or temporary relations (see G-14.0550).*

687
688
689 **“G-14.0510. *Installed Pastoral Relations***

690
691 **“G-14.0511 *Permanent Pastoral Relations***

692
693 *‘A permanent pastoral relationship of pastor or associate pastor, full or part-time, is*
694 *established by vote of the presbytery or its committee on ministry to approve the call to a minister of the*
695 *Word and Sacrament elected by vote of the congregation. A pastor or associate pastor is installed by*
696 *the presbytery and is a member of the session. The call approved by the presbytery cannot be changed*
697 *or dissolved except by consent of the presbytery, at the request of the pastor or associate pastor, at the*
698 *request of the church by action of the congregation, or when the presbytery, after consultation with the*
699 *minister and the congregation, finds that the church’s mission under the Word imperatively demands*
700 *it.*

701
702 **“G-14.0512 *Co-Pastors***

703
704 *“A congregation may call more than one minister to serve as pastor or associate pastor,*
705 *sharing duties within the congregation as agreed upon by the session and approved by the presbytery,*
706 *using co-pastor or co-associate pastor or other suitable titles. When there are co-pastors, the*
707 *presbytery, the ministers, and the session shall agree on a schedule for sharing the times each will*
708 *moderate. When a particular church has two pastors serving as co-pastors and the relationship of one*
709 *of them is dissolved, the other remains as pastor of the church.*

710
711 **“G-14.0513 *Succession and Extraordinary Circumstances***

712
713 *“The official relationship of an associate pastor to a church is not dependent upon that of a*
714 *pastor, but an associate pastor is not eligible to be the next installed pastor in a church that they have*
715 *served together, or to be called as pastor to serve as co-pastor of that church, except in churches that*
716 *currently have a co-pastor model in place which has been in effect for at least three years and the*
717 *congregation desires to continue such a model. An associate pastor shall be directed in his or her work*
718 *by the pastor in consultation with the session.*

719
720 **“G-14.0520 *Designated Pastoral Relations***

721
722 **“G-14.0521 *Calling a Designated Pastor***

723
724 *“A designated pastoral relationship, full or part-time, is a call to a minister of the Word and*
725 *Sacrament established by the presbytery for a term of not less than two nor more than four years. The*
726 *congregation and the minister must both have agreed to be considered for a designated relationship.*

727 *The congregation's pastoral nominating committee shall nominate to the congregation for its*
728 *consideration and vote, only from among those ministers designated to it by the presbytery's committee*
729 *on ministry. The minister is installed by the presbytery and is a member of the session.*

730
731 **"G-14.0522 Renewing or Ending the Call**

732
733 *"The call approved by the presbytery is renewable anytime during the last six months of the*
734 *term, and cannot be changed or dissolved except by consent of the presbytery, at the request of the*
735 *pastor, or at the request of the church by action of the congregation, when the presbytery, after*
736 *consultation with the minister and the congregation finds that the church's mission under the Word*
737 *imperatively demands it, or when the term specified in the call expires without action having been*
738 *taken to renew the call. The presbytery may designate and the congregation may call more than one*
739 *minister to serve as designated pastor, sharing duties within the congregation as agreed upon by the*
740 *session and approved by the presbytery. When there is more than one pastor, the ministers and the*
741 *session shall agree on a schedule for sharing the times each will moderate.*

742
743 **"G-14.0523 Designated Pastor to Pastor**

744
745 *"If there has been an open search process conducted by the committee on ministry and after at*
746 *least two years of the designated pastor relationship, upon the concurrence of the committee on*
747 *ministry, the designated pastor, and the session, acting in place of the pastor nominating committee for*
748 *the single purpose of calling the designated pastor as pastor, a congregational meeting may be held to*
749 *call the designated pastor as pastor. The session, with the concurrence of the committee on ministry,*
750 *may call a congregational meeting to elect a pastor nominating committee to conduct a full pastoral*
751 *search or to prosecute the call to the designated pastor to become pastor. The action of the*
752 *congregation shall be reported to the presbytery. If the congregational action is affirmative, the*
753 *presbytery, after voting to approve the new pastoral relationship, shall install the designated pastor as*
754 *pastor.*

755
756
757 **"G-14.0530 Election of a Pastor or Associate Pastor**

758
759 *"When a church is without a pastor, or has a vacancy in an associate pastor position, or after*
760 *the effective date of the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, the congregation shall, with the*
761 *guidance and permission of the committee on ministry (G-11.0502d), proceed to elect a pastor or*
762 *associate pastor in the following manner.*

763
764 **"G-14.0531 Pastor Nominating Committee**

765
766 *"The session shall call a congregational meeting to elect a pastor nominating committee,*
767 *which shall be representative of the whole congregation. This committee's duty shall be to nominate a*
768 *minister to the congregation for election as pastor or associate pastor. Public notice of the time, place,*
769 *and purpose of the meeting to elect the pastor nominating committee shall be given in accord with G-*
770 *7.0303b.*

771
772 **"G-14.0532 Confer with Committee on Ministry**

773
774 *"The pastor nominating committee shall confer with the committee on ministry as provided in*
775 *G-11.0502d. When the committee is ready to report to the congregation, it shall notify the session,*
776 *which shall call a congregational meeting in accord with G-7.0303b. The action of the congregation, if*
777 *favorable, shall be presented to the presbytery for its concurrence.*

778
779
780
781
782
783
784
785
786
787
788
789
790
791
792
793
794
795
796
797
798
799
800
801
802
803
804
805
806
807
808
809
810
811
812
813
814
815
816
817
818
819
820
821
822
823
824
825
826
827

“G-14.0533 Signing the Call

“Persons shall be elected by the vote of the congregation to sign the call and to present and prosecute the call before the presbytery. The moderator of the meeting shall certify to the presbytery that those signing the call were properly elected and that the call was in all other respects prepared as constitutionally required.

“G-14.0534 Terms of the Call

“The presbytery shall ensure that the call meets the requirements of federal and state tax laws and fully discloses the compensation of the minister. If the minister is obligated to fulfill military commitments during a period of pastoral service, an agreement should be added to the terms of call for that obligation and potential mobilization. If the call is for less than full time, the precise terms of the contract should be indicated. The terms of call shall always provide for compensation that meets or exceeds any minimum requirements of the presbytery in effect when the call is made, and the congregation’s obligation to review the adequacy of the minister’s compensation and adjust the compensation to meet changes in the presbytery’s requirements as amended from time to time. The call shall include participation in the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including both pension and medical coverage, or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly.

“G-14.0540 Installation of Minister

“Every Christian is called by God to serve the church; however, God calls some persons to serve the church in particular and specific ways in congregations. When the congregation, the presbytery, and the minister (or candidate) have all concurred in a call to a permanent or designated pastoral position, the presbytery shall complete the call process by organizing and conducting the service of installation. Installation is an act of the presbytery establishing the pastoral relationship. A commission may be appointed to act for the presbytery.

“G-14.0541 Installation Service

“On the day designated for the installation, the presbytery or commission appointed for this purpose shall convene and shall call the congregation gathered to worship. The service shall have the same focus and form as the service of ordination and the person being installed shall be asked to answer the questions asked at the time of ordination. (G-14.0300)

“G-14.0542 Questions for Congregation

“Following the affirmative answers to the questions asked of the person being installed, an elder shall face the congregation along with the pastor-elect (associate pastor-elect) and shall ask them to answer the following questions:

“a. Do we, the members of the church, accept (Name) _____ as our pastor (associate pastor), chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

“b. Do we agree to encourage him (her), to respect his (her) decisions, and to follow as he (she) guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?

828 “c. Do we promise to pay him (her) fairly and provide for his (her) welfare as he (she)
829 works among us; to stand by him (her) in trouble and share his (her) joys? Will we listen to the word
830 he (she) preaches, welcome his (her) pastoral care, and honor his (her) authority as he (she) seeks to
831 honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?
832

833 **“G-14.0543 Installation of Minister**
834

835 *“The members of the congregation having answered these questions in the affirmative,*
836

837 “a. a candidate being ordained and installed shall kneel, if able, and the presbytery shall,
838 with prayer and the laying on of hands, ordain the candidate to the office of minister of the Word and
839 Sacrament and install him or her in the particular pastoral responsibility.
840

841 “b. a minister, previously ordained, who is being installed ordinarily shall stand, if able,
842 for the laying on of hands and the prayer of installation.
843

844 **“G-14.0544 Statement to Minister**
845

846 *“The member presiding shall then say:*
847

848 “a. (For one being ordained and installed) (Name) _____, you are
849 now a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Church of Jesus Christ and for this congregation.
850 Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God
851 the Father through him. Amen.
852

853 “b. (For a minister previously ordained) (Name) _____, you are now a
854 minister of the Word and Sacrament in and for this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or deed,
855 do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.
856

857 **“G-14.0545 Welcome**
858

859 *“Then the members of the presbytery, and others as may be appropriate, shall welcome the*
860 *newly ordained and installed or newly installed minister into their fellowship in the ministry of the*
861 *Word and Sacrament.*
862

863 **“G-14.0546 Charge**
864

865 *“Persons invited by the presbytery may then give brief charges to the pastor (associate pastor)*
866 *and to the congregation to be faithful in their relationship and in their reciprocal responsibilities.*
867

868 **“G-14.0547 Benediction**
869

870 *“At the conclusion of the service, the newly installed minister may make a brief statement and*
871 *shall pronounce the benediction.*
872

873
874 **“G-14.0550 Temporary Pastoral Relations**
875

876 *“All temporary relationships of a minister of the Word and Sacrament, full-time or part-time,*
877 *are established by the session or commission of the presbytery with the approval of the presbytery*
878 *through its committee on ministry. These temporary relationships have titles appropriate to the*
879 *ministerial tasks to which the minister is called, such as stated supply, temporary supply, organizing*

880 *pastor, interim pastor, and others. A minister serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is called for*
881 *a specified period not to exceed twelve months in length, which is renewable with the approval of the*
882 *committee on ministry. A written agreement, covenant, or terms of call signed by the minister, the clerk*
883 *of session or presbytery commission, and a representative of the committee on ministry shall specify the*
884 *pastoral functions, compensation, and any special skills or training required for the ministry. A*
885 *temporary pastor is not installed and is not a member of the session. The presbytery shall appoint a*
886 *moderator of the session who may be the temporary pastor.*

887
888
889 **“G-14.0551 *May Not Become Next Installed Pastor***

890
891 *“A minister serving in a temporary pastoral relationship other than organizing pastor is not*
892 *eligible to serve that church in the next permanent or designated pastoral relationship. A presbytery*
893 *may choose to allow a temporary supply to become the next installed pastor by a two-thirds vote of the*
894 *presbytery.*

895
896
897 **“G-14.0552 *Organizing Pastors***

898
899 *An organizing pastor is a minister or commissioned lay pastor appointed by the presbytery to serve as*
900 *pastor to a group of people who are in the process of organizing a new Presbyterian church. This*
901 *relationship as organizing pastor shall terminate when the new church is formally organized by the*
902 *presbytery. At that time the new church may, with the approval of the committee on ministry and the*
903 *presbytery, call the organizing pastor to be its pastor without being required to elect a pastor*
904 *nominating committee and conduct a pastoral search, or it may choose to elect a pastor nominating*
905 *committee and conduct a full pastoral search as provided in the Form of Government.*

906
907
908 **“G-14.0553 *Interim Pastoral Relations***

909
910 *“When a presbytery and session determine that an interim pastor, interim co-pastor, or interim*
911 *associate pastor is necessary and helpful, the session may consult the committee on ministry and seek*
912 *an interim minister as soon as a date certain for departure has been announced by a pastor or*
913 *associate pastor planning to leave. An interim pastor, interim co-pastor, or interim associate pastor is*
914 *not eligible to serve that church as the next permanent or designated pastor.*

915
916
917
918 **“G-14.0560 *Commissioned Lay Pastor***

919 *“The commissioned lay pastor is an elder of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who is granted*
920 *a local commission by the presbytery to lead worship and preach the gospel, watch over the people, and*
921 *provide for their nurture and service. This commission is valid only in one or more congregations, new*
922 *church development, or other validated ministries of the presbytery designated by the presbytery. Such*
923 *an elder is selected by and receives training approved by the presbytery. The elder shall be instructed in*
924 *Bible, Reformed Theology and Sacraments, Presbyterian Polity, preaching, leading worship, pastoral*
925 *care, and teaching. The elder shall be examined by the appropriate committee of presbytery as to*
926 *personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction mentioned previously.*
927 *An elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in a particular congregation may*
928 *continue to be listed as available to serve, but is not authorized to perform the functions of a*
929 *commissioned lay pastor again until appointed to a particular congregation by the presbytery.*

