

Book of Order Amendments

227th General Assembly—June 22-July 2, 2026

These items have constitutional implications (ie, the Book of Order may be amended)

CON-09	G-2.0603, G-2.0606, G-2.1002, G-2.1103, G-3.0106, G-33.0201, and G-3.0306 Adds language to clarify required boundary training	COM, CPM, Sessions
GAO-14	Modernizing the language of denominational documents	ALL***
GAR-05	New Organization for Mission as amended	ALL***
GEN-03	D-7.09/7.0901-Changes sexual ABUSE to sexual MISCONDUCT with new definition	ALL
ORD-01	G-2.0407 –Addresses Ruling Elder conflicting ordinations	Sessions
ORD-02	Rename G-2.06; Add new G-2.0606 Education and Training; rename G-2.0602, G-2.0610, and G-2.0622	CPM
Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination		
ORD-07 A	G-2.0601 -Adds Presbytery-provided training for CPM members and liaisons (annual and recorded in Presbytery minutes)	CPM
ORD-07 B	G-2.0603 – Adds background checks for Inquirers at the beginning of the preparation process along with psychosocial and vocational inventory assessments	CPM
ORD-07 C	G-2.0607 -Adds specified list of evidence for readiness for active pastoral service	CPM
ORD-07 D	G-2.0102 -Adds language re parity of ordered ministry [Second Helvetic]	ALL
ORD-07 E	G-2.1001 -Adds RE voice and vote while commissioned to validated ministry	Gatherings
ORD-07 E	G-3.0301 -Presbytery shall enroll REs in validated ministry commission	COM
ORD-07 F	G-2.1002 – Adds list to certify preparation of CREs	COM/CPM
ORD-07 G	G-3.0301 -Adds serving in judicial matters, diverse witness through NWCs and immigrant fellowships, grant voice and vote of commissioners from NWC and immigrant fellowships	ALL
ORD-07-H	G-2.1002 -Add CCE ability to meet requirements for CRE with CCE preparation	COM/CPM
Special Committee on PCUSA and Race		
COM 47-1	Add new paragraph- G-2.0104c—Anti-Racism Formation	ALL
COM 47-2	Adds anti-racism training as requirement in G-2.1002	ALL
COM 47-3	Adds new paragraph at the end of G-2.1101 to specify who shall receive required ongoing formation and continuing education	ALL
COM 47-4	Amends G-3.0106 to specify focus of synod and presbytery anti-racism policies and who must receive required training every 36 months	ALL

*****Not sent to Presbyteries**

CON= Constitutional Interpretation Committee

GAO= General Assembly Operations Committee

GAR= General Assembly Relationships Committee

GEN= Gender and Sexuality Justice Committee

ORD= Theological Education and Ordination Committee

(Text to be deleted is ~~[in brackets and struck through]~~; text to be added is [in brackets and underlined.])

CON-09 ON ETHICAL CONDUCT TRAINING

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley overtures the 227th General Assembly to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes in order to revise the language in the Book of Order with regard to boundary training and abuse prevention training requirements, for the purpose of clarifying the requirements and more appropriately placing the requirements within their respective sections:

G-2.0603: Purpose of Inquiry

The purpose of the inquiry phase is to provide an opportunity for the church and those who believe themselves called to ordered ministry as ministers of the Word and Sacrament to explore that call together so that the presbytery can make an informed decision about the inquirer's suitability for ordered ministry. ~~[They shall provide a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements.]~~

Insert a new section G-2.0606 (and renumber the current sections 2.0606–2.0610 accordingly)

[G-2.0606 Education and Training for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament

Those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament shall complete boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct; shall complete training in the prevention of abuse of children and youth; and shall provide the presbytery with certificates of completion of these trainings, with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements.]

G-2.1002: Training, Examination and Commissioning

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. ~~[Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months.]~~ [Those preparing to be commissioned shall complete boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct; shall complete training in the prevention of abuse of children, youth; and shall provide the presbytery with certificates of completion of these trainings, with recertification at least every thirty-six months.] The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements.

