

To: Presbytery of Geneva
From: Personnel Committee
Re: Presbytery Child Protection Policy
Date: September 14, 2016

At the 221st General Assembly (2014) the Book of Order was amended to include the following statement, “All councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy **and a child protection policy**” (G-3.0106). The Presbytery of Geneva has already adopted a sexual misconduct policy, but a child protection policy remains to be adopted. The Personnel Committee accepted the responsibility for creating a child protection policy and now presents this draft to the Presbytery for discussion. Throughout the policy we worked to meet the generally recognized standards of child protection policies while keeping in mind the resources of the Presbytery.

This summer the Presbytery became aware that we had not yet created this policy when the Synod of the Northeast required the submission of the Presbytery’s Sexual Misconduct and Child Protection Policies in order for the Presbytery to receive the monetary support (\$100/participant) the Synod was offering to each participant attending the 2016 Triennium. We are not the only Presbytery which had not adopted a child protection policy in time for Triennium, so the Synod set December 1, 2016 as the deadline for receipt of our Policy in order for us to receive the funds offered by Synod.

So that Triennium participants might benefit from the Synod’s offer, General Council advanced the funds to the participants with the understanding that the Personnel Committee would develop a Child Protection Policy for the Presbytery in time to be reimbursed by the Synod. As mentioned above, we have until December 1, 2016 to submit our policy in order to receive reimbursement of these funds.

While our hope is that this policy will be passed without revision, we are more realistic than that. So, we are presenting it at the September Presbytery meeting in order to have time to make any needed revisions and bring the revised version to the November meeting and still have time to submit it to the Synod by December 1st.