930

931 **“G-14.0561 Period Valid**

932 *“The commission shall be valid for a period up to three years as determined by the presbytery.*
933 *It may be renewed at expiration or terminated at any time at the discretion of the presbytery. Presbytery*
934 *shall regularly provide resources for the person’s spiritual and intellectual development. A review of*
935 *the work of the commissioned lay pastor shall be conducted annually. Presbytery shall revoke the*
936 *commission of any lay pastor who does not abide by these provisions or whose work is evaluated as not*
937 *adequate to meet the needs of the particular congregation or the presbytery.*

938 **“G-14.0562 Authorization to Perform Functions**

939
940 *“When a presbytery, in consultation with the session or other responsible committee,*
941 *determines that its strategy for mission in a local church requires it, and after additional instruction*
942 *deemed necessary by the presbytery has been provided, a presbytery may authorize a commissioned lay*
943 *pastor to perform any or all of the following functions described in a.– e. below.*

944
945 **“a. Administer the Lord’s Supper.**

946
947 **“b. Administer the Sacrament of Baptism.**

948
949 **“c. Moderate the session of the congregation under the supervision of and when invited by**
950 *the moderator of the session appointed by the presbytery, or when appointed by presbytery as*
951 *moderator.*

952
953 **“d. Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session or other**
954 *responsible committee, and when allowed by the state.*

955
956 **“e. Have a voice and vote in meetings of the presbytery (such vote to be counted as an**
957 *elder commissioner for purposes of parity).*

958
959 **“G-14.0563 Pastoral Care and Confidentiality**

960
961 *“Those serving as commissioned lay pastors shall be bound by the same standards of trust and*
962 *confidentiality as ministers of the Word and Sacrament (G-6.0204).*

963
964 **“G-14.0564 Supervision**

965
966 *“The commissioned lay pastor shall work under the supervision of the presbytery through the*
967 *moderator of the session of the church being served or through the committee on ministry. A minister*
968 *of the Word and Sacrament shall be assigned as a mentor and supervisor.*

969
970 **“G-14.0565 Questions Asked**

971
972 *“When the presbytery is satisfied with the qualifications of an applicant, it shall ask the*
973 *applicant the constitutional questions in G-14.0300, using these words for Question i: Will you be a*
974 *faithful commissioned lay pastor, serving the people by proclaiming the good news, teaching faith and*
975 *caring for the people, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?*

976
977 **“G-14.0570 Parish Associate Relationship**

978
979 *“A parish associate is a minister who serves in some validated ministry other than the local*
980 *parish, or is a member-at-large, or is retired, but who wishes to maintain a relationship with a*

981 *particular church or churches in keeping with ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament.*
982 *Such persons, already qualified as continuing members of presbytery, may serve as parish associates.*
983 *The relation shall be established, upon nomination by the pastor, between the parish associate, the*
984 *session, and the presbytery. The parish associate shall be responsible to the pastor, as head of staff, on*
985 *an ‘as needed, as available’ basis and with or without remuneration.*

986
987 **“G-14.0571 *May Not Be Next Installed Pastor***
988

989 *“A parish associate may not be called to be the next installed pastor or associate pastor of a*
990 *church served as parish associate, unless at least six months have elapsed since the end of the parish*
991 *associate relationship.*

992
993 **“G-14.0572 *Presbytery Oversight***
994

995 *“The presbytery shall adopt policies and procedures for oversight by the committee on ministry*
996 *of the parish associate relationships of its minister members and the churches under its care, including*
997 *annual review.*

998
999 **“G-14.0573 *Termination of the Relationship***
1000

1001 *“The agreement between the session, the parish associate, and the presbytery shall terminate*
1002 *when the call to the installed pastor is dissolved. The presbytery may dissolve the relationship with the*
1003 *parish associate upon the recommendation of the committee on ministry.*

1004
1005
1006 **“G-14.0600 *Dissolution of Installed Pastoral Relationships***
1007

1008 **“G-14.0610 *Dissolved by Presbytery***
1009

1010 *“The pastoral relationship between a pastor, associate pastor, and a church may be dissolved*
1011 *only by presbytery. Whether the minister or the church or the presbytery initiates proceedings for a*
1012 *dissolution of the relationship, there shall always be a meeting of the congregation to consider the*
1013 *matter and to request, or consent, or decline to consent to dissolution, as provided in G-7.0304a(3).*

1014
1015 **“G-14.0611 *Minister Requests***
1016

1017 *“The minister may request the presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship. The minister*
1018 *must also state her or his intention to the session. The session shall call a congregational meeting to*
1019 *act upon the request and to make recommendations to presbytery. The presbytery may grant authority*
1020 *to its committee on ministry to dissolve the pastoral relationship and to inform the presbytery in cases*
1021 *in which the congregation and the pastor concur. If the congregation does not concur, the presbytery*
1022 *shall hear from the church, through the congregation’s elected commissioners, the reasons why the*
1023 *presbytery should not dissolve the pastoral relationship. If the church fails to appear, or if its reasons*
1024 *for retaining the relationship are judged insufficient, the request of the minister may be granted and*
1025 *the pastoral relationship dissolved.*

1026
1027 **“G-14.0612 *Congregation Requests***
1028

1029 *“If any church desires the pastoral relationship to be dissolved, a similar procedure shall be*
1030 *observed. A congregation, after a duly called congregational meeting, may request presbytery to*
1031 *dissolve its relationship with its pastor. The pastor shall moderate the congregational meeting (in*
1032 *accordance with G-7.0306) unless he or she deems it to be impractical. The presbytery may grant*

1033 *authority to its committee on ministry to dissolve the relationship and to inform the presbytery in cases*
1034 *in which the pastor and the congregation concur. If the pastor does not concur, the presbytery shall*
1035 *hear from him or her the reasons why the presbytery should not dissolve the relationship. If the pastor*
1036 *fails to appear, or if the reasons for maintaining the relationship are judged insufficient, the*
1037 *relationship may be dissolved.*

1038
1039 **“G-14.0613 Presbytery Action**

1040
1041 *“The presbytery, through its committee on ministry or an administrative commission, may*
1042 *inquire into reported difficulties in a congregation and may dissolve the pastoral relationship if, after*
1043 *consultation with the minister, the session, and the congregation (G-7.0304a(3)), it finds the church’s*
1044 *mission under the Word imperatively demands it.*

1045
1046 **“G-14.0620 Pastor Emeritus, Emerita**

1047 *“When any pastor or associate pastor retires, and the congregation is moved by affection and*
1048 *gratitude to continue an association in an honorary relationship, it may, at a regularly called*
1049 *congregational meeting, elect him or her as pastor emeritus or emerita, with or without honorarium,*
1050 *but with no pastoral authority or duty. This action shall be taken only after consultation with the*
1051 *committee on ministry of the presbytery concerning the wisdom of this relationship for the peace of the*
1052 *church. This action shall be subject to the approval of presbytery, and may take effect upon the formal*
1053 *dissolution of the pastoral or associate pastoral relationship or anytime thereafter.*

1054
1055 **“G-14.0630 Officiate by Invitation Only**

1056 *“Former pastors, associate pastors, assistant pastors, and ministers who do not have a pastoral*
1057 *relationship with the particular church as defined in this chapter may officiate at services for members*
1058 *of the church, or at services within its properties, only upon invitation from the moderator of the*
1059 *session or, in case of the inability to contact the moderator, from the clerk of session.*

1060
1061
1062 **“G-14.0700 Persons Called to Certified Ministry**

1063
1064 **“G-14.0710 Christian Educators**

1065
1066 *“Christian educators are persons called by God to a ministry of education who demonstrate*
1067 *their faith in and love for Jesus Christ, are dedicated to the life of faith and are serious in purpose,*
1068 *honest in character, and joyful in service. Christian educators serving particular congregations are*
1069 *accountable to the session and under the supervision of the pastor, sharing with them the responsibility*
1070 *of providing for the spiritual growth of members for their ministry, teaching the Bible, recommending*
1071 *curriculum materials and resources, training and supporting lay workers, planning and administering*
1072 *the educational program of their congregations, and other tasks.*

1073
1074 **“G-14.0711 Training**

1075
1076 *“It is expected that Christian educators be persons with skills and training in biblical*
1077 *interpretation, Reformed theology, human development, religious educational theory and practice, and*
1078 *the polity, programs, and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They should be encouraged by*
1079 *their session and presbytery to meet, or prepare to meet, the accrediting requirements defined in this*
1080 *section.*

1081
1082 **“G-14.0720 Certification for Christian Educators**

1083
1084
1085
1086
1087
1088
1089
1090
1091
1092
1093
1094
1095
1096
1097
1098
1099
1100
1101
1102
1103
1104
1105
1106
1107
1108
1109

1110
1111
1112
1113
1114
1115
1116
1117
1118
1119
1120
1121
1122
1123
1124
1125
1126
1127
1128
1129
1130
1131
1132
1133

In order to provide effective guidance for educational ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the General Assembly shall offer a handbook containing the training and continuing education process for Christian Educators, which shall be administered and certification granted by the Educator Certification Council on behalf of the General Assembly Council. The handbook shall also provide suggested models for support and accountability that synods and presbyteries may adopt for their own use or modify to fit local circumstances.

“G-14.0721 Accrediting Process

“The handbook shall provide an accrediting process that evaluates the educator’s academic preparation and work experience and examines competency in the following knowledge and skill areas:

“Biblical Interpretation

“Reformed Theology

“Human Development

“Religious Education Theory and Practice

“Polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

“Program and Mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

“Worship and Sacraments

“G-14.0722 Educator Certification Council

“The Educator Certification Council shall establish certification standards, designate Educator Certification Advisors in consultation with presbyteries, evaluate certification examinations, and grant certificates and report to the General Assembly Council.

“G-14.0730 Presbytery and Certified Christian Educators

“The presbytery shall

“a. support the certification process by encouraging educators to seek certification, providing guidance through the Educator Certification Advisor, and encouraging sessions to make continuing education funds and time available to educators seeking certification;

“b. provide the following support to the certified Christian educators: service of recognition that shall include the constitutional questions at G-14.0300 (G-11.0103n); establish minimum requirements for compensation and benefits (G-11.0103n); and access to the committee on ministry (G-11.0503); and

“c. grant the privilege of the floor to the certified Christian educator at all its meetings with voice only, and, in the case of certified Christian educators who are ordained elders, voice and vote under the provisions of G-11.0101b. (G-11.0407)

“G-14.0731 Service of Recognition

1134
1135
1136
1137
1138
1139
1140
1141
1142
1143
1144
1145
1146
1147
1148
1149
1150
1151
1152
1153
1154
1155
1156
1157
1158
1159
1160
1161
1162
1163
1164
1165
1166
1167
1168
1169
1170
1171
1172
1173
1174
1175
1176
1177
1178
1179
1180
1181
1182
1183
1184

“When the presbytery is satisfied with the qualifications of an applicant for a certified education position in ministry in the church, a service of recognition shall be provided that shall include the constitutional questions (G-14.0300), using these words for Question I: Will you be a faithful certified Christian educator, teaching faith and caring for people, and will you in your ministry try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?”

“G-14.0740 Other Certified Persons

“Other certified persons have been called to service within particular churches, governing bodies, and church-related entities. These individuals endeavor to reflect their faith through their work and to strengthen the church through their dedication.

“G-14.0741 Organized Associations

“To that end, groups of professionals have organized for community, support, and professional development. Several of these associations have entered into formal liaison relationships with General Assembly entities. These groups include the Administrative Personnel Association, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, and the Presbyterian Church Business Administrators Association and others.

“G-14.0742 Certification

“Certification is overseen and granted by the individual associations; the requirements for certification are reported to the appropriate body of the General Assembly Council.

“a. Members of the Administrative Personnel Association (APA) include secretaries, administrative assistants, bookkeepers, and support staff in church-related settings.

“b. Members of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) include choir directors, organists, ministers, and other persons interested in the quality and integrity of music in the worship experience.

“c. Members of the Presbyterian Church Business Administrators Association include pastors and lay persons serving primarily as administrators in particular churches and church-related entities.

“G-14.0743 Notification of Status

“Names of those who have earned certification through these associations shall be transmitted to the appropriate body of the General Assembly Council, which will forward them to the Office of the General Assembly and to the stated clerk of the presbyteries in which those persons labor.

“G-14.0744 Recognition by Presbytery

“a. The presbytery shall affirm the skill and dedication of these certified persons by providing for recognition at presbytery at the time of their certification, asking them the constitutional questions in G-14.0300, and by inviting these employees to presbytery meetings, granting them the privilege of the floor.”

