

Standing Rules and Organization for Mission

Recommendations for COGA Consideration

225th GA (2022)

Block #1: Electronic Meetings

Proposed Special Rules and Enabling Motions for GA225

Enabling Motions for the Assembly Committee on Business Referral:

1. Approve that the meetings of the Assembly Committee on Business Referral (01) be conducted by gathering electronically through an online platform and conducting business through PC-Biz.
2. Approve the following special rules of order for the 225th GA (2022) and suspend any rules that conflict with them:
 - a. In order to be enrolled as participants with voice and/or vote, commissioners, advisory delegates, and corresponding members of the 225th General Assembly (2022) must participate in one of the live technology orientation opportunities prior to the convening of the assembly.
 - b. While every effort will be made to provide stable access to the platforms, each member is responsible for their audio and internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.
 - c. The opportunity to participate in committee public hearings will be provided electronically prior to the convening of the Assembly.
 - d. Greetings, reports, ceremonies, worship services, and other elements mentioned in the Manual of the General Assembly that are unrelated to items of business may be included, altered, or omitted at the discretion of the Stated Clerk.

Rationale

These motions allow for the Assembly Committee on Business Referral to conduct its business in an electronic meeting and set out the special requirements that are necessary for certain elements of the Assembly to be transitioned to an online space. These are modeled on the special rules as approved by the 224th General Assembly (2020), with the addition of 2.c. related to public hearings to reflect the action taken by COGA earlier this year.

Enabling Motion by the In-Person Quorum of the 225th General Assembly

Approve an amendment to the Standing Rules of the General Assembly by adding a new section 5 under I. Arrangements, to take effect immediately and continue in effect only until the adjournment of the 225th General Assembly:

Meetings of the General Assembly and its commissions, committees, and task forces may be conducted by means of electronic communications equipment, by gathering at a central location, or both, provided that the technology enables all persons participating in the meeting who are authorized to do so to have simultaneous aural communication.

Rationale

The current Standing Rules do not allow for the General Assembly to meet in an electronic meeting. For the current plans for the 225th General Assembly (2022) to move forward, the in-person gathering of the first set of assembly committees will need to take action to amend the Standing Rules to permit other commissioners to join through electronic means.

This proposed temporary amendment to the Standing Rules would be in effect only for the 225th General Assembly to permit this assembly to move forward in a virtual format. Framing this as a temporary amendment would allow the Assembly itself to engage in its own discernment regarding future assemblies being in-person, virtual, or some combination of the two. The Assembly should consider other items of business from COGA and other sources that will approach this question for future assemblies.

Special Rules for the 225th General Assembly to be considered by the whole assembly.

That for the purpose of hybrid and electronic meetings, the 225th General Assembly (2022) approve these special rules of order for its meetings and suspend any standing rules that interfere with them:

- a. Online meeting service availability shall begin at least fifteen minutes before the start of each meeting.**
- b. The presence of a quorum shall be established by sign-in to PC-Biz at the beginning of the meeting. Thereafter, the continued presence of a quorum shall be determined by the online list of participating members.**

Rationale

These motions provide processes for the Assembly to conduct its business in an electronic meeting and set out the special requirements that are necessary for certain elements of the Assembly to be transitioned to an online space. These are modeled on the special rules as approved by the 224th General Assembly (2020).

Items of Business to be Referred to the Assembly Committee on Standing Rules

[new section, renumber following paragraphs]

I.1.a. Meetings of the General Assembly may be conducted by means of electronic communications equipment, by gathering at a central location, or both, as authorized by the assembly or by the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly in consultation with the Stated Clerk. The technology shall enable all persons participating in the meeting who are authorized to do so to have simultaneous aural communication.

Arrangements for the General Assembly shall be made with attention to the church's commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, stewardship, and the physical and spiritual well-being of all participants.

When some or all participants are participating by means of electronic communications equipment, the Stated Clerk shall provide information about the platform(s) to be utilized no later than sixty days in advance of the convening of the General Assembly. Such information shall include

1. How to access the platform(s)
2. The method for establishing and assuring the maintenance of a quorum
3. How to seek recognition, make motions, and vote

In order to be enrolled as participants with voice and/or vote, commissioners, advisory delegates, and corresponding members must participate in a live technology orientation prior to the convening of the assembly.

While every effort will be made to provide stable access to electronic platform(s), each member is responsible for their audio and internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.

Online meeting service availability shall begin at least fifteen minutes before the start of each meeting.

This amendment authorizes electronic meetings to be held when necessary. Use of PC-Biz is intended to continue whether the assembly is meeting in person, electronically, or in a hybrid fashion, so this also establishes rules that ensure that necessary information is fully shared.

Motion to Amend the Organization for Mission

IV.E [renumber paragraph below to F] Meetings of commissions, committees, and task forces of the General Assembly may be conducted by means of electronic communications equipment, by gathering at a central location, or both, when authorized by the entity or its leadership. The technology shall enable all persons participating in the meeting who are authorized to do so to have simultaneous aural communication.