G-2.1103: Christian Educators

Skills and Training

Certified Christian educators are persons certified and called to service in the ministry of education in congregations or councils. They shall have skills and training in biblical interpretation, Reformed theology, worship and sacraments, human development, faith development, religious educational theory and practice, and the polity, programs, and mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). ~~[Certified Christian educators shall provide a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet these two requirements.]~~

Presbytery Responsibility

The presbytery shall establish minimum requirements for compensation and benefits for Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators and shall provide access to the area of presbytery that oversees ministry (G-3.0307). During their term of service in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the presbytery, Certified Christian Educators are entitled to the privilege of the floor with voice only at all presbytery meetings, and in the case of Certified Christian Educators who are ruling elders, the privilege of voice and vote at all its meetings. ~~[Certified Christian educators and Certified Associate Christian educators shall provide to the presbytery in which they serve a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet these two requirements.]~~ [Certified Christian educators and Certified Associate Christian educators shall complete boundary training which includes the top of sexual misconduct; shall complete training in the prevention of a buse of children and youth; and shall provide the presbytery in which they serve with certificates of completion of these trainings, with recertification at least every thirty-six months.] The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements. Presbytery shall report a certificate of completion to the national certifying body for these two trainings.

G-3.0106: Administration of Mission

(*paragraph 4*) All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy, ~~[which shall include requirements for boundary training at least every thirty-six months;]~~ [a harassment policy;] [a policy on the prevention of abuse of children,] ~~[child]~~ youth, and adults with vulnerabilities ~~[protection policy]~~, [which shall include requirements for abuse prevention training at least every thirtysix months; a harassment policy;] and an antiracism policy. ~~[The policies listed here are minimum requirements and do not constitute an exhaustive list of policies that should be included in a council's manual or operations or bylaws.]~~ Each council's policy shall include requirements for boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members at least every thirty-six months.

[G-3.0206: Training

All members of session shall complete boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct; shall complete training in the prevention of abuse of children and youth; and shall provide the clerk of session with certificates of completion of these trainings, with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The session shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements.]

G-3.0306: Membership of Presbytery

(insert new paragraph following fourth paragraph, “Such permission shall be obtained from both presbyteries and shall be reviewed and renewed annually.”)

[Minister members of the presbytery shall complete boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct; shall complete training in the prevention of abuse of children and youth; and shall provide the presbytery with certificates of completion of these trainings, with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements, and may offer exemptions to these requirements at its discretion.]

GEN-03 On Redefining Sexual Abuse in Church Discipline to Reflect Current Clinical Understandings

The Homestead Presbytery overtures the 227th General Assembly (2026) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall D-7.09 and D-7.0901 be amended as follows:

(Text to be added is [in brackets and underlined]. Text to be deleted is ~~[in brackets and struck through]~~).

These sections would read as follows:

D-7.09: ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL [MISCONDUCT] ~~[ABUSE]~~

D.7.0901 - Sexual [misconduct] ~~[abuse]~~ as stated in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Sexual Misconduct Policy and Its Procedures (2013) is a violation of the role of anyone called upon to exercise integrity, sensitivity, and caring in a trust relationship, is a misuse of authority and power that breaches Christian ethical principles, and takes advantage of the vulnerability of persons who are less powerful to act. Sexual misconduct is, therefore, antithetical to the gospel call to work as God’s servant and violates the mandate to protect the vulnerable from harm. Sexual Misconduct is a comprehensive term which includes but is not limited to (a) sexual abuse defined as any offense involving sexual conduct in relation to any person under the age of 18 years or anyone without the capacity to consent, or any person when the conduct includes force, threat, coercion, [or] intimidation ~~on [or misuse of ordered ministry or position]~~; [(b) sexual assault], (c) sexual harassment, and (d) sexual malfeasance.] Sexual [misconduct] ~~[abuse]~~ is contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and is therefore always [a misuse of ordered ministry or position] and an offense for the purpose of discipline.

ORD-01 On Preventing Conflicting Ordinations

The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey overtures the 227th General Assembly (2026) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

To amend G-2.0407 as follows:

(Text to be added is [in brackets and underlined]. Text to be deleted is ~~[in brackets and struck through]~~.)