1185 ***“b. When the presbytery is satisfied with the qualifications of an applicant for a certified***
1186 ***position in ministry in the church, a service of recognition shall be provided that shall include the***
1187 ***constitutional questions (G-14.0300), using these words for Question I: Will you be a faithful Certified***
1188 ***_____ , teaching faith and caring for people, and will you in your ministry try to show the love***
1189 ***and justice of Jesus Christ?***
1190

1191 **If Amendment A.1. is approved, the following amendments shall**
1192 **also be approved.**

1193
1194 **Changes shown in Amendment A.2.a. deal with advisory handbooks.**

1195 **Amendment A.2.a. (1)**

1196
1197 **The Preface to the *Book of Order* shall be amended by adding a new item “(5)” to read as follows:**
1198 **[Text to be added or inserted is shown as italics.]**

1199 **“(5) *Advisory handbook signifies a handbook produced by agencies of the General***
1200 ***Assembly to guide synods and presbyteries in procedures related to the oversight of ministry. Such***
1201 ***handbooks suggest procedures that are commended, but not required.*”**

1202
1203

1204 **Amendment A.2.a. (2)**

1205
1206 **G-9.0405 shall be amended to read as follows: [Text to be added or inserted is shown as italics.]**

1207 **“Each governing body above the session shall, in consultation with the governing body**
1208 **above and below it, develop a manual of administrative operations. *In order to provide effective***
1209 ***guidance in the ordination, certification, commissioning, and oversight of the work of ministry, the***
1210 ***General Assembly shall offer, through its appropriate agencies, advisory handbooks containing***
1211 ***suggested models for procedure that synods and presbyteries may adopt for their own use or modify to***
1212 ***fit local circumstances. These handbooks shall be developed and updated as needed by the appropriate***
1213 ***General Assembly agencies, in consultation with the Office of the General Assembly and middle***
1214 ***governing bodies, to ensure conformity with the Book of Order and practicality of use.*”**

1215
1216

1217 **Amendment A.2.a. (3)**

1218
1219 **G-11.0504 shall be amended by making the current wording paragraph a. and adding a new**
1220 **paragraph b. so that it shall read as follows: [Text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]**

1221
1222 **“a. The presbytery’s committee on ministry may look to synod and the General Assembly**
1223 **for information and assistance in the matter of ministers and pastoral relations. Synods shall create**
1224 **the necessary agency to coordinate the work of presbytery committees. The General Assembly shall**
1225 **create the necessary agency to facilitate and support the work of the presbyteries and the synods in**
1226 **this matter.**

1227
1228 **“b. *The advisory handbook for committees on ministry developed by the appropriate General***
1229 ***Assembly entity, in consultation with the Office of the General Assembly and middle governing bodies,***
1230 ***shall provide guidance in the ordination, certification, commissioning, and oversight of the work of***
1231 ***ministry through suggested models for procedures that synods and presbyteries may adopt for their***
1232 ***own use or modify to establish their own requirements to fit local circumstances.*”**

1233
1234

1235 **Changes shown in Amendment A.2.b. deal with elders and deacons**

1236 **dissolving their relationship in the local church.**

1237 **Amendment A.2.b.**

1238
1239 **G-14.0210 shall be deleted, G-6.0500 shall become G-6.0700, and the wording at G-14.0210 shall be**
1240 **moved to G-6.0500 so that the new G-6.0500 shall read as follows:**

1241
1242 **“G-6.0500 *Dissolution of Relationship***

1243
1244 *“An elder or deacon may resign from the session or board of deacons for good cause, with the*
1245 *session’s consent. On ceasing to be an active member of a particular church, an elder or deacon ceases*
1246 *to be a member of its session or board. When an elder or deacon, because of change of residence or*
1247 *disability, is unable to perform the duties of the office for a period of one year, the active relationship*
1248 *shall be dissolved by the session unless there is good reason not to do so, which reason shall be*
1249 *recorded.”*

1250
1251 **“G-6.0700 *Renunciation of Jurisdiction***

1252
1253 **“G-6.0701 *Renunciation of Jurisdiction***
1254 **When a church officer, whether a minister of the Word and Sacrament, elder, or deacon, renounces**
1255 **the jurisdiction of this church in writing to the clerk or stated clerk of the governing body of**
1256 **jurisdiction, the renunciation shall be effective upon receipt. Renunciation of jurisdiction shall**
1257 **remove the officer from membership and ordained office and shall terminate the exercise of office.**

1258
1259 **“G-6.0702 *Persistence in Disapproved Work***
1260 **When a church officer, after consultation and notice, persists in a work disapproved by the**
1261 **governing body having jurisdiction, the governing body may presume that the officer has**
1262 **renounced the jurisdiction of this church.**

1263
1264 **“G-6.0703 *Effect of Renunciation***
1265 **The renunciation shall be reported by the clerk or stated clerk at the next meeting of the governing**
1266 **body, which shall record the renunciation, delete the officer's name from the appropriate roll, and**
1267 **take such other actions of an administrative character as may be required by the Constitution.**

1268
1269 **Changes shown in Amendment A.2.c. deal with officers being released**
1270 **from ordained office.**

1271 **Amendment A.2.c.**

1272
1273 **G-11.0414 a–c and G-14.0211 shall be stricken and the following wording shall become new G-**
1274 **6.0600, so that it shall read:**

1275
1276 **“G-6.0600 *Release from the Exercise of Ordained Office***

1277
1278 *“a. If a minister, elder, or deacon against whom no inquiry has been initiated pursuant to*
1279 *D-10.0101 and D-10.0201, against whom no charges have been filed, and who otherwise is in good*
1280 *standing, shall make application to the governing body in which he or she holds membership to be*
1281 *released from the exercise of the ordained office, the governing body, upon granting the release, shall*
1282 *delete that person’s name from the appropriate roll. No judgment or failure on the part of the officer is*
1283 *implied in this action.*

1284

1285 ***“b. Release from the exercise of the ordained office of minister, elder, or deacon requires a***
1286 ***discontinuance of all functions of that office. The designation of minister, elder, or deacon shall not be***
1287 ***used. The status of a minister, elder, or deacon so released shall be the same as any church member.***

1288
1289 ***“c. A person released under this section who desires to be restored to the ordained office shall***
1290 ***make application to the governing body that granted the release, or to the presbytery if the church has***
1291 ***been dissolved, and upon approval of that governing body, the person shall be restored to the exercise***
1292 ***of the ordained office without reordination.***

1293
1294
1295 **Changes shown in Amendment A.2.d. deal with the ability of a session**
1296 **to employ a minister of another denomination in a temporary**
1297 **relationship.**

1298 1299 **Amendment A.2.d.**

1300
1301 **G-14.0514 shall be stricken and the wording shall be inserted to become G-11.0405c. so that**
1302 **G-11.0405c. shall read:**

1303
1304 ***“G-11.0405c. Ministers of Other Churches***

1305
1306 ***“Ordained ministers of other Christian churches may be employed by the session of a***
1307 ***particular church in a temporary pastoral relationship, provided that such ministers present to***
1308 ***the presbytery credentials of good standing in the ecclesiastical body to which they belong, and***
1309 ***provided that presbytery gives its approval to the temporary pastoral relationship.***

1310
1311
1312 **Changes shown in Amendment A.2.e. deal with the call, installation and**
1313 **recognition of validated ministry.**

1314 1315 **Amendment A.2.e.**

1316
1317 **G-14.0517 shall be stricken and the wording at G-11.0408 shall become G-11.0408a. and the current**
1318 **wording at G-14.0517a. and b. shall become new G-11.0408b. and c., so that G-11.0408 shall read:**

1319
1320 ***“G-11.0408 Validated Ministry***

1321
1322 ***“a. A minister of the Word and Sacrament who is an active member of presbytery may***
1323 ***be engaged (1) in a validated ministry within congregations of this church, (2) in a validated***
1324 ***ministry in other service of this church, (3) in a validated ministry in service beyond the jurisdiction***
1325 ***of this church, or may be (4) honorably retired.***

1326
1327 ***“b. A call to a validated ministry in other service of this church (G-11.0410) or in service***
1328 ***beyond the jurisdiction of the church (G-11.0411) shall ordinarily be in a form which includes a***
1329 ***description of the goals and working relationships, financial terms, and the signatures of the minister,***
1330 ***a representative of the presbytery, and where possible, a representative of the employing agency.***

1331
1332
1333
1334

“c. It is appropriate for presbytery to conduct a service of installation similar to that found in G-14.0540, or a service of recognition, at the inauguration of this ministry.

1335 [Note: Each of these B Amendments will be considered individually. The Office of the
1336 General Assembly makes no recommendation about whether they should be approved or
1337 not.]
1338

1339 Amendments B

1340 Amendment B.1.

1341
1342
1343 1. Shall the language at G-14.0310 be deleted and shall “Ordination, installation, and
1344 commissioning questions and service information is found at W-4.4000” be inserted so that
1345 G-14.0310 shall read:

1346 “G-14.0310 Service of Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning

1347
1348 *“Ordination, installation, and commissioning questions and service information is*
1349 *found at W-4.4000.*

1350
1351
1352
1353 2. And shall G-14.0320 and G-14.0330 be deleted; and

1354
1355
1356 3. Shall the language at G-14.0340 – G-14.0345 be deleted and shall “Ordination
1357 questions and installation service information may be found at W-4.4000.” be inserted at
1358 G-14.0340 so that it shall read:

1359 “G-14.0340 Ordination or Installation of Elders or Deacons

1360
1361 *“Ordination questions and installation service information may be found at W-4.4000.*

1362
1363
1364
1365 4. And shall the language at G-14.0490 – G-14.0493 be deleted and shall “Ordination
1366 questions and installation service information may be found at W-4.4000.” be inserted at
1367 G-14.0490 so that it shall read:

1368
1369 “G-14.0490 Ordination of Minister of the Word and Sacrament

1370
1371 *“Ordination questions and installation service information may be found at W-4.4000.*

1372
1373
1374 5. And shall the language at G-14.0540 – G-14.0547 be deleted and shall “Ordination
1375 questions and installation service information may be found at W-4.4000.” be inserted at
1376 G-14.0540 so that it shall read:

1377
1378 “G-14.0540 Installation of Minister

1379
1380 *“Ordination questions and installation service information may be found at W-4.4000.*
1381

1382
1383 6. Shall the language at W-4.4000 be deleted and shall the following language be
1384 inserted so that W-4.4000 shall read :

1385
1386 **“W-4.4000 Ordination, Installation and Commissioning**

1387
1388 **“W-4.4001a. Ordination and Installation**

1389
1390 *“In ordination the church sets apart with prayer and the laying on of hands those who*
1391 *have been called through election by the church to serve as deacons, elders, and ministers of*
1392 *the Word and Sacrament. (W-2.1005) In installation the church sets apart with prayer those*
1393 *previously ordained to the office of deacon, elder, or minister of the Word and Sacrament, and*
1394 *called anew to service in that office.*

1395
1396 **“W-4.4001b. Service of Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning**

1397
1398 *“The service of ordination and installation for elders, deacons, or ministers of the*
1399 *Word and Sacrament, and for the commissioning of certified Christian educators, certified*
1400 *persons and commissioned lay pastors, shall focus upon Christ and the joy and responsibility*
1401 *of serving him through the mission and ministry of the church, and shall include a sermon*
1402 *appropriate to the occasion. The minister presiding shall state briefly the nature of the office.*

1403
1404
1405 **“W-4.4002 Setting of the Service**

1406
1407 *“The service of ordination and installation, or commissioning, may take place during*
1408 *the Service for the Lord’s Day as a response to the proclamation of the Word. (W-3.3503).*
1409 *Ordination and installation, or commissioning, may also take place in a special service that*
1410 *focuses upon Jesus Christ and the mission and ministry of the church and which includes the*
1411 *proclamation of the Word. The service of installation of a pastor or associate pastor shall be*
1412 *conducted at a convenient time to enable the substantial participation of the presbytery.*

1413
1414
1415 **“W-4.4003 Constitutional Questions to Officers and Commissioned Persons**

1416
1417 *“The moderator of the governing body of those to be ordained, installed, or*
1418 *commissioned shall ask them to stand before the-body of membership and to answer the*
1419 *following questions:*

1420
1421 **“a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and**
1422 **Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

1423
1424 **“b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy**
1425 **Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and**
1426 **God’s Word to you?**

1427
1428 **“c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as**
1429 **expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what**

1430 *Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as*
1431 *you lead the people of God?*