The amendment allows for electronic meetings when necessary.

Block #2: Ratification

Motion to Ratify Previous Actions

The 225th General Assembly (2022) ratifies the actions taken under the special rules adopted by the 224th General Assembly (2022), including administrative and permanent judicial commissions, and the actions of the Committee on Business Referral of the 225th GA (2022).

Rationale

Since the 224th General Assembly (2020) gathered virtually without an in-person quorum under the Standing Rules, the actions that it took require the ratification of a later meeting of the Assembly. This motion allows the Assembly to honor the faithful discernment of the commissioners, advisory delegates, and others who made it possible for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to continue during the most challenging days of the covid-19 pandemic.

Block #3: Reports and Overtures

A.2.d

d. All reports shall be limited to five thousand words except the report of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the length of which shall be determined by the Stated Clerk and the Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. A request for an exception to the length of a report, up to ten thousand words, shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk no later than forty-five days prior to the deadline for the submission of the report and shall include the anticipated length of the report. The Stated Clerk may assess a fee of the entity or committee whose report exceeds five thousand words for the costs incurred in translating, printing and distributing the excess pages. ~~Payment of the fee shall be submitted to the treasurer of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation.~~ If the Stated Clerk and the representatives of any body are unable to agree, the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly shall determine the length of the report.

Reports are no longer printed, but translation into Korean and Spanish is a high priority. The process for collecting the fee has changed, so the amendment reflects consistency with current practice.

A.3.b

b. Concurrences are items of business that have been approved by a presbytery that recommend an action identical to that in an overture already received for that assembly. The first concurrence received by the Stated Clerk, fulfilling *Book of Order*, G-3.0302d, must be submitted by the deadlines appropriate for the overture ~~and entitles the submitting presbytery to an overture advocate~~. Subsequent concurrences must meet the forty-five-day rule for business.

The current wording inaccurately implies that mid councils submitting subsequent concurrences are not entitled to an overture advocate. A.3.f confirms that “Each council who submits an overture or concurrence may appoint only one overture advocate.”

A.3.c

Update STAN-21 <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000817>

"c. The stated clerk of a presbytery or synod considering an overture to the General Assembly shall:

"(1) Consult with the Office of the General Assembly regarding past and current actions on similar items of business, including:

"(4) a. Examining the most recently published Minutes of the General Assembly or electronic meeting records to determine if a similar overture has already been passed.

"(2) b. ~~Consult with the Office of the General Assembly to~~ determine~~ing~~ whether the desired action has been *disapproved* ~~voted by any~~ the previous General Assembly.

"(3) c. . ~~Consult with the Office of the General Assembly to~~ determine~~ing~~ whether a similar overture has already been proposed in order that the presbytery or synod may **consider** ~~concurring~~ with the existing overture.

"*Should the overture be determined to ~~deal with substantially the same issue propose an action substantially the same as an action~~ considered at the previous General Assembly, the Stated Clerk shall determine whether or not to refer ~~them~~ **it** to the Assembly Committee on Business Referral. The Stated Clerk shall report to the committee regarding those overtures not referred.*

"(2) (4) Draft the overture in the following form:

" 'The Presbytery of _____ overtures the [# of the assembly] General Assembly [(year)] of the PC(USA) to [state the specific action the General Assembly is asked to take].'

"To this shall be appended a rationale, stating the reasons for submitting the overture." **The Stated Clerk may assess a fee to the synod or presbytery originating any overture that exceeds 1500 words, including the rationale, for the costs incurred in translating the excess pages.**

The existing Standing Rules do not provide guidance as to the purpose of consultation for both mid councils and staff facilitating consultation. This amendment makes clear what actions should be taken during the consultation process and gives instruction on subsequent steps that may be taken regarding the overture's referral to the General Assembly.

It also encourages overtures to be as succinct as possible, both to honor the time and energy of commissioners and advisory delegates who consider the overture, and to recoup the costs of translating lengthy documents.

Update STAN-20 <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000816>

A.3.d-e

"d. Submitting Overtures

"(1) Overtures proposing an amendment to the Constitution or requiring an interpretation by the General Assembly of the Book of Order (see Book of Order, G-6.04a and G6.02) must be *submitted* ~~delivered in writing~~ to the Stated Clerk ~~postmarked~~ no later than 120 days prior to the convening of the General Assembly, and shall be promptly referred to the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (see Book of Order, G-6.02 and G-6.04).

"(2) All overtures that have financial implications for current or future years' budgets must be *submitted* ~~delivered in writing~~ to the Stated Clerk ~~postmarked~~ no later than sixty days prior to the convening of the General Assembly. **Overtures with financial implications not received within the designated time limit shall not be considered, but shall be returned to the originating council.**

"(3) All other overtures intended for consideration by the General Assembly shall be *submitted* ~~forwarded~~ to the Stated Clerk, ~~postmarked~~ no later than forty-five days before the convening of the General Assembly.

