

## STATED CLERK CONSENT AGENDA

May 23, 2023

*The following will be presented as a single motion. You may ask to have any item removed, if you would like it to be discussed. Simply be recognized by the Moderator and say:  
"Mister Moderator, I would like to lift [say the item number] for discussion."*

### ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

That the presbytery:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the March 28, 2023 stated meeting, held via Zoom.us.
2. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will make a presentation or participate in a report to the presbytery.
3. **Receive** the April Operating Statement and Balance Statement and Treasurer's report.
4. **Approve** the following Amendments to the *Book of Order*, as recommended by The Committee on Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Order* from the 225th General Assembly (2022) :
  - a. 22-T – W-3.0205 CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS  
Adds administration of the sacrament of Baptism to the list of appropriate actions following the proclamation of forgiveness in a service of worship.
  - b. 22-U – W-3.0409 THEOLOGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER  
Adds "when appropriate" to the recommended act of providing an invitation to baptismal preparation for those who come to the table who are unbaptized.
  - c. 22-V – W-3.0414 COMMUNION  
Removes the current requirement that a minister of the Word and Sacrament lead the prayer of thanksgiving that concludes the Lord's Supper liturgy.
  - d. 22-W – W-4.0403 ORDER OF WORSHIP  
Adds a sentence about "signs and symbols of blessing" to the section on ordination and installation services.
  - e. 22-X – W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP  
Adds a sentence on the importance of household worship in faith formation in the Reformed tradition.
  - f. 22-Y – W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP  
Adds an additional paragraph to the existing section on household worship.
  - g. 22-Z – W-5.0201 THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH  
Adds "discipleship" to a list of the Church's ministries that are connected to its worship, and adds references to statements in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity.
  - h. 22-AA – W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE  
Adds "particular specialized pastoral care" rather than adding to an existing list of such specialties.
  - i. 22-BB – W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE  
Adds clarifying language in a section on "services of wholeness" to better express a Reformed understanding of those services.
  - j. 22-CC – D-3.0106 WHEN JURISDICTION ENDS  
Allows a disciplinary process to continue after an accused has renounced jurisdiction  
(Note: *This change to the Book of Order will only be effective, if and only if, 22-G – Church Discipline Section is not approved by the presbyteries.*)
  - k. 22-DD – D-10.0302 IF CHARGES ARE TO BE FILED (ROD-04 3)  
Grammatical change to an existing provision of the Rules of Discipline, using plural language ("they").  
(Note: *This change to the Book of Order will only be effective, if and only if, 22-G – Church Discipline Section is not approved by the presbyteries.*)
  - l. 22-EE – D-10.0303 PETITION FOR REVIEW  
Amends the current Rules of Discipline to include notifying in writing both the person accused (if no charges will be filed) as well as the person(s) who made the initial accusation.  
(Note: *This change to the Book of Order will only be effective, if and only if, 22-G – Church Discipline Section is not approved by the presbyteries.*)

- m. **22-FF – AMENDING THE USE OF “THE ACCUSED” IN THE CURRENT RULES OF DISCIPLINE**  
Changes the words “the accused” to “the person accused” wherever it occurs in the current Rules of Discipline.  
(Note: *This change to the Book of Order will only be effective, if and only if, 22-G – Church Discipline Section is not approved by the presbyteries.*)
5. **Approve** the following change to the Manual of Administrative Operations:  
Move the responsibility for “farewells” from COM responsibilities to the Committee on Leader Care responsibilities, and that the language be revised as follows: “Plan for appropriate farewells for those ~~leaving the presbytery or~~ retiring from parish ministry, and make arrangements with the presbytery moderator for meeting docket time.”
6. **Grant** the status of Honorably Retired to Rev. Katherine Griffis effective June 1, 2023.
7. **Approve** the the following recommendations from the CPM Planning Group (see document 2c CPM Planning Group Report and Recommendations for rationale):
- a. Move the CPM work out of COM and create a new CPM committee to do that work. The CPM work includes the preparation for ministry of teaching elders, commissioned lay/ruling elders
  - b. Have COM retain responsibility for CREs after they are trained and are deemed ready for commissioning to service to a particular congregation or to the needs of the presbytery.
  - c. The new CPM should initially consist of 3 members, in three classes. Regular terms are for 3 years, renewable once.
  - d. The new CPM chair, or other delegated member, shall attend Presbytery Council meetings at least three times throughout the year to provide updates on CPM activities and whenever CPM business is on the agenda; the CPM member shall have a vote at Council on any CPM business.
  - e. The new CPM should include in its work:
    - i. Determining how it is to be organized to conduct its work, including whether liaisons always need to be current committee members.
    - ii. Reviewing and recommending changes to The Committee on Preparation for Ministry Operations Manual for Teaching Elders / Ministers of Word & Sacrament.
    - iii. Reviewing and recommending changes to the Commissioned Ruling Elder Formation Program
    - iv. Continuing to explore collaboration with the CPMs of our neighboring presbyteries.
    - v. After one year, making a recommendation to the Presbytery on whether the number of members on CPM should be increased.
    - vi. Meeting a minimum of four times a year for planning and training, even if there are no Inquirers, Candidates, or CRE candidates.
  - f. Move responsibility for nominating ordination exam readers to the Committee on Representation. This will encourage broader participation, and the current process of having the COM recommend nominees to CoR does not work well, because the names of exam readers are due to OGA by August 31, and the Presbytery often doesn’t meet in the summer.
  - g. Complete the transfer of the CPM work from COM to the new CPM as soon as possible after approval by the Presbytery.
8. **Approve** the following changes to the Manual of Administrative Operations (see document 2c CPM Planning Group Report and Recommendations for rationale):
- a. Add a new standing committee to Section VII:
 