1432
1433 *“d. Will you fulfill your office in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of*
1434 *Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?*

1435
1436 *“e. Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its*
1437 *discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them,*
1438 *subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit?*

1439
1440 *“f. Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your*
1441 *neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?*

1442 *“g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?*

1443
1444 *“h. Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and*
1445 *love?*

1446
1447 *“i.(1) (For elder) Will you be a faithful elder, watching over the people, providing for*
1448 *their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in*
1449 *governing bodies of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice*
1450 *of Jesus Christ?*

1451
1452 *“i.(2) (For deacon) Will you be a faithful deacon, teaching charity, urging concern,*
1453 *and directing the people’s help to the friendless and those in need, and in your ministry will*
1454 *you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?*

1455
1456 *“i.(3) (For minister of the Word and Sacrament) Will you be a faithful minister,*
1457 *proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people?*
1458 *Will you be active in government and discipline, serving in the governing bodies of the*
1459 *church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?*

1460
1461 *“i.(4) (for commissioned lay pastor) Will you be a faithful commissioned lay pastor,*
1462 *servicing the people by proclaiming the good news, teaching faith and caring for the people, and*
1463 *in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?*

1464
1465 *“i.(5) (for certified Christian educator) Will you be a faithful certified Christian*
1466 *educator, teaching faith and caring for people, and will you in your ministry try to show the*
1467 *love and justice of Jesus Christ?*

1468
1469 **“W-4.4004 Ordination or Installation of Elders or Deacons**

1470
1471 **“At the service of ordination or installation of elders and deacons:**

1472
1473 **“W-4.4004a Questions to Congregation**

1474

1475 *“The elders- and deacons-elect having answered in the affirmative, an elder shall stand with*
1476 *them before the congregation and shall ask the congregation to answer the following*
1477 *questions:*

1478
1479 *“1) Do we, the members of the church, accept (names) _____ as elders or*
1480 *deacons, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead us in the way of Jesus*
1481 *Christ?*

1482
1483 *“2) Do we agree to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they*
1484 *guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?*

1485
1486 *“W-4.4004b. Prayer and Laying on of Hands*

1487
1488 *“The members of the church having answered these questions in the affirmative, those to be*
1489 *ordained shall kneel, if able, for prayer and the laying on of hands by the session. Those*
1490 *previously ordained ordinarily shall stand, along with the congregation, if able, for the prayer*
1491 *of installation. The session may invite other elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament*
1492 *to participate in the laying on of hands.*

1493
1494 *“W-4.4004c. Statement*

1495
1496 *“The moderator shall say to those who have thus been ordained and installed:*

1497
1498 *“You are now elders and deacons in the Church of Jesus Christ and for this*
1499 *congregation. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,*
1500 *giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.*

1501
1502 *“W-4.4004d. Session Welcomes*

1503
1504 *“Then the members of the session, and others as may be appropriate, shall welcome the newly*
1505 *ordained and installed, or newly installed, elders and deacons into their fellowship in ministry.*

1506
1507 *“W-4.4004e. Congregation Greets*

1508
1509 *“After the service, it is appropriate for the members of the congregation to greet their*
1510 *new elders and deacons, showing affection and support.*

1511
1512
1513 *“W-4.4005 Ordination of Minister of the Word and Sacrament*

1514
1515 *“At the service of ordination to the office of minister of the Word and Sacrament*

1516
1517 *“W-4.4005a. Ordination Questions*

1518
1519 *“The presbytery shall utilize the ordination questions laid out at G-14.0300, W-4.4003,*
1520 *using these words for Question i.(3): Will you be a faithful minister, proclaiming the good*
1521 *news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in*

1522 *government and discipline, serving in the governing bodies of the church; and in your*
1523 *ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?*

1524
1525 **“W-4.4005b. Prayer and Laying on of Hands**

1526
1527 *“The candidate, having answered the questions in the affirmative, shall kneel, if able,*
1528 *and the presbytery, or presbytery commission, shall, with prayer and the laying on of hands,*
1529 *ordain the candidate to the office of minister of the Word and Sacrament. The member*
1530 *presiding shall then say:*

1531
1532 *“(Name) _____, you are now ordained a minister of the Word and*
1533 *Sacrament in the church of Jesus Christ. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in*
1534 *the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.*

1535
1536 **“W-4.4005c. Presbytery Welcomes**

1537
1538 *“Then the members of the presbytery, and others as may be appropriate, shall welcome*
1539 *the new minister into the ministry of the Word and Sacrament. At the conclusion of the*
1540 *ordination service, the new minister may make a brief statement and shall pronounce the*
1541 *benediction.*

1542
1543
1544 **“W-4.4006 Installation of Minister of the Word and Sacrament**

1545
1546 *“Every Christian is called by God to serve the church; however, God calls some*
1547 *persons to serve the church in particular and specific ways in congregations. When the*
1548 *congregation, the presbytery, and the minister (or candidate) have all concurred in a call to a*
1549 *permanent or designated pastoral position, the presbytery shall complete the call process by*
1550 *organizing and conducting the service of installation. Installation is an act of the presbytery*
1551 *establishing the pastoral relationship. A commission may be appointed to act for the*
1552 *presbytery.*

1553
1554 **“W-4.4006a. Installation Service**

1555
1556 *“On the day designated for the installation, the presbytery or commission appointed for*
1557 *this purpose shall convene and shall call the congregation gathered to worship. The service*
1558 *shall have the same focus and form as the service of ordination and the person being installed*
1559 *shall be asked to answer the questions asked at the time of ordination.*

1560
1561 **“W-4.4006b. Questions for Congregation**

1562
1563 *“Following the affirmative answers to the questions asked of the person being*
1564 *installed, an elder shall face the congregation along with the pastor-elect (associate*
1565 *pastor-elect) and shall ask them to answer the following questions:*

1566

1567 **“1) Do we, the members of the church, accept (Name) _____ as our pastor**
1568 **(associate pastor), chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to guide us in the way**
1569 **of Jesus Christ?**

1570
1571 **“2) Do we agree to encourage him (her), to respect his (her) decisions, and to follow**
1572 **as he (she) guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?**

1573
1574 **“3) Do we promise to pay him (her) fairly and provide for his (her) welfare as he**
1575 **(she) works among us; to stand by him (her) in trouble and share his (her) joys? Will we listen**
1576 **to the word he (she) preaches, welcome his (her) pastoral care, and honor his (her) authority**
1577 **as he (she) seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ our Lord?**

1578
1579 **" W-4.4006c. Installation of Minister**

1580
1581 **The members of the congregation having answered these questions in the affirmative,**
1582

1583 **“1) a candidate being ordained and installed shall kneel, if able, and the presbytery**
1584 **shall, with prayer and the laying on of hands, ordain the candidate to the office of minister of**
1585 **the Word and Sacrament and install him or her in the particular pastoral responsibility.**

1586
1587 **“2) a minister, previously ordained, who is being installed ordinarily shall stand, if**
1588 **able, for the laying on of hands and the prayer of installation.**

1589
1590 **“W-4.4006d. Statement to Minister**

1591
1592 **“The member presiding shall then say:**

1593
1594 **“1) (For one being ordained and installed) (Name) _____, you**
1595 **are now a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Church of Jesus Christ and for this**
1596 **congregation. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,**
1597 **giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.**

1598
1599 **“2) (For a minister previously ordained) (Name) _____, you are now**
1600 **a minister of the Word and Sacrament in and for this congregation. Whatever you do, in word**
1601 **or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through**
1602 **him. Amen.**

1603
1604 **“W-4.4006e. Welcome**

1605
1606 **“Then the members of the presbytery, and others as may be appropriate, shall welcome**
1607 **the newly ordained and installed or newly installed minister into their fellowship in the**
1608 **ministry of the Word and Sacrament.**

1609
1610 **“W-4.4006f. Charge**

1611
1612 **“Persons invited by the presbytery may then give brief charges to the pastor (associate**
1613 **pastor) and to the congregation to be faithful in their relationship and in their reciprocal**
1614 **responsibilities.**

1615
1616 ***“W-4.4006g. Benediction***

1617
1618 ***“At the conclusion of the service, the newly installed minister may make a brief***
1619 ***statement and shall pronounce the benediction.***

1620
1621
1622 ***Rationale for Amendment B.1.***

1623 Moving these sections from Chapter 14 into the Directory for Worship will accomplish at least
1624 three things:

- 1625 • Placing this section into the Directory for Worship embodies our belief that ordination
1626 and installation of officers must always occur in the context of worship. Our theology
1627 teaches us that these acts are forms of worship at least as much as they are of governance.
- 1628 • Having one portion of the *Book of Order* dedicated to the ordination questions for elders,
1629 deacons and ministers of the Word and Sacrament makes clear our understanding that
1630 ordination is to function (G-6.0102) and that everyone being ordained answers the same
1631 questions (except for the final one, which is directed to each office individually).
- 1632 • The church has been asking for a shorter Chapter 14 and this is one way to move lengthy
1633 portions to a more logical placement.

1634
1635
1636 **Amendment B.2.**

1637
1638 **Shall G-14.0440 (Negotiation for Non-Ordained Service) become G-14.0441 and new**
1639 **language be inserted at G-14.0440 so that the sections shall read: [Text to be added or**
1640 **inserted is shown as italic.]**

1641
1642 ***“G-14.0440 Licensure***

1643
1644 ***“When a candidate has completed all requirements for ordination, except completion***
1645 ***of the examinations of G-14.0430a.–e., the candidate and the presbytery may agree that the***
1646 ***candidate will serve an internship prior to undertaking the exams described in G-14.0430a.–e.***
1647 ***The presbytery may grant such candidate a license to preach, and when its strategy for***
1648 ***mission requires it, a limited license to administer the sacraments. A minister of the Word and***
1649 ***Sacrament shall be assigned as mentor and supervisor. Upon successful completion of the***
1650 ***examinations described in G-14.0430a.–e., such candidate may be invited by the session to***
1651 ***serve in any of the positions described in G-14.0551.***

1652
1653 ***“G-14.0441 Negotiation for Non-Ordained Service***

1654
1655 ***“A candidate who has completed two full years of theological education or its***
1656 ***equivalent, has had an annual consultation within the previous year, and has successfully***
1657 ***completed all ordination examinations may, with approval of the committee on preparation***
1658 ***for ministry and the appropriate committee on ministry, enter into negotiation for his or***
1659 ***her service in a non-ordained position. This could include work as a temporary supply***
1660 ***pastor.”***

1661

1662 *Rationale for Amendment B.2.*

1663 Many of the focus groups who gave feedback on the Form of Government project mentioned a
1664 desire for reinstating an old concept, but putting it into a new setting: licensure of candidates
1665 who have completed the preparation process except for passing all the ordination exams. The
1666 thinking is as follows:

- 1667 • Deans in seminaries see the wisdom of allowing candidates to have hands-on experience,
1668 including administering the sacraments, as they prepare to finish their exams outside the
1669 academic setting. Since the exams aim to test assimilation of academic training with pastoral
1670 sense, this experience often serves to aid them in passing the exams.
 - 1671 • Presbyteries with many small churches are hoping that such candidates will be able to
1672 pastor some of these congregations; they can do so now, but cannot celebrate the sacraments.
1673 Experience has taught us that once such a candidate is serving such a small congregation it is
1674 much more likely that the candidate will stay on for a few years even after they are ordained.
1675 This is a winning situation for all concerned.
 - 1676 • Many large church pastors would like to be able to mentor a young pastor in a large
1677 congregation setting, which many candidates will not be able to experience otherwise.
- 1678

1679 **Amendment B.3.**

1680
1681 **Shall G-14.0472 be amended by striking the last three sentences as follows: [Text to be**
1682 **deleted is shown with strike-through.]**

1683
1684 **“G-14.0472 Examination Requirements**

1685
1686 **“The examination requirements of G-14.0431 shall not be waived until an inquirer**
1687 **or candidate has failed on two attempts to receive a satisfactory grade, unless the inquirer**
1688 **or candidate has a disability, documented by a person or persons of the presbytery's choice,**
1689 **which disability affects the individual's test-taking ability. If the presbytery believes that**
1690 **the person should be certified as ready for examination for ordination, pending a call, it**
1691 **shall authorize an exception only by a three-fourths vote of the members of the presbytery**
1692 **present, and must determine an alternate means whereby it will satisfy itself of competence**
1693 **in the area(s) of difficulty. When the individual successfully completes the alternate**
1694 **pattern, the presbytery may certify readiness in the usual manner. The minutes of**
1695 **presbytery shall contain a full record of the reasons for the exception and the alternate**
1696 **pattern for determining competence. ~~Presbyteries shall submit to the synod the process by~~**
1697 **~~which a candidate, who has failed one or more examinations twice, or who has such a~~**
1698 **~~documented disability, would be examined. Once that process has been approved,~~**
1699 **~~presbyteries may proceed with particular candidates, and note such exemptions in their~~**
1700 **~~minutes each occasion. Such processes will be reviewed every three years.”~~**

1701
1702 *Rationale for Amendment B.3.*

1703 The suggestion for this amendment came from several focus groups, including one made up of
1704 synod execs and stated clerks. There are a number of problems with the current requirement that
1705 synods approve an alternate ordination exam process for a presbytery:

- 1706 • For the alternate exam process to be useful enough for each individual situation in which
1707 it might be needed, it would have to be too specific to be practical.
- 1708 • The timeline often acts as a bureaucratic delay in a candidate’s process without adding
1709 the benefits of a true safeguard.