"(4) Overtures not received within the designated time limits shall not be considered, but shall be returned to the originating council for reconsideration.

"(5) Presbyteries or synods submitting overtures with a recommendation(s) that affects the work or budget of a General Assembly entity(ies) shall submit **with the overture** evidence that the affected entity(ies) has (have) been consulted. ~~in an appendix to the overture.~~ If such evidence is not submitted, the ~~Stated Clerk shall recommend that the overture be received and referred to a future session of the General Assembly so that consultation may take place~~ the overture shall not be considered.

~~"e. Overtures that do not propose constitutional amendment or interpretation, and that are postmarked at least sixty days prior to the convening of the General Assembly, shall be published (print or electronic) in the reports distributed by the Stated Clerk. Overtures received in the same manner, postmarked no later than forty-five days prior to the convening of the General Assembly, shall be distributed to the commissioners before the convening of the General Assembly."~~

With the transition from a paper-driven assembly to a digital process, the language regarding submission of papers does not reflect the reality of the process. These amendments enable the Standing Rules to catch up with the digital process for submission of papers to the General Assembly, **and reduces repetition.**

C.3.c

c. Items of business to be considered by the General Assembly shall be referred in one of the following ways:

(1) for consideration by an assembly committee and recommendation for action by the General Assembly;

(2) for consideration and action by an assembly committee with a report of the action to the General Assembly;

(3) for consideration by the General Assembly through its inclusion in a consent agenda when the committee has approved a motion by 75 percent or more;

(4) for consideration by the General Assembly in a plenary business session;

(5) **declined for referral.**

The amendment clarifies that some submitted items of business may be declined for referral.

Block #4: GA Participants

STAN-01 Leave as-is

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000779>

B.2.b

B.2.b. There shall be four categories of advisory delegates: young adult, theological student; missionary, and ecumenical. When the ratio of advisory delegates to commissioners exceeds one to three, the Committee on the Office of the General

~~Assembly shall be authorized to make changes to the Standing Rules to create a ratio of less than one to three. The expenses of each advisory delegate shall be paid by the General Assembly (see Standing Rule I.3.) on the same basis as the expenses of commissioners (see Standing Rule B.2.f.(2) below for exception)."~~

B.2.c

B.2.c Advisory delegates shall be assigned to assembly committees as voting members and shall have ~~the privilege of the floor of the General Assembly without vote-voice but not vote in plenary meetings.~~ Only voting members shall have the privilege of proposing or seconding a motion. ~~When certain issues come before a plenary session~~ In plenary meetings of the General Assembly, the advisory delegates may be polled prior to the vote of commissioners to determine their advice.

According to RONR [Chapter II, footnote 5], privilege of the floor “has nothing to do with having the floor, but means merely that a person is permitted to enter the portion of the hall floor otherwise restricted to members and necessary staff. It carries no right to speak or any other right of membership, except as may be determined by rules or action of the body.”

B.2.d

Update STAN-22
<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000888>

Standing Rule B 2. Advisory Delegates d. Young Adult Advisory Delegates (1) Each presbytery shall appoint an active member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who shall be between the ages of eighteen and twenty-three years on the date the General Assembly convenes, to be a young adult advisory delegate.

B.2.d. Young Adult Advisory Delegates

(1) Each presbytery ~~shall appoint may elect~~ an active member of ~~the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) one of its congregations,~~ who shall be between the ages of ~~seventeen~~ **eighteen** and twenty-three years on the date the General Assembly convenes, to be a young adult advisory delegate.

(2) Presbyteries shall elect young adult advisory delegates in sufficient time to permit the ~~list name~~ of ~~the~~ advisory delegates to be delivered to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly 180 days prior to the convening of the session of the General Assembly to which they are elected, ~~and may also submit the name of an alternate. Any presbytery failing to meet the deadline is not eligible to send a young adult advisory delegate to that assembly.~~

The amendment brings consistency between “appointing” and “electing” and makes clear that a young adult advisory delegate must be a member of a congregation in the presbytery that elects them.

The Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and its Procedures adopted by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) clarified the responsibilities for ensuring the safety of minors at PC(USA) events. With the number and variety of participants present at a General Assembly, the OGA cannot provide the level of supervision required for unaccompanied minors in order to be in compliance with this policy, requiring presbyteries to provide for that supervision. Raising the youngest age of a YAAD to eighteen solves that problem.

When a presbytery fails to meet the deadline for submitting the name of a YAAD or alternate and seeks to add a name later, the distribution of YAADs among committees is skewed.