To amend Book of Order G-

2.0407 to prevent conflicting ordination to any body not under the authority of Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), by amending G-2.0407, Book of Order to read:

G-2.0407 Renunciation of Jurisdiction

When a ruling elder or deacon submits to the clerk of session a written statement renouncing the jurisdiction of this church, the renunciation shall be effective upon receipt. When a ruling elder or deacon persists in work disapproved by the session, the session shall consult with him or her and shall give notice of its disapproval. If, after having been provided opportunity for consultation and upon written notice of its disapproval, the ruling elder or deacon persists in the work, the session may then conclude that the ruling elder or deacon has renounced the jurisdiction of this church.

[When a ruling elder or deacon accepts or continues an ordination of any character not under the authority of Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the session shall consult with him or her concerning the officer's intent, its possible conflict with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and whether the officer's commitment to the promises of ordination and to the confessions of the church are in question. If not satisfied by the consultation, the session shall give written notice of its disapproval. If, after having been provided opportunity for consultation and upon written notice of its disapproval, the ruling elder or deacon persists in the work, the session may then conclude that the ruling elder or deacon has renounced the jurisdiction of this church.]

Renunciation of jurisdiction shall remove the ruling elder or deacon from membership and ordered ministry and shall terminate the exercise of the ministry. The renunciation shall be reported by the clerk of session at the next meeting of the session, which shall record the renunciation, delete the name of the ruling elder or deacon from the appropriate register, and take such other administrative actions as may be required by this Constitution.

ORD-02 On Preparation and Ordination

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley overtures the 227th General Assembly to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes in order to amend the Book of Order by renaming the “Preparation for Ministry” and “Ordination” sections to clarify that they apply specifically to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament, and by adding a subsection that explicitly spells out the required education and training that must be completed prior to Ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament:

(Text to be deleted is ~~[in brackets and struck through]~~; text to be added is [in brackets and underlined.])

(Rename) G-2.06 Preparation for [the] Ministry [of the Word and Sacrament]

(Insert new section): [G-2.0606 Education and Training for the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament

Those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament shall complete a graduate course of study at a theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery, culminating in a master's degree. The course of study shall include Hebrew and Greek languages and exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek.]

(Renumber and rename) G-

2.060[7 Supervised] Service [~~While Under Care of the Presbytery~~] [~~in Covenant Relationship~~]

(Move and renumber) G-2.06[10] Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service

(Revise) c. a transcript from a theological institution [~~accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery~~], showing [~~a course of study including Hebrew and Greek, exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek,~~] satisfactory grades in all areas of study [in accordance with the educational requirements in G-2.0606], and graduation or proximity to graduation; and

(Renumber) G-2.06[11] Accommodations to Particular Circumstances

(And also renumber references to G-2.0607 in this section)

(Rename) G-2.07 Ordination [to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament]

ORD-07 Ordination Task Force Report

The Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination recommends that the 227th General Assembly (2026) Direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

A. Require training [a minimum of] every 36 months for the presbytery body responsible for preparation for ministry.

(Text to be added is [in brackets and underlined].)

Amend Section G-2.0601, Nature and Purpose of Preparation, as follows:

It is important that those who are to be ordained as ministers of the Word and Sacrament receive full preparation for their task under the direction of the presbytery. For this purpose, a presbytery shall enter into covenant relationship with those preparing to become ministers of the Word and Sacrament and with their sessions and congregations. This relationship shall be divided into the two phases of inquiry and candidacy. [Presbyteries shall ensure training for the members of the presbytery body responsible for preparation for ministry, including those serving as liaisons for inquirers and candidates, and shall ensure that this training be completed a minimum of every three years and recorded in presbytery minutes. The training shall include anti-racism, intercultural competency, implicit-bias awareness, and the equitable support of LGBTQIA+ inquirers and candidates, so that the preparation process is free from discrimination.]

B. Require background checks and psychosocial and vocational evaluations for inquirers.

Amend Section G-2.0603, Purpose of Inquiry, as follows:

(Text to be added is [in brackets and underlined].)

The purpose of the inquiry phase is to provide an opportunity for the church and those who believe themselves called to ordered ministry as ministers of the Word and Sacrament to explore that call together so that the presbytery can make an informed decision about the inquirer's suitability for ordered ministry. [Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training, and anti-racism training with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these requirements. The presbytery shall require background checks for inquirers at the onset of the inquiry process. Additionally, the presbytery shall require an evaluation of inquirers, including psychosocial and vocational inventories, during their inquiry phase.]