1710 • Synods often simply approve such processes without careful scrutiny. Presbyteries are
1711 very able to judge for themselves the adequacy of the alternate process.
1712

1713 **Amendment B.4.**

1714
1715 **Shall G-14.0513 be amended by striking the words “or to” and inserting the words “except**
1716 **by a two-thirds affirmative vote of presbytery.”, inserting the words “An associate may” at**
1717 **the beginning and striking “except” in the second sentence, and inserting a new sentence so**
1718 **that it shall read as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with strike-through; text to be**
1719 **added or inserted is shown as italics.]**

1720
1721 **“G-14.0513 Succession and Extraordinary Circumstances**

1722
1723 **“The official relationship of an associate pastor to a church is not dependent upon**
1724 **that of a pastor, but an associate pastor is not eligible to be the next installed pastor in a**
1725 **church that they have served together, ~~or to~~ *except by a two-thirds affirmative vote of***
1726 ***presbytery. An associate may be called as pastor to serve as co-pastor of that church, ~~except~~***
1727 ***in churches that currently have a co-pastor model in place which has been in effect for at***
1728 ***least three years and the congregation desires to continue such a model. In such churches,***
1729 ***an associate pastor may be called as pastor to serve as co-pastor of that church with a two-***
1730 ***thirds affirmative vote of presbytery. An associate pastor shall be directed in his or her work***
1731 ***by the pastor in consultation with the session.***

1732
1733 ***Rationale for Amendment B.4.***

1734 The request for this amendment came from a number of focus groups, asking that the presbytery
1735 be given the ultimate decision about what works best in their context for their congregations.
1736 Not every presbytery would choose to take such actions and even if they would choose to do so,
1737 the action still would require a super-majority of the presbytery to be approved. This assures that
1738 the presbytery needs to be convinced of the extraordinary circumstance for such an exception to
1739 occur.

1740

1741

1742 **Amendment B.5.**

1743

1744 **Shall G-14.0553 be amended by adding “except by a two-thirds vote of the**
1745 **presbytery” at the end of the sentence, so that it reads:**

1746

1747 **“G-14.0553 Interim Pastoral Relations**

1748

1749 **“When a presbytery and session determine that an interim pastor, interim**
1750 **co-pastor, or interim associate pastor is necessary and helpful, the session may consult the**
1751 **committee on ministry and seek an interim minister as soon as a date certain for departure**
1752 **has been announced by the pastor or associate pastor planning to leave. An interim pastor,**
1753 **interim co-pastor, or interim associate pastor is not eligible to serve that church as the next**
1754 **permanent or designated pastor *except by a two-thirds vote of the presbytery.***

1755

1756
1757
1758
1759
1760
1761
1762
1763
1764
1765
1766
1767
1768
1769
1770
1771
1772
1773
1774
1775
1776
1777
1778
1779
1780
1781
1782
1783
1784
1785
1786
1787
1788
1789
1790

Rationale for Amendment B.5.

The request for this amendment came from a number of focus groups, asking that the presbytery be given the ultimate decision about what works best in their context for their congregations. Not every presbytery would choose to take such actions and even if they would choose to do so, the action still would require a super-majority of the presbytery to be approved. This assures that the presbytery needs to be convinced of the extraordinary circumstance for such an exception to occur.

Amendment B.6.

Shall G-14.0613 be amended by inserting the following as the last sentence: [Text to be added or inserted is shown as italics.]

“The relationship may be dissolved if the presbytery determines that the pastoral/congregational match is incompatible.”

“G-14.0613 Presbytery Action

“The presbytery, through its committee on ministry or an administrative commission, may inquire into reported difficulties in a congregation and may dissolve the pastoral relationship if, after consultation with the minister, the session, and the congregation (G-7.0304a(3)), it finds the church’s mission under the Word imperatively demands it. *The relationship may be dissolved if the presbytery determines that the pastoral/congregational match is incompatible.*

Rationale for Amendment B.6.

This amendment addresses two not-uncommon fact patterns for many presbyteries:

- The discovery in a relatively short time that a particular minister is a very bad match for a congregation. Rather than allow the resulting conflict to build to a destructive level, the presbytery may take pre-emptive action in time to allow both the minister and the congregation to survive what often becomes an unhealthy departure if delayed too long.
- Occasionally a presbytery is dealing with a minister with impaired emotional or mental ability. Being able to act quickly is critical to the health of all involved.

Table of Contents and Cross-Reference for New Chapter 14

1791
1792
1793
1794
1795
1796
1797
1798
1799
1800
1801
1802
1803
1804
1805
1806
1807
1808
1809
1810
1811
1812
1813
1814
1815
1816
1817
1818
1819
1820
1821
1822
1823
1824
1825
1826
1827
1828
1829
1830
1831
1832
1833
1834
1835
1836
1837
1838

* indicates not found in 2005 Book of Order + indicates new wording

Proposed	Paragraph or Provision	2005 Book of Order
	Preface	*
G-6.0500	Dissolution of Relationship of Elder or Deacon	G-14.0210
G-6.0600	Release from the Exercise of Ordained Office	G-11.0414,G-14.0211
G-6.0700	Renunciation of Jurisdiction	G-6.0500
G-9.0405	GA Create Advisory Handbooks	*
G-11.0405c	Ministers of Other Churches	G-14.0514
G-11.0408a	Validated Ministries	G-11.0408
G-11.0408b,c	Validated Ministry: Call, Installation, Recognition	G-14.0517a,b
G-14.0000	Ordination, Certification and Commissioning	G-14.0000
G-14.0100	Leadership in the Church	G-14.0100+
G-14.0110	Servant Style	G-14.0103
G-14.0120	Ordained Ministry	G-14.0101+
G-14.0130	Certified Ministry	G-14.0804+
G-14.0140	Commissioned Ministry	G-14.0102+, W-4.3001+
G-14.0200	Preparation for the Office of Elder and Deacon	G-14.0200+
G-14.0210	The Office of Elder or Deacon	G-14.0203+
G-14.0220	Election Provisions	*
G-14.0221	Fair Representation	G-14.0201+
G-14.0222	Terms	G-14.0201a+
G-14.0223	Nominating Committee	G-14.0201b
G-14.0224	Elected Annually	G-14.0201b+
G-14.0225	Nominating Procedures	G-14.0201d
G-14.0226	Exemptions	G-14.0202+
	a Fair representation	G-14.0202a
	b Fewer than 70 members	G-14.0201c+
	c Rotation of terms	G-14.0202b+
G-14.0230	Congregational Meeting	G-14.0204a
G-14.0231	Purpose of meeting	G-14.0204b
G-14.0232	Nominations from floor	G-14.0201e+,G-14.0204b
G-14.0233	Ballots	G-14.0204b
G-14.0240	Preparation and Examination for Office	G-14.0205
G-14.0300	Ordination as Officers of the Church	G-14.0206+,G-14.0405+
G-14.0310	Service of Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning	G-14.0206+,G-14.0405a G-14.0801g,h
G-14.0320	Setting of the Service	W-4.4002+

1839	Proposed	Paragraph or Provision	2005 Book of Order
1840			
1841	G-14.0330	Constitutional Questions to Officers	G-14.0207+,
1842		and Commissioned Persons	G-14.0405b+,G-14.0801g+
1843	G-14.0340	Ordination or Installation of Elders or Deacons	
1844	G-14.0341	Questions to Congregation	G-14.0208
1845	G-14.0342	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	G-14.0209a
1846	G-14.0343	Statement	G-14.0209b
1847	G-14.0344	Session Welcomes	G-14.0209c
1848	G-14.0345	Congregation Greets	G-14.0209d
1849			
1850	G-14.0400	Preparation for the Office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament	G-14.0300
1851	G-14.0401	Presbytery Responsibility for Inquiry and Candidacy	G-14.0301
1852	G-14.0402	Advisory Handbook	*
1853	G-14.0403	Time Requirements	G-14.0303b+,G-14.0401
1854	G-14.0404	Inquiry Phase	G-14.0302
1855	G-14.0405	Candidacy Phase	G-14.0304
1856	G-14.0410	Duties of Presbytery and Session	G-14.0306a(1)+
1857	G-14.0411	Oversight	G-14.0306a(2)
1858	G-14.0412	Presbytery Responsibility	G-14.0306a+
1859	G-14.0413	Session Responsibility	G-14.0306b
1860	G-14.0420	Service in Covenant Relationship	G-14.0307+
1861	G-14.0421	Annual Reports	G-14.0308+,G-14.0309+
1862	G-14.0430	Examinations	G-14.0310c+
1863	G-14.0431	Five Ordination Exams	G-14.0310d+
1864	G-14.0432	Grading the Exams	G-14.0310e+
1865	G-14.0440	Negotiation for Non-Ordained Service	G-14.0309d+
1866	G-14.0450	Final Assessment of Readiness to Begin Ordained Ministry	G-14.0310a,b+
1867	G-14.0460	Transfer of or Removal from Covenant Relationship	
1868	G-14.0461	Transfer of Relationship	G-14.0311
1869	G-14.0462	Another Reformed Body	G-14.0314b
1870	G-14.0463	Removal from Relationship	G-14.0312+
1871	G-14.0470	Extraordinary Circumstances	G-14.0313
1872	G-14.0471	Educational Requirements	G-14.0313a
1873	G-14.0472	Examination Requirements	G-14.0313b
1874	G-14.0473	Time Requirements	G-14.0313c
1875	G-14.0474	Confirmation of Exceptions	G-14.0313d
1876	G-14.0480	Ordination an Act of the Whole Church	G-14.0401+
1877	G-14.0481	Place of Examination and Ordination	G-14.0314a+
1878	G-14.0482	Examination for Ordination	G-14.0402+
1879	G-14.0483	Presbytery of Call	G-14.0402a.+
1880	G-14.0484	Agreement on Place of Ordination	G-14.0404+
1881	G-14.0485	Recording the Ordination	G-14.0406+
1882	G-14.0490	Ordination of Minister of the Word and Sacrament	G-14.0405+
1883	G-14.0491	Ordination Questions	G-14.0405b+
1884	G-14.0492	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	G-14.0405d
1885	G-14.0493	Presbytery Welcomes	G-14.0405e
1886			