B.2.e Strike section and replace

B.2.e

~~e.—Theological Student Advisory Delegates~~

~~There shall be a delegation of theological student advisory delegates each year: two from each of the theological institutions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); one from each of the theological institutions in a covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and one each from three selected other theological seminaries. The selection process for these delegates is as follows:~~

~~(1) Each theological institution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall nominate three students who, at the time of the General Assembly, will have at least one year of study remaining in their degree program. Two of these students shall be designated by the institution as delegates and the other student shall be designated as the alternate. Such a student must be either an inquirer or a candidate in preparation for ministry under care of a presbytery, or a student nominated by the Presbyterian School of Christian Education. These nominations shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly 180 days prior to the convening of the session of the General Assembly to which they are elected, who shall transmit the names of the two students to be delegates to the presbytery of jurisdiction for election. The presbyteries shall then certify the election to the Stated Clerk when completed.~~

~~(2) Each theological institution in covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall nominate two students who, at the time of the General Assembly, will have at least one year of study remaining in their degree program. One of these students shall be designated by the institution as the delegate and the other student as the alternate. Such a student must be either an inquirer or a candidate in preparation for ministry under care of a presbytery. These nominations shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly 180 days prior to the convening of the session of the General Assembly to which they are elected, who shall transmit the name of the delegate to the presbytery of jurisdiction for election. The presbyteries shall then certify the election to the Stated Clerk when completed.~~

~~(3) All non-Presbyterian theological schools represented by corresponding members on the Committee on Theological Education and one additional non-Presbyterian theological seminary shall be asked to nominate one theological student advisory delegate and one alternate. The additional non-Presbyterian seminary shall be chosen on a rotating basis, descending alphabetically, from those that have at least twelve Presbyterian enrollees (either inquirers or candidates under the care of a presbytery) as of October 1 in the year preceding the assembly. These nominations shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly 180 days prior to the convening of the session of the General Assembly to which they are elected, who shall transmit the name of the delegate to the presbytery of jurisdiction for election. The presbyteries shall then certify the election to the Stated Clerk when completed.~~

~~(4) Nominated students shall have at least one more year of study following the assembly remaining in their degree program. The Stated Clerk shall forward the name of the nominated students to the presbyteries of jurisdiction for election and confirmation.~~

The number of theological student advisory delegates, who must be in preparation for ministry under care of a presbytery, shall be no more than: two from each of the schools that are institutional members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Committee on Theological Education; one from each of the theological institutions in a covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); one from each school represented by an invited participant on the Committee on Theological Education; and one from an additional seminary identified by the Office of the General Assembly as having a high number of students who are PC(USA) inquirers/candidates as reported by the presbyteries.

Each eligible theological institution may nominate one alternate in addition to the principal(s). All nominated students shall have at least one more year of study remaining in their degree

program following the assembly.

These nominations shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly no later than 180 days prior to the convening of the session of the General Assembly to which they are elected. Any theological institution failing to meet the deadline shall not be entitled to a theological student advisory delegate to that assembly.

(4) The Stated Clerk shall forward the names of the nominated students to the presbyteries of jurisdiction for election. When the election is completed, the presbytery shall certify that fact to the Stated Clerk.

The amendment brings the Standing Rule into consistency with the Manual of Operations of the Committee on Theological Education, which now includes the category “invited participant” rather than “corresponding member.” When the name of a TSAD or alternate fails to be submitted by the deadline, the distribution of TSADs among committees is skewed. The amendment also reduces repetition in the section.

B.3

a. The following persons shall be corresponding members: Moderators of earlier General Assemblies; the Stated Clerk, Associate and Assistant Stated Clerks, and other members of the staff of the Office of the General Assembly as designated by the Stated Clerk; the members of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly; the members of the **PMAB Presbyterian Mission Agency Board** Coordinating Committee and staff of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, designated by the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board, ~~and of the ministry areas and related entities designated by the council~~; the chair (or co-chairs) of the Board of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, and other persons designated by the **A Corporation Board**; ~~all the~~ members of the Advisory Committee on the Constitution; ~~the executives or, when there is no executive, the stated clerks of synods~~; **one person designated by each synod, ordinarily the executive or stated clerk**; one person designated by each entity reporting directly to the General Assembly, including permanent, special, and advisory committees (additional persons may be designated by such bodies if authorized by the Moderator of the preceding General Assembly in consultation with the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly); the moderator of Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc. or her designee; ~~the executives of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corporation, the Board of Pensions, the Investment and Loan Program, the Presbyterian Foundation, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, and Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Inc.~~; and the presidents (or their designee) of the theological institutions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and seminaries related by covenant agreement.

The amendment adds as corresponding members of the assembly the executives of the national agencies and entities. It also affords synods more flexibility in ensuring that each of them has a corresponding member able to participate.