C. Make changes to the section on final assessment in the process of preparation for ministry: (i) remove the accredited college or university requirement for the undergraduate degree and (ii) in addition to Standard Ordination Exams, add an option for a Senior Ordination Portfolio, including the process for evaluation.

Amend Section G-2.0607, Final Assessment and Negotiation for Service, as follows:

A candidate may not enter into negotiation for [their] service as a minister of the Word and Sacrament without approval of the presbytery of care. The presbytery shall record when it has certified a candidate ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call. Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a minister of Word and Sacrament shall include:

a. a candidate's wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest reputation, and sound judgment;

b. a transcript showing graduation [with satisfactory grades;] at a [regionally accredited] college or university; [or an international equivalent as determined by the presbytery;]

c. a transcript from a theological institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools acceptable to the presbytery, showing a course of study including Hebrew and Greek, exegesis of the Old and New Testaments using Hebrew and Greek, satisfactory grades in all areas of study, and graduation or proximity to graduation; and

d. examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly. ~~[Such examinations shall be prepared and administered by a body created by the presbyteries.]~~ [These materials may be either Standard Ordination Exams or Senior Ordination Portfolios. The body responsible for preparation for ministry in the candidate's presbytery and the candidate may together determine which examination materials to use, including a possible combination of the Standard Exams and Senior Ordination Portfolio.]

(1) Standard Ordination Exams shall be prepared, administered, and evaluated by a body created by the presbyteries.

(2) In the case of use of Senior Ordination Portfolios, the (Senior Ordination Portfolios) may be prepared by the candidate for ministry according to standards established by a body created by the presbyteries. The body responsible for preparing candidates for ministry in the candidate's presbytery may evaluate the portfolio and subsequently submit both the portfolio and its evaluation to a body established by the presbyteries for final evaluation. Senior Ordination Portfolios, or any senior examination as approved by presby

tery, shall be evaluated using culturally competent, bias-aware standards established by a body created by the presbyteries. Presbyteries shall ensure that evaluation practices are consistent, transparent, and informed by anti-racism, intercultural competency, and equitable assessment principles.]

D. Reaffirm the non-hierarchical nature of ordered ministries, recognizing distinctions of function without distinctions of dignity or worth.

Amend Section G-2.0102, Ordered Ministries, as follows:

The Church's ordered ministries described in the New Testament and maintained by this church are deacons and presbyters (ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders). Ordered ministries are gifts to the church to order its life so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. [Each order of ministry is equally important and "one ministry is not to be ordered above another" in the way that God calls, prepares, and equips (Second Helvetic Confession 5.160, 5.161, 5.162).] The existence of these ordered ministries in no way diminishes the importance of the commitment of all members to the total ministry of the church.

E. Grant commissioned pastors voice and vote in their presbyteries while serving their commission.

Amend Section G-3.0301, Composition and Responsibilities, as follows:

A presbytery may enroll, or may provide by its own rule for the enrollment of, ruling elders during terms of elected service to the presbytery its congregations, [and shall enroll ruling elders who are commissioned to limited pastoral service under G-2.1001 only for the duration of the active commission. The ruling elder so commissioned shall have voice and vote in the presbytery only during the term of the active commission under this section.]

F. Provide standards for evaluating the training of commissioned ruling elders.

Amend Section G-2.1002, Training, Examination and Commissioning, as follows:

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. [This shall include completion of a denominational baseline for education and preparation of ruling elders for limited pastoral service, study not necessarily at a master's level, and demonstration of competent understanding and application of Presbyterian polity, Reformed worship and sacraments, Reformed theology, biblical interpretation of the Old and New Testaments, preaching, Christian education, and pastoral care.]

G. Fully incorporate immigrant fellowships and new worshiping communities into the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including representation with voice and vote at meetings of presbyteries.