1887	Proposed	Paragraph or Provision	2005 Book of Order
1888			
1889	G-14.0500	Pastoral Relations	G-14.0500+
1890	G-14.0501	Installed or Temporary Relations	G-14.0501a+
1891	G-14.0510	Installed Pastoral Relations	*
1892	G-14.0511	Permanent Pastoral Relations	G-14.0501b+
1893	G-14.0512	Co-Pastors	G-14.0501c+
1894	G-14.0513	Succession and Extraordinary Circumstances	G-14.0501d+
1895	G-14.0520	Designated Pastoral Relations	G-14.0501e
1896	G-14.0521	Calling a Designated Pastor	G-14.0501e+
1897	G-14.0522	Renewing or Ending the Call	G-14.0501e+
1898	G-14.0523	Designated Pastor to Pastor	G-14.0501e+
1899	G-14.0530	Election of a Pastor or Associate Pastor	G-14.0502+
1900	G-14.0531	Pastor Nominating Committee	G-14.0502a+
1901	G-14.0532	Confer with Committee on Ministry	G-14.0502b+
1902	G-14.0533	Signing the Call	G-14.0506a
1903	G-14.0534	Terms of the Call	G-14.0506b+
1904	G-14.0540	Installation of Minister	G-14.0510+
1905	G-14.0541	Installation Service	G-14.0510a+
1906	G-14.0542	Questions for Congregation	G-14.0510a
1907	G-14.0543	Installation of Minister	G-14.0510b
1908	G-14.0544	Statement to Minister	G-14.0510c
1909	G-14.0545	Welcome	G-14.0510d
1910	G-14.0546	Charge	G-14.0510e
1911	G-14.0547	Benediction	G-14.0510f
1912	G-14.0550	Temporary Pastoral Relations	G-14.0513+
1913	G-14.0551	May Not Become Next Installed Pastor	G-14.0513d+
1914	G-14.0552	Organizing Pastors	G-14.0513f+
1915	G-14.0553	Interim Pastoral Relations	G-14.0513b,c+
1916	G-14.0560	Commissioned Lay Pastor	G-14.0801a
1917	G-14.0561	Period Valid	G-14.0801b
1918	G-14.0562	Authorization to Perform Functions	G-14.0801c+
1919	G-14.0563	Pastoral Care and Confidentiality	G-14.0801f+
1920	G-14.0564	Supervision	G-14.0801d
1921	G-14.0565	Questions Asked	G-14.0801g+
1922	G-14.0570	Parish Associate Relationship	G-14.0515a
1923	G-14.0571	May Not Be Next Called Pastor	G-14.0515a
1924	G-14.0572	Presbytery Oversight	G-14.0515b,c+
1925	G-14.0573	Termination of the Relationship	G-14.0515d
1926			
1927	G-14.0600	Dissolution of Installed Pastoral Relationships	G-14.0600+
1928	G-14.0610	Dissolved by Presbytery	G-14.0601+
1929	G-14.0611	Minister Requests	G-14.0602
1930	G-14.0612	Church Requests	G-14.0603
1931	G-14.0613	Presbytery Action	G-11.0103o+
1932	G-14.0620	Pastor Emeritus, Emerita	G-14.0605
1933	G-14.0630	Officiate by Invitation Only	G-14.0606
1934			

1935	Proposed	Paragraph or Provision	2005 Book of Order
1936			
1937	G-14.0700	Persons Called to Certified Ministry	
1938	G-14.0710	Christian Educators	G-14.0701a,b+
1939	G-14.0711	Training	G-14.0701c+
1940	G-14.0720	Certification for Christian Educators	G-14.0702+
1941	G-14.0721	Accrediting Process	G-14.0703+
1942	G-14.0722	Educator Certification Council	G-14.0704+
1943	G-14.0730	Presbytery and Certified Christian Educators	G-14.0705+
1944	G-14.0731	Service of Recognition	G-14.0705b+
1945	G-14.0740	Other Certified Persons	G-14.0802a+
1946	G-14.0741	Organized Associations	G-14.0802+
1947	G-14.0742	Certification	G-14.0802+
1948	G-14.0743	Notification of Status	G-14.0803
1949	G-14.0744	Recognition by Presbytery	G-14.0804+

Cross References, if Amendments B are Approved

1951	Proposed	Paragraph or Provision	2005 Book of Order
1952			
1953			
1954			
1955	<u>Amendment B.1:</u>		
1956			
1957	G-14.0310	Service of Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning	*
1958	G-14.0320	Setting of the Service	W-4.4002+
1959	G-14.0330	Constitutional Questions to Officers	G-14.0207+, G-14.0405b+,
1960		and Commissioned Persons	G-14.0801g+
1961	G-14.0340	Ordination or Installation of Elders or Deacons	
1962	G-14.0341	Questions to Congregation	G-14.0208
1963	G-14.0342	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	G-14.0209a
1964	G-14.0343	Statement	G-14.0209b
1965	G-14.0344	Session Welcomes	G-14.0209c
1966	G-14.0345	Congregation Greets	G-14.0209d
1967			
1968	G-14.0490	Ordination of Minister of the Word and Sacrament	
1969	G-14.0491	Ordination Questions	G-14.0405b
1970	G-14.0492	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	G-14.0405d
1971	G-14.0493	Presbytery Welcomes	G-14.0405e
1972			
1973	G-14.0540	Installation of Minister	G-14.0510+
1974	G-14.0541	Installation Service	G-14.0510a+
1975	G-14.0542	Questions for Congregation	G-14.0510a
1976	G-14.0543	Installation of Minister	G-14.0510b
1977	G-14.0544	Statement to Minister	G-14.0510e
1978	G-14.0545	Welcome	G-14.0510d
1979	G-14.0546	Charge	G-14.0510e
1980	G-14.0547	Benediction	G-14.0510f
1981			
1982			

1983	Proposed	Paragraph or Provision	2005 Book of Order
1984			
1985	W-4.4000	Ordination and Installation and Commissioning	W-4.4000+
1986			
1987	W-4.4001		
1988	W-4.4001a.	Ordination and Installation	W-4.4001
1989	W-4.4001b.	Service of Ordination, Installation and Commissioning	G-14.0206+, G-14.0405a, G-14.0801g,h
1990			
1991			
1992	W-4.4002	Setting of the Service	W-4.4002+
1993			
1994	W-4.4003	Constitutional Questions to Officers and Commissioned Persons	G-14.0207+, G-14.0405b+, G-14.0801g+
1995			
1996			
1997	W-4.4004	Ordination or Installation of Elders or Deacons	
1998	W-4.4004a	Questions to Congregation	G-14.0208
1999	W-4.4004b	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	G-14.0209a
2000	W-4.4004c	Statement	G-14.0209b
2001	W-4.4004d	Session Welcomes	G-14.0209c
2002	W-4.4004e	Congregation Greet	G-14.0209d
2003			
2004	W-4.4005	Ordination of Minister of the Word and Sacrament	
2005	W-4.4005a	Ordination Questions	G-14.0405b
2006	W-4.4005b	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	G-14.0405d
2007	W-4.4005c	Presbytery Welcomes	G-14.0405e
2008			
2009	W-4.4006	Installation of Minister	G-14.0510+
2010	W-4.4006a	Installation Service	G-14.0510a+
2011	W-4.4006b	Questions for Congregation	G-14.0510a
2012	W-4.4006c	Installation of Minister	G-14.0510b
2013	W-4.4006d	Statement to Minister	G-14.0510c
2014	W-4.4006e	Welcome	G-14.0510d
2015	W-4.4006f	Charge	G-14.0510e
2016	W-4.4006g	Benediction	G-14.0510f
2017			
2018	<u>Amendment B.2:</u>		
2019			
2020	G-14.0440	Licensure	*
2021	G-14.0441	Negotiation for Non-Ordained Service	G-14.0309d+
2022			
2023	<u>Amendment B.3:</u>		
2024			
2025	G-14.0472	Examination Requirements	G-14.0313b+
2026			
2027	<u>Amendment B.4:</u>		
2028			
2029	G-14.0512	Succession and Extraordinary Circumstances	G-14.0501d+
2030			

2031	Proposed Paragraph or Provision	2005 Book of Order
2032		
2033		
2034	<u>Amendment B.5:</u>	
2035		
2036	G-14.0553 Interim Pastoral Relations	G-14.0513b,c+
2037		
2038		
2039	<u>Amendment B.6:</u>	
2040		
2041	G-14.0613 Presbytery Action	*

2042
2043
2044
2045
2046
2047
2048
2049
2050
2051
2052
2053
2054
2055
2056
2057
2058
2059
2060
2061
2062
2063
2064
2065
2066
2067
2068
2069
2070
2071
2072
2073
2074
2075
2076
2077
2078
2079
2080
2081
2082
2083
2084
2085
2086
2087
2088
2089

**Appendix C
Cross Reference for Chapter 14
In current Chapter 14 order**

* indicates not found in 2005 Book of Order + indicates new wording

<u>2005 Book of Order</u>	<u>Paragraph or Provision</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
G-6.0500	Renunciation of Jurisdiction	G-6.0700
G-11.0408	Validated Ministries	G-11.0408a
G-11.0414	Renunciation of Jurisdiction	G-6.0700
G-14.0100	Ordination for Church Office	G-14.0100+
G-14.0101	Ordination	G-14.0120+
G-14.0102	Commissioning	G-14.0140+
G-14.0103	Servant Style	G-14.0110
G-14.0200	Electing and Ordaining Elders and Deacons	G-14.0200+
G-14.0201	Election Provisions	G-14.0220, G-14.0221+
G-14.0201a.	Terms	G-14.0222+
G-14.0201b.	Nominations	G-14.0223, G-14.0224+
G-14.0201c	When a Small Church	G-14.0226b.+
G-14.0201d.	Principles	G-14.0225
G-14.0201e.	Floor Nominations	G-14.0232+
G-14.0202	Exemptions for Certain Congregations	G-14.0226+
G-14.0202a.	Fair Representation	G-14.0226a.
G-14.0202b.	Waiver	G-14.0226c+.
G-14.0203	Office is Perpetual	G-14.0210+
G-14.0204	Congregational Meeting	G-14.0230
G-14.0204a.	Election	G-14.0230
G-14.0204b.	Nominating and Voting Requirements	G-14.0231, G-14.0232, G-14.0233
G-14.0205	Preparation for Office	G-14.0240
G-14.0206	Service of Ordination and Installation	G-14.0300, G-14.0310+
G-14.0207	Constitutional Questions to Officers	G-14.0330+
G-14.0208	Constitutional Questions to Congregation	G-14.0341
G-14.0209	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	G-14.0342
G-14.0209a.	Prayer	G-14.0342
G-14.0209b.	Statement	G-14.0343
G-14.0209c.	Session Welcomes	G-14.0344
G-14.0209d.	Congregation Greets	G-14.0345
G-14.0210	Dissolution of Relationship	G-6.0500
G-14.0211	Release from Exercise of Ordained Office	G-6.0600
G-14.0211a.	Application for Release	G-6.0600a.
G-14.0211b.	Discontinuation of Function	G-6.0600b.
G-14.0211c.	Desire to be Restored	G-6.0600c.

2090	2005 Book of Order	Paragraph or Provision	Proposed
2091			
2092	G-14.0300	Preparation for the Office of	
2093		Minister of the Word and Sacrament	G-14.0400
2094	G-14.0301	Presbytery Responsibility	G-14.0401
2095	G-14.0302	Inquiry Defined	G-14.0404
2096	G-14.0303	Inquiry Phase	G-14.0403+
2097	G-14.0304	Candidacy Defined	G-14.0405
2098	G-14.0305	Candidacy Process	*
2099	G-14.0306	Duties of Presbytery and Session	G-14.0410+
2100	G-14.0306a.	Duties of Presbytery	G-14.0410+, 0411, 0412+
2101	G-14.0306b.	Support by Session	G-14.0413
2102	G-14.0307	Service in Covenant Relationship	G-14.0420+
2103	G-14.0308	Annual Report	G-14.0421+
2104	G-14.0309	Consultation and Guidance	G-14.0421+
2105	G-14.0309a.	Annual Consultation	*
2106	G-14.0309b.	Written Report	*
2107	G-14.0309c.	Content	*
2108	G-14.0309c.(1)	Prior to Theological Education	*
2109	G-14.0309c.(2)	First Year Theological Education	*
2110	G-14.0309c.(3)	Second Year Theological Education	*
2111	G-14.0309d.	Negotiation for Service	G-14.0440+
2112	G-14.0310	Final Assessment	G-14.0450
2113	G-14.0310a.	Assess Readiness to Begin Ministry	G-14.0450
2114	G-14.0310b.	Requirements to Be Certified Ready for Examination	G-14.0450+
2115	G-14.0310b.(1)	Readiness	G-14.0450a.
2116	G-14.0310b.(2)	Transcript	G-14.0450b.
2117	G-14.0310b.(3)	Educational Requirements	G-14.0450c.
2118	G-14.0310b.(4)	Examination Requirements	G-14.0450d.
2119	G-14.0310c.	Bible Content Examination	G-14.0430+
2120	G-14.0310d.	Areas of Examination	G-14.0431+
2121	G-14.0310d.(1)	Open Book Bible Exegesis	G-14.0431a.+
2122	G-14.0310d.(2)	Bible Content	G-14.0431b.+
2123	G-14.0310d.(3)	Theological Competence	G-14.0431c.+
2124	G-14.0310d.(4)	Worship and Sacraments	G-14.0431d.+
2125	G-14.0310d.(5)	Church Polity	G-14.0431e.+
2126	G-14.0310e.	How Graded	G-14.0432+
2127	G-14.0311	Transfer of Covenant Relationship	G-14.0461
2128	G-14.0312	Removal from Covenant Relationship	G-14.0463+
2129	G-14.0313	Extraordinary Circumstances	G-14.0470
2130	G-14.0313a.	Educational Requirements	G-14.0471
2131	G-14.0313b.	Examination Requirements	G-14.0472
2132	G-14.0313c.	Time Requirements	G-14.0473
2133	G-14.0313d.	Confirmation of Action	G-14.0474
2134	G-14.0314	Location of Ordination	
2135	G-14.0314a.	Examination and Ordination	G-14.0481+
2136	G-14.0314b.	Other Reformed Bodies	G-14.0462
2137			