B.6

B.6. List of Participants

~~Upon request, the Stated Clerk shall make available the list of participants registered for a session of the General Assembly to entities of the General Assembly, councils of the denomination, educational institutions, ministers of the Word and Sacrament, ruling elders, and independent organizations composed primarily of members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A fee will be charged for lists or mailing labels to cover the costs incurred for printing, postage, and handling.~~

Upon request by entities of the General Assembly, councils or educational institutions of the denomination, members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or independent organizations composed primarily of members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Stated Clerk shall make available access to communicate with the commissioners and advisory delegates registered for a session of the General Assembly through the online platform chosen to host the General Assembly meeting. A fee will be assessed to cover the processing costs incurred.

Previous practice had been to provide mailing lists to certain parties requesting the means to contact commissioners and advisory delegates; current privacy laws do not allow that. The practice now is to provide a means through PC-Biz by which commissioners and advisory delegates can be contacted; they have the ability to opt out of those communications and have no obligation to reply.

Block #5: Opening of the GA Meeting and Public Hearings

D.2

D.2. Quorum

~~At the first meeting of the General Assembly for the transaction of business, the Stated Clerk shall recommend to the General Assembly that the roll call of commissioners be established by registration. Alternately, the Stated Clerk may call the roll of commissioners and advisory delegates by calling the names of absentees as they appear on the roll. After any needed corrections have been made, the Stated Clerk shall announce whether or not a quorum is present (see *Book of Order*, G-3.0503). When commissioners and advisory delegates subsequently register, they shall be seated by the General Assembly. A commissioner who has not registered may not be seated and may not vote.~~

The presence of a quorum shall be established by sign-in to the electronic voting platform at the beginning of the meeting. Thereafter, the continued presence of a quorum shall be determined by the online list of participating members.

Current practice is to use PC-Biz to determine a quorum; this is true whether the assembly is meeting in person or online. When the assembly meets in person, “geofencing” ensures that participants cannot sign in unless they are in the physical space.

D.4

Leave STAN-19 as is:

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000815>

"4. Opening worship or the first meeting of the General Assembly for the transaction of business shall include an acknowledgement of the Indigenous peoples on whose land the assembly is meeting. The Stated Clerk shall seek to include a welcome from those Indigenous peoples currently living on the land

The 223rd General Assembly (2018) instructed OGA to offer an amendment to the Standing Rules to incorporate the work of the Doctrine of Discovery Team.

E.5

E.5.a-c

E.5.a. Each committee, with the exception of the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures, shall ~~schedule at its convenience one or more~~ provide for public hearings on matters before it, including on any commissioners' resolutions submitted to it. Public hearings are the opportunity for the committee to hear from those who do not have other avenues for addressing the committee—including those who are not Presbyterian. For this reason, those who are given privilege to speak to the committee in E.2.f.(1–7) are not entitled to address the committee during public hearings.

E.5.e-b The Stated Clerk shall announce, no later than the first meeting of the assembly, the method by which a person who wishes to be heard in a public hearing shall register to speak, and the deadline for registering. In the event that an issue is expected to be controversial, those wishing to speak shall be asked to indicate whether they wish to speak for or against the recommendation.

~~e.—Any person who wishes to be heard in a public hearing shall sign up on a hearing form, posted in a public place in the building in which the assembly is being held, no later than the close of business on the second day of the General Assembly or noon of the day after the subsequent referral of business to the committee by the General Assembly. The location of hearing forms shall be announced during the first session of the assembly. In the event that an issue is expected to be controversial, those wishing to speak shall be asked to indicate whether they wish to speak for or against the recommendation.~~

E.5.b-c The committee may limit the time for the presentation by any person during a public hearing, ~~including an elected member or staff member of an entity of the General Assembly~~. If the time allotted for the public hearing is not sufficient to accommodate all the persons wishing to speak, a method shall be approved by the assembly committee that ensures that an equal number of persons on each side of an issue have an opportunity to speak. Any person denied the right to speak at the hearing may appeal to the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures on the basis that the method employed in selecting speakers was not fair.

The amendment provides for public hearings without specifying the method of registering to do so, allowing flexibility.

Block #6: Committee Process and Presentations

E.7.c Update STAN-18: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000814>

"c. Each assembly committee shall include with each recommendation or **final** action in its report statements advising the General Assembly whether or not the recommendation or action has fiscal implications affecting any budget under consideration by the assembly. *General Assembly entities have the authority to set a budget and/or scale the work mandated by the assembly to fit the budget approved by the assembly in consultation with their elected boards/committees.*"

This amendment recognizes the authority of the assembly to set priorities and allocate funding for those priorities, while also recognizing the responsibility and authority of an agency to manage those allocations to fit old and new mandates from assemblies.

F.3.b

Keep STAN-17 as-is:

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000813>

"b. The moderator of the committee, or another member of the committee, shall present reasons supporting the committee's recommendation. They may be presented before any minority report is moved or presented during the narrative report of the committee, or presented during debate on the question of whether or not the substitution shall become the main motion. *The presenters of the committee's recommendation and the minority report are to coordinate their presentations so that the assembly can best understand the particular issues at hand and keep them as equal in length as possible.*"

Currently, there is no rule governing how the time of a committee report is shared when there is a minority report. While it is important to be sure minority reports are heard, the opening remarks of the majority and the minority should not be imbalanced.

