

## **Recommendations to the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

1        1. That the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012) direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed  
2        amendments to the *Book of Order* to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes  
3        to take effect at the close of the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016):

4            a. Striking section G-3.04 *The Synod* (including sections G-3.0401 through G-3.0406)

5            b. Amending section G-3.03 *The Presbytery* with the following additions (underlined) and  
6        deletions (strikethroughs):

### **G-3.03 THE PRESBYTERY**

#### *G-3.0301 Composition and Responsibilities*

9        The presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district and  
10        is composed of all the congregations and teaching elders within that district. The presbytery shall adopt  
11        and communicate to the sessions a plan for determining how many ruling elders each session should  
12        elect as commissioners to presbytery, with a goal of numerical parity of teaching elders and ruling  
13        elders. This plan shall require each session to elect at least one commissioner and shall take into  
14        consideration the size of congregations as well as a method to fulfill the principles of participation and  
15        representation found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103. Ruling elders elected as officers of the presbytery shall  
16        be enrolled as members during the period of their service. A presbytery may provide by its own rule for  
17        the enrollment of ruling elders serving as moderators of committees or commissions.

18        The minimum composition of a presbytery is ten duly constituted sessions and ten teaching elders.

19        The presbytery is responsible for the life, ministry and government of the church throughout its district,  
20        and for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the  
21        world, so that all congregations throughout its region become communities of faith, hope, love, and  
22        witness. As it leads and guides the witness of its congregations, the presbytery shall keep before it the  
23        marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have  
24        identified themselves through history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304).

25        (The remainder of this section to remain the same)

#### *G-3.0302 Relations with the Church ~~and Synod and General Assembly~~*

27        The presbytery has a responsibility to maintain regular and continuing relationship with other  
28        presbyteries and to ~~synod and the~~ General Assembly by:

29        a. consulting with other presbyteries in their region about creating regional mission partnerships for  
30        Racial Ethnic Advocacy and Support, mission and ministry projects, and other programs of shared life,  
31        diversity and connection to the larger church

32        b. electing commissioners to ~~synod and~~ General Assembly and receiving their reports;

- 1 c. electing ruling and teaching elders to be readers of standard ordination examinations;
- 2 d. seeing that the guidance and communication of ~~synod and~~ General Assembly are considered and that  
3 any binding actions are observed and carried out;
- 4 e. proposing to ~~synod or~~ General Assembly such measures as may be of common concern to the mission  
5 of the church; and
- 6 f. sending annually to ~~synod and~~ General Assembly statistical and other information according to the  
7 requirements of those bodies.

- 8 **2. That the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012) instruct the Synods, in consultation with their**  
9 **constituent presbyteries, to develop and bring to the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (2014) plans to**  
10 **transfer assets, funds, projects and programs to the appropriate trusts, foundations or**  
11 **entities of their choice for implementation by the Synods by the close of the 222<sup>nd</sup> General**  
12 **Assembly (2016).**
- 13 **3. That the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012) instruct the Moderator to appoint a committee to**  
14 **work in consultation with the Stated Clerk and to bring to the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (2014):**
- 15 a) Recommendations, including any necessary changes in the *Manual of the General*  
16 *Assembly* for the appointment of 5 Regional Administrative Commissions to facilitate  
17 churches and presbyteries to fulfill their missional objectives when realignment is  
18 necessary and also to support the presbyteries and regions in promoting the full  
19 expression of rich diversity in membership, participation and decision-making (G-  
20 3.0103);
- 21 b) Recommendations , including any necessary changes in the *Book of Order* and the  
22 *Manual of the General Assembly in order to continue to facilitate and support the racial*  
23 *ethnic ministries that have historically been supported by the Synods.*
- 24 c) Any additional editorial changes to the *Book of Order* which will be made necessary by  
25 the action of recommendation 1.
- 26 **4. That the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2012) instruct the Moderator to appoint a committee to**  
27 **work in consultation with the Stated Clerk and to bring to the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (2014)**  
28 **recommendations, including any necessary changes in the *Book of Order* and the *Manual of***  
29 ***the General Assembly* to create the necessary number of regional judicial commissions, rooted**  
30 **in the various regions, to serve as courts of appeal to decisions of presbytery PJC's and as**  
31 **courts of original jurisdiction in remedial cases against presbyteries or upon reference from**  
32 **presbytery PJC's.**