2138	2005 Book of Order	Paragraph or Provision	Proposed
2139			
2140	G-14.0400	Ordination for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament	
2141	G-14.0401	Ordination of Candidates	G-14.0403, G-14.0480+
2142	G-14.0402	Examination for Ordination	G-14.0482+
2143	G-14.0402a.	Appearance before Presbytery	G-14.0483+
2144	G-14.0402b.	Vote to Proceed	*
2145	G-14.0403	Extraordinary Circumstances	*
2146	G-14.0404	Place of Ordination, Installation	G-14.0484+
2147	G-14.0404a.	Ordination in Presence of Congregation of Membership	G-14.0484+
2148	G-14.0404b.	Place of Installation	G-14.0484+
2149	G-14.0405	Ordination Service	G14.0300+
2150	G-14.0405a.	Presbytery or Commission Convenes for Service	G14.0310
2151	G-14.0405b.	Constitutional Questions	G-14.0330+, G-14.0491
2152	G-14.0405c.	Section stricken	
2153	G-14.0405d.	Laying on of Hands	G-14.0492
2154	G-14.0405e.	Welcome	G-14.0493
2155	G-14.0406	Ordination Recorded	G-14.0485+
2156			
2157	G-14.0500	Calling and Installing Ministers	
2158		of the Words and Sacrament	G-14.0500+
2159	G-14.0501	Pastors, Co-Pastors, and Associate Pastors	G-14.0501+
2160	G-14.0501a.	Pastoral Relations	G-14.0501+
2161	G-14.0501b.	Pastor or Associate Pastor	G-14.0511+
2162	G-14.0501c.	Co-Pastors	G-14.0512+
2163	G-14.0501d.	Cannot Immediately Succeed the Pastor	G-14.0513+
2164	G-14.0501e.	Designated Pastor	G-14.0520+, .0521+, .0522+, .0523+
2165	G-14.0502	Election of a Pastor	G-14.0530+
2166	G-14.0502a.	Elect a Pastor Nomination Committee	G-14.0531+
2167	G-14.0502b.	Work of the Committee	G-14.0532+
2168	G-14.0502c.	Report of the Committee	G-14.0530+
2169	G-14.0503	Congregational Meeting	*
2170	G-14.0503a.	Convened for Election of Pastor	*
2171	G-14.0503b.	Vote by Ballot	*
2172	G-14.0504	Larger Parish	*
2173	G-14.0505	Dissent	*
2174	G-14.0506	The Call	*
2175	G-14.0506a.	Persons Elected to Sign the Call	G-14.0533
2176	G-14.0506b.	Written Call	G-14.0534+
2177	G-14.0506c.	Allowances and Amounts	*
2178	G-14.0506d.	Certification	*
2179	G-14.0506e.	Minimum Requirements	*
2180	G-14.0506f.	Integration	*
2181	G-14.0507	Call Presented and Received	*
2182	G-14.0507a.	Presbytery Finds Call in Order	*
2183	G-14.0507b.	Call Through Own Presbytery	*
2184	G-14.0507c.	Call, Delegation of Authority	*
2185	G-14.0508	Section moved to G-11.0404	

2186	2005 Book of Order	Paragraph or Provision	Proposed
2187			
2188	G-14.0509	Installation of Minister	*
2189	G-14.0509a.	Call Is Presented	*
2190	G-14.0509b.	Acceptance of Call	*
2191	G-14.0510	Installations Service	G-14.0540+
2192	G-14.0510a.	Presbytery or Commission Convenes	G-14.0541+, G-14.0542
2193	G-14.0510b.	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	G-14.0543
2194	G-14.0510c.	Statement	G-14.0544
2195	G-14.0510d.	Welcome	G-14.0545
2196	G-14.0510e.	Brief Charges	G-14.0546
2197	G-14.0510f.	Benediction	G-14.0547
2198	G-14.0510g.	Record Service	*
2199	G-14.0511	Welcome	*
2200	G-14.0512	More than One Church	*
2201	G-14.0513	Temporary Pastoral Relations	G-14.0550+
2202	G-14.0513a.	Stated Supply	G-14.0550+
2203	G-14.0513b.	Interim Pastor	G-14.0553+
2204	G-14.0513c.	Interim Associate Pastor	G-14.0553+
2205	G-14.0513d.	Temporary Supply	G-14.0550+, G-14.0551+
2206	G-14.0513e.	Inquirer or Candidate as Temporary Supply	G-14.0550+
2207	G-14.0513f.	Organizing Pastor	G-14.0551+, G-14.0552+
2208	G-14.0514	Ministers of Other Churches	G-11.0405c
2209	G-14.0515	Parish Associates	G-14.0570
2210	G-14.0515a.	Minister in Validated Ministry Other Than the Local Parish	G-14.0571
2211	G-14.0515 b.	Designation Made under Supervision of COM	G-14.0572
2212	G-14.0515c.	Annual Review	G-14.0572+
2213	G-14.0515d.	Termination of Relationship	G-14.0573
2214	G-14.0516	Section moved to G-14.0801	
2215	G-14.0517	Validated Ministry: Call, Installation, Recognition	G-11.0408
2216	G-14.0517a.	Call	G-11.0408b.
2217	G-14.0517b.	Service	G-11.0408c.
2218			
2219	G-14.0600	Dissolution of Pastoral Relationships	G-14.0600+
2220	G-14.0601	By Presbytery	G-14.0610+
2221	G-14.0602	Request by Minister	G-14.0611
2222	G-14.0603	Request by Congregation	G-14.0612
2223	G-14.0604	Section stricken	
2224	G-14.0605	Pastor Emeritus, Emerita	G-14.0620
2225	G-14.0606	Officiate by Invitation Only	G-14.0630
2226	G-14.0607	Section stricken	
2227			
2228	G-14.0700	Certified Christian Educator	G-14.0700+
2229	G-14.0701	Christian Educators	G-14.0710+, .0711+
2230	G-14.0702	The Certified Christian Educator	G-14.0720+
2231	G-14.0703	Certification	G-14.0721+
2232	G-14.0704	Educator Certification Council	G-14.0722+
2233	G-14.0705	Presbytery	G-14.0730+,G-14.0731+

2234	2005 Book of Order	Paragraph or Provision	Proposed
2235			
2236			
2237	G-14.0800	Other Certified Employees	*
2238	G-14.0801	Commissioned Lay Pastor	
2239	G-14.0801a.	Local Commission to Provide Pastoral Services	G-14.0560
2240	G-14.0801b.	Period Valid	G-14.0561
2241	G-14.0801c.	Authorization to Perform Functions	G-14.0562+
2242	G-14.0801d.	Supervision	G-14.0564
2243	G-14.0801e.	Moderator of Session	*
2244	G-14.0801f.	Trust and Confidentiality	G-14.0563+
2245	G-14.0801g.	Questions Asked	G-14.0310, G-14.0330+, G-14.0565+
2246	G-14.0801h.	Prayer and Statement	G-14.0310
2247	G-14.0802	Other Certified Lay Employees	G-14.0740+, .0741+, .0742+
2248	G-14.0803	Notification of Status	G-14.0743
2249	G-14.0804	Recognition by Presbytery	G-14.0130+, G-14.0744

Cross References if Amendments B are Approved

2254	2005 Book of Order	Paragraph or Provision	Proposed
2255			
2256	<u>Amendment B.1.</u>		
2257			
2258	G-14.0207	Constitutional Questions to Officers & Commissioned Persons	G-14.0330
2259	_____	Ordination or Installation of Elders or Deacons	G-14.0340
2260	G-14.0208	Questions to Congregation	G-14.0341
2261	G-14.0209a	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	G-14.0342
2262	G-14.0209b	Statement	G-14.0343
2263	G-14.0209c	Session Welcomes	G-14.0344
2264	G-14.0209d	Congregation Greets	G-14.0345
2265			
2266	G-14.0405b	Constitutional Questions to Officers	
2267	_____	And Commissioned Persons	G-14.0330
2268		Ordination of Minister of the Word and Sacrament	G-14.0490
2269	G-14.0405b	Ordination Questions	G-14.0491
2270	G-14.0405d	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	G-14.0492
2271	G-14.0405e	Presbytery Welcomes	G-14.0493
2272	G-14.0510	Installation of Minister	G-14.0540
2273	G-14.0510a	Installation Service	G-14.0541
2274	G-14.0510a	Questions for Congregation	G-14.0542
2275	G-14.0510b	Installation of Minister	G-14.0543
2276	G-14.0510c	Statement to Minister	G-14.0544
2277	G-14.0510d	Welcome	G-14.0545
2278	G-14.0510e	Charges	G-14.0546
2279	G-14.0510f	Benediction	G-14.0547
2280			
2281			

2282	2005 Book of Order	Paragraph or Provision	Proposed
2283			
2284	G-14.0801g	Constitutional Questions to Officers	
2285		And Commissioned Persons	G-14.0330
2286			
2287	G-14.0206	Service of Ordination, Installation & Commissioning	W-4.4001a.
2288	G-14.0207	Constitutional Questions to Officers & Commissioned Persons	W-4.4003
2289		Ordination or Installation of Elders or Deacons	W-4.4004
2290	G-14.0208	Questions to Congregation	W-4.4004a.
2291	G-14.0209a.	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	W-4.4004b.
2292	G-14.0209b.	Statement	W-4.4004c.
2293	G-14.0209c.	Session Welcomes	W-4.4004d.
2294	G-14.0209d.	Congregation Greet	W-4.4004e.
2295			
2296	G-14.0405a.	Service of Ordination, Installation & Commissioning	W-4.4001a.
2297	G-14.0405b.	Constitutional Questions to Officers	
2298		And Commissioned Persons	W-4.4003
2299		Ordination of Minister of the Word and Sacrament	W-4.4005
2300	G-14.0405b.	Ordination Questions	W-4.4005a.
2301	G-14.0405d.	Prayer and Laying on of Hands	W-4.4005b.
2302	G-14.0405e.	Presbytery Welcomes	W-4.4005c.
2303			
2304	G-14.0510	Installation of Minister	W-4.4006
2305	G-14.0510a.	Installation Service	W-4.4006a.
2306	G-14.0510a.	Questions for Congregation	W-4.4006b.
2307	G-14.0510b.	Installation of Minister	W-4.4006c.
2308	G-14.0510c.	Statement to Minister	W-4.4006d.
2309	G-14.0510d.	Welcome	W-4.4006e.
2310	G-14.0510e.	Charges	W-4.4006f.
2311	G-14.0510f.	Benediction	W-4.4006.g.
2312			
2313	G-14.0801g,h	Constitutional Questions to Officers	
2314		And Commissioned Persons	W-4.4001a.
2315			
2316	W-4.3001	Commissioned Ministry	G-14.0140+
2317			
2318	W-4.4000	Ordination and Installation	W-4.4000+
2319	W-4.4001	Ordination and Installation	W-4.4001a.+
2320	W-4.4002	Setting of the Service	W-4.4002+
2321	W-4.4003	Form and Order	W-4.4004, W-4.4005, W-4.4006
2322			
2323			
2324	<u>Amendment B.2:</u>		
2325			
2326	*	Licensure	G-14.0440
2327	G-14.0309d	Negotiation for Non-Ordained Service	G-14.0441+
2328			
2329			

2330	2005 Book of Order	Paragraph or Provision	Proposed
2331			
2332			
2333	<u>Amendment B.3:</u>		
2334			
2335	G-14.0313b	Examination Requirements	G-14.0472+
2336			
2337			
2338	<u>Amendment B.4:</u>		
2339			
2340	G-14.0501d	Succession and Extraordinary Circumstances	G-14.0512+
2341			
2342			
2343	<u>Amendment B.5:</u>		
2344			
2345	G-14.0513b,c	Interim Pastoral Relations	G-14.0553+
2346			
2347			
2348	<u>Amendment B.6:</u>		
2349			
2350	*	Presbytery Action	G-14.0613+
2351			
2352			

Rationale

2353
2354
2355
2356
2357
2358
2359
2360
2361
2362
2363
2364
2365
2366
2367
2368
2369
2370
2371
2372
2373
2374
2375
2376
2377
2378
2379
2380
2381
2382
2383
2384
2385
2386
2387
2388
2389
2390
2391
2392
2393
2394
2395
2396

The 216th General Assembly (2004) directed the Office of the General Assembly “[t]o undertake an extensive cycle of consultation with various groups and constituencies within the PC(USA), including but not limited to: governing bodies (sessions, presbyteries, synods), governing body staff, the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, racial ethnic caucuses, youth, women, pastors, new immigrant leaders, and other person or groups interested in the role of the Form of Government in the mission and ministry of the PC(USA)” and “[t]o bring recommendations to the 217th General Assembly (2006).” (*Minutes*, 2004, Part I, p. 86). This report is the OGA’s response to that referral.