F.4

STAN 15 F.4.b

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000811>

"b. On the final day of the assembly, an ~~amended~~ updated per capita budget incorporating the financial implications of actions taken by the assembly shall be presented for approval action. ~~the assembly shall vote to amend the approved per capita budget to account for actions taken by the assembly with financial implications.~~ If the assembly approves a budget that does not adequately fund the estimated financial implications of new actions, all new items will be scaled in proportion to the amended per capita budget."

This amendment ~~is tied to suggested changes in Standing Rule F.4.a.~~ These amendments would allow an agency to manage their budget more effectively while allowing the assembly to ensure that its' priorities are also addressed.

Block #7: Special Rules for Plenaries

F.5

F.5.a Keep STAN-14 as

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000810>

"a. In debate on any pending matter, no commissioner or delegate shall be allowed to speak more than two minutes until all other commissioners or delegates who desire to speak on the pending matter have been heard. *These or any other limitations to debate in the Standing Rules or approved by the assembly apply to all persons recognized by the Moderator for any purpose, including resource persons and corresponding members.*"

Answers to commissioner questions cannot be opportunities for open-ended speeches or argument for one side or the other. Parliamentary procedure rules address this, and the above suggested new sentence would make it explicit that answers to questions need to fit within the same time limits as speakers debating the motion.

F.5.a.2 Keep STAN-13 as-is. <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000809>

"(2) Motions for the previous question on more than one pending item are not in order at any time."

Commissioners with knowledge of parliamentary procedure **sometimes** abuse the motion to call the previous question on all pending items when the Moderator has called only for amendments and not permitted open discussion on the item before the Assembly, usually when there are multiple items pending and debate veiled as questions has taken the time and energy the Assembly has to consider the particular item.

This amendment would ensure that the assembly has the opportunity to debate the main motion after amendments have been considered.

F.5.b.1 Update STAN-12: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000808>

"b. (1) The General Assembly shall ordinarily decide questions by electronic voting. The Moderator may also call for unanimous consent ~~by voice vote or show of hands.~~

All decisions made by assembly ~~standing~~ committees by a three-quarters ~~(supermajority)~~ vote shall be placed on the assembly plenary consent agenda to be considered as the first order of plenary business following committee meetings. Any actions requesting constitutional change ~~or interpretation~~ must be considered in plenary, *unless the assembly committee recommends disapproval by a three-quarters ~~(supermajority)~~ vote, in which case the recommendation for disapproval may be placed on the assembly plenary consent agenda.*"

~~The Assembly Committee on Church Polity~~ reports often includes a number of potential constitutional changes that have been recommended for disapproval by a near-unanimous vote of the committee but cannot be placed on the assembly Plenary Consent Agenda because of a provision in F.5.b.(1). This report, therefore, often ends up taking extensive plenary docket time solely to reject these various amendments that are more in the spirit of a "manual of operations" approach to the Constitution. (There is also a misstatement of the name of assembly committees in this rule—"assembly standing committees" is an internal contradiction, so the word "standing" should be stricken.)

Unanimous consent is a method by which the moderator can expedite non-controversial business, and it does not involve a vote. "Supermajority" does not add clarity to the rule.

The General Assembly should consider in plenary interpretations of the Book of Order as well as amendments.

Block #8: Special Committees

STAN-07 as-is <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000801>

"a. Every effort shall be made to carry out the actions of the General Assembly through standing committees, commissions, and entities. If

necessary to fulfill particular and specific purposes, the General Assembly may establish special committees and commissions to carry out decisions of the assembly or make recommendations to the assembly on matters that cannot be undertaken or accomplished by an existing entity. (Book of Order, G-3.0109)

The formation of special committees and task forces has the potential to become financially burdensome and practically inefficient. Finding members to serve on and lead them, as well as staff to resource them, can be a strain on the church's human and financial resources. It is not a sustainable way to accomplish the work of the church.

K.1.b

Update STAN-06 <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000800>

"b. When the assembly is ~~in~~ considering the creation of a special committee or commission the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures shall hear from the most closely related assembly entity or entities as to whether the work to be assigned to the special committee could be more effectively and economically assigned to that entity or entities. ~~relevant agencies,~~ The Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures will also consult with the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, a representative from the General Assembly Nominating Committee, a representative from the General Assembly Committee on Representation, ~~as well as from~~ and the assembly committee considering the proposal. The Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures shall report to the **assembly committee considering the proposal and to the** assembly on their consultation and may provide comment, guidance, or an alternate recommendation to the assembly regarding the creation of a special committee or commission. Financial implications of special committees or commissions shall accompany any recommendation to the assembly."

