

## **Summary of Changes to the Rules of Discipline Amendment 22-GG**

In 2016, Chicago Presbytery made an overture to the General Assembly to revise the Rules of Discipline with these objectives:

- Make them more accessible to the church
- Preserve and enhance the accountability of councils and individuals to the church
- Expand the role of mediation and alternate dispute resolution
- Provide flexibility in crafting censures and remedies, particularly in light of recent learnings in ethical and social development and experiments by the secular legal system with alternative sentencing

### **Process**

#### **2017**

- 6-person task force appointed with support OGA staff
- Initial draft developed
- Workshop at Mid Council Leaders' Gathering

#### **2018**

- Initial draft before the church for review
- Online survey responses
- Consultations with stated clerks in synods
- Workshop at 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (2018)

#### **2019**

- Advice from Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), A Corp, and Advisory Committee on the Constitution
- Consultation with General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission, GA Committee on Women's Concerns, GA Racial Equity Advocacy Committee, and the Survivors of Sexual Misconduct Task Force
- Revision based on feedback before the church for study in preparation for 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2020)

#### **2020-2022**

- Referred to 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2022), provisions for online meetings added, revised side-by-side developed

### **Recommendations**

- Rename the Book of Discipline to Church Discipline, indicating discipline is about accountability, not just a system of rules.
- Remove the time limit for bringing allegations of sexual misconduct
- Two proposed changes to the Book of Order regarding electronic procedures (22-C and 22-N) and one change regarding proper business for a congregational meeting (22-D).