The *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* has always been a fluid document, being the living reminder of “‘Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda,’ that is, ‘The church reformed, always reforming,’ according to the Word of God and the call of the Spirit.”² Virtually every twenty-five years since Presbyterianism came to this continent, the Church has “reformed” its Form of Government, the last substantive reformation of it occurring at Reunion in 1983. Over this past decade, the church has consistently called for a new or different Form of Government.³

In 1993 the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church and the Practice of Governance recommended to the 205th General Assembly (1993) that the *Book of Order* be revised. This resulted in the amendment of G-9.0103 granting powers not mentioned in the *Constitution* to be reserved to the presbyteries. The assembly also referred further discussion and review to the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC).

Every year from 1993 to 2002, the General Assembly has dealt with business that asked for, referred for more study, or reported on major proposed changes in the Form of Government (for details see Appendix A). The 213th General Assembly (2001) sent to the presbyteries as Amendment 01-H a recommended revision of Chapter 14 in its entirety. Many people maintain that the amendment was defeated because of two details, one which moved the ordination questions into the Directory for Worship, and one which allowed interim pastors to be called to installed positions in limited circumstances.

The Presbytery of St. Augustine overtured the 214th General Assembly (2002) (*Overture 02-29*) to send a second version of the Chapter 14 revision back to the presbyteries, but without the two offending substantive changes. This recommendation was sent to the OGA for revision, to be reported back to the 217th General Assembly (2006). The OGA presented an interim report to the 216th General Assembly (2004).

During the time since the 216th General Assembly (2004), the OGA, with the able guidance of the Office of Research Services, has undertaken an extensive cycle of information gathering. We have hosted over 30 focus groups that have been made up of a wide range of participants. Over half of the governing body staff (executive presbyters, stated clerks, associate executives) have participated. A diverse group of Presbyterians involved in new immigrant and racial ethnic ministries (pastors, elders, staff members) took part as well. We spoke with members of a

² *Book of Order*, G-2.0200

³ See Appendix A for details since 1993.

2397 variety of presbytery committees (COMs, CPMs, councils) and the elected members of the
2398 Committee on the Office of the General Assembly. In addition, we utilized research survey
2399 instruments.

2400
2401 In conducting these consultations, we found an almost universal desire for change in our Form of
2402 Government. The great majority of responders hoped that a revision would provide more
2403 flexibility in favor of governing bodies and of presbyteries in particular. There was not universal
2404 agreement on what else ought to be changed, but two clearly identifiable preferences emerged.

2405
2406 1. There was great interest in an immediate “fix”, namely **revising Chapter 14** of the Form
2407 of Government to make it shorter and more flexible in favor of presbyteries. Our second
2408 proposal is an attempt to do what *Overture 02-29* asked in 2002; we have updated
2409 Chapter 14.⁴ We propose that the 217th General Assembly (2006) recommend that a
2410 whole new Chapter 14 replace the current Chapter 14. We propose that the 217th General
2411 Assembly (2006) offer the church as separate options the possibility of moving the
2412 ordination questions and allowing some temporary pastors to become installed. In our
2413 focus groups, interviews, and surveys the OGA also heard suggestions for a number of
2414 substantive changes to Chapter 14, which we suggest the 217th General Assembly (2006)
2415 propose as separate amendments. (See Amendments A and B.1-6.)

2416
2417 Our consultations described above lead us to believe that the Church needs the flexibility
2418 that such a revision would provide to presbyteries as soon as possible. Presbyteries are
2419 currently, and regularly, facing circumstances where they lack the flexibility to provide
2420 the pastoral leadership that is required by their member congregations. We heard great
2421 urgency in our consultations for some immediate relief from the regulatory approach
2422 currently manifested in Chapter 14, especially in relation to new immigrant fellowships,
2423 new church developments, and congregations. We see no inherent conflict in the 217th
2424 General Assembly (2006) permitting the presbyteries to vote on this reasonable revision
2425 while awaiting the report of a more dramatic revision proposal in 2008. We heard the
2426 presbyteries crying for some modest relief during the intervening three years between
2427 now and the possible implementation of a dramatically different Form of Government.

2428
2429 2. About two-thirds of the people giving the OGA feedback on this referral wanted **much**
2430 **more dramatic changes** in the Form of Government.

2431
2432 a. Some advised that the Church should divide the current text of the Form of
2433 Government into **three distinct levels**:

- 2434 • Foundational Principles (which could be changed by a 2/3 vote of a General
2435 Assembly and of the presbyteries),
- 2436 • Binding Policy (which could be changed as our current *Book of Order* is, with a
2437 simple majority of the GA and the presbyteries), and
- 2438 • Advisory Practice (which could be changed by a simple majority vote by any
2439 General Assembly).

⁴ We have included the relevant changes to Chapter 14 adopted since 2001, when this chapter was last sent to the presbyteries.

2440 Foundational Principle and Binding Policy material would be binding upon all
2441 Presbyterians, as is the current Form of Government.⁵

2442
2443 b. Others advised that the Church’s future requires an even more dramatic change. They
2444 would hope for a document that provides a **framework** within which governing
2445 bodies can make decisions that will allow them to move forward in mission. This
2446 group longs for a Form of Government that is written “in English,” one that would fit
2447 in one’s pocket (along the lines of the United States Constitution), and one that will
2448 cover the essential elements of our governance. They want a polity that is
2449 “permission giving” as opposed to regulatory (which is how they describe our current
2450 Form of Government.)

2451
2452 3. In reviewing the data from these two groups, the Office of the General Assembly has
2453 come to understand both perspectives as asking for an entirely different kind of Form of
2454 Government. They call the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out its understanding
2455 that God is still in the process of reforming us. With each new challenge in our history,
2456 the church has always felt free to change its specific governance. The Office of the
2457 General Assembly has learned through this consultation process that a very large
2458 percentage of the church believes we have come to such a time.
2459

⁵ The Advisory Committee on the Constitution proposed this format and recommended these levels of authority when it reported to the 211th General Assembly in 1999 (paragraph 16.026ff).

2460
2461
2462
2463
2464
2465
2466
2467
2468
2469
2470
2471
2472
2473
2474
2475
2476
2477
2478
2479
2480
2481
2482
2483
2484
2485
2486
2487
2488
2489
2490
2491
2492
2493
2494
2495
2496
2497
2498
2499
2500
2501
2502
2503
2504

Appendix A
History of the Proposal to Revise the Form of Government
Excepted from a writing by Paul K. Hooker
October 2005
Presented to the Advisory Committee on the Constitution

The present proposal to revise the Form of Government (FOG) has a lengthy history, beginning with the report of the Special Committee on the Nature of the Church and the Practice of Governance to the 205th GA (1993).⁶ As background to the proposal to change G-9.0103 by inserting the word *ecclesiastical* before the word *acts* in the penultimate sentence of the section as it stood at the time, the Special Committee argued for a degree of freedom and diversity among the various governing bodies of the church. It defended the idea that there were some functions – such as the process and standards for ordination – that are and should remain acts and requirements of the whole church. However, in other, less essential matters such as programs and mission initiatives, the Special Committee argued that a greater degree of freedom and diversity can and should be tolerated. The assembly saw fit to modify the recommended amendment to G-9.0103 by inserting an additional phrase reserving powers unmentioned in the language of the *Book of Order* to the presbyteries, and the amendment was adopted, providing us the current language of G-9.0103. The assembly also recognized that the discussion of freedom and diversity regarding programs, mission initiatives, etc., might well carry implications for the FOG that went well beyond the decision to amend G-9.0103, and so it referred this discussion to the Advisory Committee on the Constitution.

After hearings and a progress report to the 207th GA (1995),⁷ The ACC recommended to the 206th GA (1996) that the ACC

...prepare proposals for revisions of the Form of Government that will take into consideration the possible division into foundational, policy, and advisory components....⁸

and that it report to the 213th GA (2001) its recommendations.

In the meantime, Overture 97-54 (209th GA, 1997) from the Presbytery of West Virginia requested the GA to “form a committee with the task of rewriting the Form of Government,” the committee was to be instructed to create a FOG

- that is true to the historic principles of polity in the PCUSA;
- that will serve as a constitutional reference, “encouraging creativity with broad strokes of wisdom;” and
- that will “empower governing bodies... and celebrate the diversity of the church.”⁹

The Assembly referred the overture to the ACC with instructions to pursue the existing review process.

The ACC reported back to the 211th GA (1999) on its review process, presenting the Assembly with three alternatives for the future direction of its work in revising the FOG.¹⁰

⁶ 205th GA (1993) *Minutes*, Part I, 26.001 - .437, pp. 355-402. The paragraphs of particular interest here are 26.228-232.

⁷ 207th GA (1995) *Minutes*, Part I, p.283.

⁸ 208th GA (1996) *Minutes*, Part I, p. 265

⁹ 209th GA (1997) *Minutes*, Part I, p. 710 .

¹⁰ 211th GA (1999) *Minutes*, Part I, pp.109-166. Action of GA on p. 64.

- 2505 1) A sample revision of Chapters X and XI (The Session and The Presbytery) that divided material
 2506 in the current FOG into “Foundational Principles,” “Binding Policy,” and “Advisory Practice.”
 2507 Foundational Principles could be amended only by supermajority vote of presbyteries. Binding
 2508 Policies require the “voluntary submission of church officers. Advisory Practices are binding on
 2509 the General Assembly but voluntary for other governing bodies.¹¹
 2510 2) A sample revision of Chapter XI that stated broad “Foundational Principles” and then offered a
 2511 section entitled “Policies and Procedures” voluntary submission to which would be required of all
 2512 officers and members.¹²
 2513 3) A revision of the entire FOG that reduced the current document to broadly stated Foundational
 2514 Principles without providing either policies or advisory practices.¹³
 2515

2516 The ACC proposed that Alternative Three, if adopted, be circulated as a study document to the entire
 2517 church; the Assembly amended the recommendation to refer revision three back to the ACC for additional
 2518 study, with a report to the 212th GA (2000).
 2519

2520 In 2000, the ACC reported to the 212th GA the results of its research into revisions of the FOG,
 2521 including a draft revision of G-14.0100 - .0800. The revision contemplated the removal of much of the
 2522 process-oriented material contained in the present Chapter XIV to the status of a handbook. The
 2523 Assembly adopted the document for study and comment.¹⁴
 2524

2525 The following year, after a year of comment, the 213th GA (2001) sent to the presbyteries as
 2526 Amendment 01-H a recommended revision of Chapter XIV drafted along the lines of the previous year’s
 2527 study document. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 29-141-2.
 2528

2529 In February of 2002, the Presbytery of St. Augustine overtured the 214th GA (2002) to send a
 2530 second version of the Chapter XIV revision back to the presbyteries, but with two changes: 1) to make it
 2531 impossible for interim pastors immediately to succeed as pastor in those congregation where they have
 2532 served as interims, and 2) to restore to Chapter XIV the ordination vows for elders, deacons, and ministers
 2533 of Word and Sacrament that had been removed to the Directory for Worship. Overture 02-29 was debated
 2534 by the Church Polity Committee, which recommended that the overture be referred to the Office of the
 2535 General Assembly to “pursue this matter with vigor and urgency,” and to report back to the 217th GA
 2536 (2006) regarding its progress.¹⁵
 2537

2538 In its progress report to the 216th GA (2004), the Office of the General Assembly (OGA)
 2539 recommended to the Assembly that it be assigned the task to “undertake an extensive cycle of
 2540 consultations with various groups within the PC(USA)...interested in the role of the Form of Government
 2541 in the ministry and mission of the PC(USA)” and that it report on those consultations to the 217th GA
 2542 (2006).¹⁶
 2543

¹¹ *Ibid.* p. 110 and Appendix One, pp.113-147

¹² *Ibid.* p. 111 and Appendix Two, pp. 147- 151.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 111 and Appendix Three, pp.152-166

¹⁴ 212th GA (2000) *Minutes*, Part I, pp. 61, 84-98.

¹⁵ 214th GA (2002) *Minutes*, Part I. The overture and rationale are found on pp. 355-370. The Assembly referral action is found on pp.61-62

¹⁶ 216th GA (2004) *Minutes*, Part I. p. 86.