The existing Standing Rules authorize the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures to consult with representatives of various committees or agencies about proposals for new special committees, but the rules do not give them any guidance about their role in those consultations. The proposed amendment makes explicit that the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures can provide comment or guidance regarding these recommendations. Out of these consultations the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures could recommend a different way of accomplishing the work of the recommendation that fits within standing structures. This proposed amendment also adds the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, as the elected body that monitors the OGA budget, to the list of groups in consultation with the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures.

K.1.g

The Stated Clerk shall provide staff services and other assistance to special committees and commissions. ~~The work of the special committees and commissions~~, whose work shall be funded through the per capita budget of the Office of the General Assembly **unless the initial request for the special committee or commission originated with another committee of**

the General Assembly, in which case the special committee or commission shall be funded through the budget of that entity.

When the request for a special committee grows out of the work of a standing committee, it is appropriate that the work of the special committee be funded through the budget that funds that standing committee.

Block #9: Amending and Suspending the Rules

L.2

Update STAN-05

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000799>

The Standing Rules of the General Assembly may be amended by a majority vote of the commissioners present and voting. A motion to amend the rules is debatable. Amendments to the Standing Rules go into effect at the adjournment of the last meeting on the final day of the assembly, *unless the General Assembly includes a proviso stipulating a different time.*

The proposed amendment provides clarity about when changes to the Standing Rules take effect.

L.3

3. A motion to suspend the standing rules is not debatable and shall require notice no later than the previous meeting and a ~~two-thirds vote~~ majority of the total enrollment of the commissioners.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised usually requires either a two-thirds vote or a majority of the total membership, not both, when a higher threshold for approval of a motion is mandated. This amendment continues to protect the assembly from unexpected motions when a substantial number of commissioners may be absent, but allows the will of the majority of the assembly to move forward.

Block #10: Organization for Mission Amendments

Proposed Amendments to the Organization for Mission

GA-PAP-04

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000819> Section IV.C.1.c.

“c. Persons nominated for election by the General Assembly shall ordinarily be eligible to serve a four-year term and be eligible for election to one additional term. Ordinarily No person may serve more than two consecutive terms, full or partial. At the conclusion of their term of service, a person shall not be eligible for nomination to a General Assembly entity until two years have elapsed.”

The recommendation came to the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly from the General Assembly Nominating Committee. This amendment would provide the General Assembly Nominating Committee with flexibility to consider and respond favorably to requests of entities for re-nomination of persons who have served a partial term where the incumbent has filled a vacancy of two years or less of a four-year term. Entities whose bylaws limit service to no more than two consecutive terms, full or partial, would not be impacted by this change.

GA-PAP-05

“As an officer of the General Assembly, the Stated Clerk shall preserve and defend the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and support the decisions, actions, and programs of the General Assembly. The Stated Clerk shall give advisory opinions concerning the meaning of the provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and shall give advisory opinions on the meaning of the actions of the General Assembly. *When the Stated Clerk deems it necessary, the Stated Clerk may refer to the General Assembly, through the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, any request for authoritative interpretation of the Constitution.* When the Stated Clerk deems it necessary, after consulting with appropriate persons or bodies, the Stated Clerk may retain legal counsel and institute or participate in legal proceedings in civil and criminal courts.”

This proposed amendment places back into the Standing Rules the power of the Stated Clerk to identify areas of confusion among councils regarding interpretation of the Constitution and directly request as an item of business that the General Assembly issue an authoritative interpretation of the Constitution. Currently, mid councils and committees of the General Assembly are empowered to bring business to the General Assembly in the form of an overture or recommendation. As the Stated Clerk develops advisory opinions concerning the meaning of the provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Stated Clerk often identifies areas in which there is no clear interpretation amongst the councils and that have become a source of conflict. This proposed amendment allows the Stated Clerk to identify those areas of confusion that multiple councils have in common and directly request that the General Assembly issue an authoritative interpretation as a means for clarification.

Organization for Mission (IV.C.1.c)

c. Persons nominated for election by the General Assembly shall ordinarily be eligible to serve a four-year term, and be eligible for election to one additional term. No person may serve more than two consecutive terms, full or partial. **Ordinarily the terms of those elected to service on General Assembly committees or boards begin at the adjournment of the last meeting of the assembly that elects them, unless otherwise specified in the action taken by the assembly or in the entity’s Bylaws or Manual of Operations.** At the conclusion of their term of service, a person shall not be eligible for nomination to a General Assembly entity until two years have elapsed.

The amendment codifies current practice, which is not the default according to Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised.

46:47 An officer-elect takes possession of his office immediately upon his election’s becoming final, unless the bylaws or other rules specify a later time.

56:27 The length of the terms of office should be prescribed; and unless the terms are to begin at the instant the chair declares each officer elected, the time when they are to begin must be specified.

The working group recommends withdrawing these IOBs referred from the 224th GA (2020) and currently in PC-Biz.

Where there are *edits in RED*, if the decision were made to retain the original referral, *updates to the item* might be considered.

