

## TIPS FOR READING THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Proposed Amendments document includes the changes for various sections of the Book of Order – each proposed change whether of a word or something more extensive has the change in italics and then below that you will find the Rationale and any comments.

The number of proposed Amendments to the Constitution looks daunting but some of them contain the same changes in wording for different sections of the Book of Order. Some are minimal word changes which you can see in the italics, others have to do with new or changed policies or procedures. Several amendments have to do with adding electronic meetings and others deal with boundary training and sexual misconduct. The last amendment #22-GG is a proposed new section on Church Discipline to replace the current Rules of Discipline. This is a lengthy document which is presented as one single amendment. It may be helpful to first read the background page at the end, before going through the text for 22-G so you have an idea of what is different before trying to work through it.

Below the amendments with the same/similar wording are grouped together and others have some identifier about its content.

**22-A and B** make a change in wording in two different paragraphs in the Foundations section for the purpose of making it more inclusive. If you agree with the change in wording in A then you would also agree in B.

**22 -C** regarding parliamentary procedure and adding electronic meetings (see also M, N)

**22-D** adds to business appropriate for congregational meetings “receiving a disciplinary decision” which is consistent with the proposals in the proposed 22-GG Church Discipline.

**22-E** proposed to eliminate the title “Honorably Retired” and replace with “Retired”. The rationale explains the thinking about this change

**22-F** has to do with receiving ministers from other denominations to serve immigrant fellowships

**22-G, K, L, and O** all insert requirements for boundary training, including for sexual misconduct and child abuse protection. The different sections are for inquirers/candidates seeking ordination, commissioned pastors, Christian educators, and for all councils to have policies including boundary training (e.g. presbyteries would require boundary training for its minister members and others).

**22-H** regarding preparation for ministry and oversight in matters of sexual misconduct

**22-I** requires terms of call to include twelve weeks paid family leave

**22-J** clarifying presbytery permission to allow commissioned pastors to serve in multiple validated ministries

**22-K** Boundaries

**22-L** Boundaries

**22-M and N** adding electronic meetings

**22-O** Boundaries

**22-P** adds to already required policies (on sexual misconduct and child and youth protection) an anti-racism policy

**22-Q** clarifies presbytery role regarding compensation standards, to include dissolution terms and temporary service

**22-R** composition of Synod membership

**22-S** regarding trust and confidentiality matters in the exercise of pastoral care

**22-T through BB** all have to do with changes in the Directory for Worship section of the Book of Order:

**22-T** adds baptism in a section on confession and forgiveness

**22-U** regards the Lord's Supper and baptismal preparation

**22-V** slightly re-words instructions for Communion

**22-W** specifically adds instructions for ordination & installation services about signs and symbols of blessing

**22-X and Y** add to descriptions on Household Worship

**22-Z** adds wording about "discipleship" to a description of the Church's Ministry within the Community of Faith

**22-AA** changes/clarifies wording about specialized ministries of pastoral care

**22-BB** adds language about services of wholeness and healing

**22-CC, DD, EE, FF** are all changes proposed to the current Rules of Discipline, if the new proposed section on Church Discipline (**22-GG**) is not approved. They seek to clarify current wording/process in the current Rules. The background information and comments may be helpful.

**22-GG** New Section on Church Discipline, pp. 64-128 text, pp.128 -133 Background and Rationale. **It will probably be helpful to read the Background and Rationale first to know what this revision does to make it easier to understand and follow procedures and what is added or changed.**