

Recommendation to Create a Special Committee on Standing Rules

The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly recommend that the 225th General Assembly (2022) authorize a Special Committee on the Standing Rules of the General Assembly to review the current Standing Rules of the General Assembly and related documents and propose a new set of Standing Rules to the 226th General Assembly (2022), along with any amendments to related documents required to enable those changes.

The Special Committee on the Standing Rules of the General Assembly shall be appointed by the [Co-]Moderator[s] of the 225th General Assembly (2022) and consist of eight persons: two members (current or former) of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, one current member of the General Assembly Committee on Representation, one young adult advisory delegate or theological student advisory delegate from the 225th General Assembly (2022), two commissioners from the 224th (2020) or 225th (2022) General Assembly, and two at-large members.

The Special Committee on the Standing Rules of the General Assembly is charged to:

- review past revisions and proposed changes to the Standing Rules, including the work of the Committee to Review Biennial Assemblies;
- consult with the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and the six agencies and other entities and standing committees of the Assembly regarding any changes to the Standing Rules necessary to enable their work;
- promote broad access and participation by the whole church in its work.

The new set of Standing Rules proposed by the Special Committee will:

- use language that opens the Assembly to an expansive understanding of gender;
- reflect the church's commitments to unity and diversity and full participation and representation [F-1.0403];
- look at the role of advisory delegates in the life and deliberations of the Assembly to ensure a continuing voice of constituencies who represent the breadth of the present and future of the church;
- promote broad access and participation in the Assembly by the whole church, particularly providing for translation services, accommodations for persons with different abilities, and other circumstances as they arise;
- simplify the language of the Standing Rules and the processes of the General Assembly to reflect more fully the 21st-century church, embodying the flexibility of the current Form of Government in the life and work of the Assembly;
- incorporate technology to promote communication, conversation, and discernment in the deliberations and processes of the Assembly;

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- adjust the scale and complexity of the General Assembly meeting envisioned in the Standing Rules for a church that has substantially fewer people and financial resources;
- reflect any decisions of the 225th General Assembly (2022) regarding the location and format of future General Assembly meetings.