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry**  
There shall be a Committee on Preparation for Ministry whose purpose is to oversee guidance and mandates of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) regarding preparation for ministers of Word and Sacrament, preparation of ruling elders to become commissioned pastors, and certification of Christian educators.

**Membership:** 3 members, with both Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders (3-year terms, renewable once). The Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

**Role on Council:** The Committee on Preparation for Ministry chair, or other delegated Committee member, shall attend Presbytery Council meetings at least three times throughout the year to provide updates on Committee activities and whenever Committee business is on the agenda; the Committee member shall have a vote at Council on any Committee on Preparation for Ministry business.

**Responsibilities:**

- Guide, nurture and oversee the process of becoming a teaching elder, commissioned ruling elder or certified Christian educator, following the process and procedures as outlined in the Constitution of the PC(U.S.A.)
  - To have the authority to dismiss candidates to another presbytery or denomination for examination and/or for ordination, with the provision that all such actions be reported to the next stated meeting of the presbytery.
  - Prepare, maintain, and implement a training, and examination process for ruling elders when the presbytery's strategy for mission requires the need for commissioning to serve congregations and the needs of the presbytery.
- b. Amend the third bullet of responsibilities of the Committee on Representation as follows:
- Nominate persons as ordination examination readers ~~as recommended by the Committee on Ministry.~~
- c. Amend the first paragraph of the Committee on Ministry section as follows:  
There shall be a Committee on Ministry whose purpose is to oversee guidance and mandates of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) regarding ordered ministry including oversight of pastoral transitions, ~~preparation for ministry of Word and Sacrament, preparation and~~ commissioning and supervision of commissioned ruling elders, ~~and certification of Christian educators~~; and to promote healthy responses to conflict within congregations.
- d. Amend the 10<sup>th</sup> bullet under Ordered Ministry responsibilities, of the Committee on Ministry section as follows:
- Recommend to the presbytery, oversee, and supervise commissioned ruling elders called to pastoral service in congregations and to the needs of the Presbytery.
- e. Delete the entire Preparations section of the Committee on Ministry responsibilities.

**ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATED CLERK**

1. PCUSA Clergy Cards are available from the Stated Clerk today. Any cards not distributed today will be delivered by Leader Care liaisons ASAP.
2. The Administrative Commission elected by the Presbytery of Geneva for the purpose of installing the Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder as pastor of the United Church of Phelps met at 2 p.m. on 05/07/2023 in the Pastor's Office. Commission Members Present were: RE Jeff Richards, Moderator of the Presbytery of Geneva (Elmira North); TE Amy Loving Austin (Seneca #9 and Bellona, Memorial); RE Elizabeth Newell (Geneva); TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First); RE Brian Hemminger (Phelps, United); other worship participants present were: TE Dr. R. Ward Holder (Presbytery of Boston) and Katharine Schrader. There being a quorum present, the Commission was convened with prayer by Moderator Jeff Richards. The Commission elected TE Amy Loving Austin as clerk for the proceedings with the responsibility of recording and filing the minutes. All things being prepared in advance, decently and in order, the Commission voted to proceed with the installation of Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder as directed by Presbytery. The Commission moved to the sanctuary for the service of installation. The call to worship was given by RE Jeff Richards. The sermon was delivered by TE Dr. R. Ward Holder. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not celebrated. An

offering was collected to benefit the Presbytery of Geneva Candidates' Aid Fund. The constitutional questions were asked of the candidate by Moderator Jeff Richards. The constitutional questions were asked of the congregation by RE Brian Hemminger. The constitutional questions having been answered in the affirmative, the Commission proceeded, by the laying on of hands, to install as pastor The Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder. The charge to the installee was given by TE Leah Ntuala. The charge to the congregation was given by RE Beth Newell .The benediction/closing prayer was pronounced by TE Dr. H. Leigh Holder. Respectfully submitted, Rev. Amy Loving Austin

3. Please take advantage of the (FREE) Synod of the Northeast Webinars:  
<https://www.synodne.org/webinars>