STAN-16 <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000812>

F.4.a. At the first meeting of the General Assembly for the transaction of business following the meetings of assembly committees, the assembly shall ~~hear~~ *consider and act on* a report on the per capita budget *recommended by* ~~from~~ the committee that has reviewed that budget.”

STAN-11: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000807>

G.a. The Moderator of the preceding General Assembly shall plan **daily** worship at the General Assembly **for each day in which plenary meetings take place, and a worship service including the celebration of the Lord’s Supper;** and shall provide, in advance, suitable leadership for these periods of worship, **except that the Stated Clerk is responsible for planning an ecumenical service.** The Lord’s Supper shall be celebrated at the first service of worship of the General Assembly session, and the Moderator shall preside on this occasion and preach a sermon or deliver an address. The Moderator shall seek advice to ensure inclusivity in the planning of appropriate daily worship periods, *in consultation with the General Assembly Committee on Representation.* The Moderator shall assure adequate transmittal of information about the planning of worship periods to the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly.”

~~b.—The Stated Clerk shall plan an ecumenical period of worship and provide, in advance, suitable leadership for this period of worship.~~

G.c. The various acts of worship planned for the session of the General Assembly shall be in conformity with the requirements of the Directory for Worship, ~~and shall be developed and led according to the guidance of the document, “Presbyterians at Worship in Mass Assemblies.”~~ In the preparation and conduct of all worship services, care shall be taken that all language, sight, hearing, accessibility, and other barriers be eliminated so that there can be full participation of all attendees. [Examples: That printed orders of service also be printed in braille, *that interpretation be provided*, and that signing be available.]

STAN-10

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000806>

H “Persons in Ordered Ministry Officers and Elections”

H.1.a. Title and Functions of the Moderator at the General Assembly

(1) The Moderator of the General Assembly is an ecclesiastical **person in ordered ministry officer**, along with the Stated Clerk, of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). The ministry of the Moderator is grounded in the ministry of baptized persons and in the particular ordained ministry of ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

Current amendment (above) changes the heading but not the text.

STAN-09

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000805>

H.2.b.3 (a) The slate of nominees for the nomination committee shall consist of the following: three members of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (nominated by the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, one of whom shall serve as moderator of the committee), one member of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board (nominated by the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board), and five at-large members nominated by the General Assembly Nominating Committee, *in consultation with the General Assembly Committee on Representation*, in the following categories: one mid council stated clerk and four persons (two ruling elders and two ministers of the Word and Sacrament) from among commissioners who have attended an assembly in the past six years. The General Assembly Nominating Committee shall present to the assembly for election the slate of nominees for the Stated Clerk Nomination Committee. The slate presented shall reflect the denomination’s commitment to inclusiveness.”

STAN-04 <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000798>

I.1.a. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall meet on the date, **by the method**, and at the place fixed by **the a** preceding General Assembly for a period, which shall be known as a session of the General Assembly, preferably between May 15 and July 31, subject to the possibility of change (see Standing Rule I.4.b.(10) and Book of Order, G-3.0503, for exceptions). The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly shall recommend to the General Assembly for its action the date and place of meeting *no less than* **four** ~~six~~ years hence and any necessary changes in dates and places of meetings previously set. Should action regarding date or place of

meeting become necessary at a time when the General Assembly is not in session, this committee is empowered to fix a new date or place of meeting.”

STAN-03 <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000797>

~~I.1.b. Each session of the General Assembly **is may be** hosted by a presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which may share its responsibilities with other mid councils as it sees fit. The **Office of the General Assembly Stated Clerk** shall consult with potential hosts prior to any action being taken to set the date and place of a particular meeting. The host body for any session of the General Assembly shall be a presbytery(s) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Any presbytery that desires to invite the General Assembly to meet within its bounds shall forward an invitation to the Stated Clerk no later than May 1 of the year that is seven years prior to the earliest effective date of the invitation.”.~~

STAN-02 <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000796>

~~I.1.d. In determining a possible site for hosting a General Assembly, the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly shall seek a balance between the importance of distributing the benefits experienced from hosting a meeting with the values of seeking financial incentives and affordability. In order to distribute the benefits experienced from hosting a General Assembly meeting throughout the church, the place of meeting shall be rotated among the following four areas (unless prevented by financial or other practical considerations):~~

~~“•_____Area A: Synod of Alaska/Northwest, Synod of the Pacific, Synod of Southern California and Hawaii, Synod of the Rocky Mountains, Synod of the Southwest;~~

~~“•_____Area B: Synod of the Sun, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, Synod of Mid-America;~~

~~“•_____Area C: Synod of Living Waters, Synod of Lincoln Trails, Synod of the Covenant;~~

~~“•_____Area D: Synod of South Atlantic, Synod of Puerto Rico, Synod of the Northeast, Synod of the Trinity, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.”~~

STAN-08

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000804>

I.4 Assembly Meeting Work Group

Delete section.