Amend Section G-3.0301, Composition and Responsibilities, as follows:

c. nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ. This responsibility shall include ordaining, receiving, dismissing, installing, removing, and disciplining its members who are ministers of the Word and Sacrament; commissioning ruling elders to limited pastoral service; promoting the peace and harmo

ny of congregations and inquiring into the sources of congregational discord; supporting congregations in developing the graces of generosity, stewardship, and service; assisting congregations in developing mission and participating in the mission of the whole church; taking jurisdiction over the members of dissolved congregations and granting transfers of their membership to other congregations; the warning and bearing witness against error in doctrine and immorality in practice within its bounds; [serving in judicial matters in accordance with the Church Discipline; and nurturing our inclusive diversity witness by providing for the membership and baptismal rolls of those desiring to be members of the PCUSA.]

H. Recognize that Certified Christian Educators who are ruling elders have already satisfied certain educational and formational requirements relevant to commissioning as commissioned pastors, avoiding unnecessary duplication of preparation.

Amend Section G-2.1002, Training, Examination, and Commissioning, as follows:

... The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements. [A presbytery may determine that a Certified Christian Educator, who is a Ruling Elder has met the education and training requirements for commissioning, provided they are also examined and commissioned in accordance with G-2.1002 and G-2.1004.] The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery

RUS-01 On Taking Action to Repudiate Christian Nationalism and Affirm Our Faith Commitments

The Presbytery of San Jose respectfully overtures the 227th General Assembly (2026) to:

1. Direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the Book of Order to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall F-1.03 be amended to add new section F-1-0305 as follows:

[Faithful Witness in Public Life]

[The church affirms its calling to bear faithful witness in public life, speaking and acting from the example and teachings of Jesus Christ for justice, peace, mercy, and the dignity of all people. The church rejects any ideology that seeks to establish Christianity as a privileged or dominant force through the power of the state, or that conflates religious identity with national, racial, or ethnic supremacy. Such ideologies, in all their forms, are incompatible with the example and teachings of Jesus Christ, constitute a theological error, undermine the church's faithful witness, and are contrary to the church.]

2. Direct the Stated Clerk and the Moderator to issue a joint statement calling attention to the dangers and distortions of Christian Nationalism as an urgent theological and social concern of our time, providing moral clarity and guidance for the Church and the larger society.

3. Engage with other faith traditions to broaden existing coalitions to: speak out against Christian Nationalism, engage in collective actions, and deconstruct practices, theologies, and patterns of Christian Nationalism in the Church and society at large

RAC-04 Final Report of the Special Committee on the PCUSA and Race

4. Direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the Book of Order to the presbyteries for the affirmative or negative votes: Text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~; text to be added is [in brackets and underlined].)

a. Amend G-

3.0106 Manuals of Administrative Operations and Required Policies by adding a new paragraph as inserted after paragraph beginning with “All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies...” as follows:

[Synod and presbytery anti-racism policies shall include a required training component at least every thirty-six months for teaching elders, commissioned ruling elders, persons certified and called to service within congregations, councils, and church-related entities, serving in staff positions, and inquirers and candidates under their jurisdiction. Such training shall be designed to support faithful leadership, accountability, and the Church’s commitment to public theology and ethical leadership. The training shall include measurable outcomes.]

b. [add a new paragraph G-2.0104 c. (Anti-Racism Formation)]

In fulfilling its responsibility for preparation for ministry, a presbytery shall require that inquirers and candidates for ordered ministry receive education and formation in anti-racism as part of their preparation for service in the Church. Such formation shall be provided at intervals and in forms determined by the presbytery, consistent with standards established by the General Assembly.]

c. G-2.1002 Training, Examination and Commissioning

A ruling elder who seeks to serve under the terms of G-2.1001 shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery to be appropriate to the particular commission. Such preparation shall include a certificate of completion of boundary training, which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, ~~and~~ child sexual abuse prevention training, [and anti-racism training] with recertification at least every thirty-six months. The presbytery shall determine which trainings are approved to meet the criteria of these two requirements. The ruling elder shall be examined by the presbytery as to personal faith, motives for seeking the commission, and the areas of instruction determined by presbytery. A ruling elder who has been commissioned and later ceases to serve in the specified ministry may continue to be listed as available to serve, but is not authorized to perform the functions specified in G-2.1001 until commissioned again to a congregation or ministry by the presbytery.

d. G-2.1101 (new paragraph, inserted at end)

[Persons certified and called to service within congregations, councils, and church related entities, serving in staff positions, shall participate in ongoing formation and continuing education as required by the certifying body and the presbytery (G 3.0106).]