

2023-2025 Book of Order Amendments and their Impact

Compiled by Rev. David Bennett, Stated Clerk

The 225th General Assembly took actions that impacted congregations and presbyteries. Now that the amendment voting is complete, we must implement and/or act on these changes. The following is a summary of the actions requiring attention and/or action:

1. G-1.0501, G-3.0101, G-3.0105 **requires all councils [session, presbytery, etc.] use the most recent revised version of Robert's Rules of Order and the creation of a process for online and hybrid meetings.**
 - a. Here is a link to purchase RRO, revised: <https://robertsrules.com/>
 - b. Here is a link summary version of the RRO.
https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/pcusa_guide_partliamentary_procedure_2nd_edition_2022.pdf
 - c. Congregations to adopt changes to their standing rules to allow for online/hybrid meetings of the session, committees, the corporation and the congregation.
 - i. Suggested Language from the Presbytery's Standing Rules:
The presbytery may conduct all forms of business by means of video conference, teleconference, or by other electronic means provided that the technology employed allows for simultaneous aural communication among all participants. Furthermore, the use of real-time electronic communication may also be used to solicit and receive votes.
2. G-2.0603, G-2.1102, G-2.1103 **makes Boundary Awareness Training required every 3 years for Ministers of Word and Sacrament, and expands the requirement to CRE's, Certified Christian Educators, and Inquirers/Candidates.** Further, the presbytery is charged with determining suitable training. Christian Educators are now also required to take Child Abuse Prevention Training.
3. G-2.0605 **requires the Session to report any matters of sexual misconduct of Inquirers/Candidates under their care.**
4. G-2.0804 **requires that 12 weeks of Paid Family Leave be incorporated into the presbytery's minimum terms of call for installed pastors.**
5. G-3.0106 **requires all councils of the church [Session, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly] to have the following policies in place:**
 - a. **Sexual Misconduct Policy**
 - b. **Harassment Policy**
 - c. **Child & Youth Protection Policy**
 - d. **Anti-Racism Policy**
6. G-4.0301 **clarifies and strengthens language around trust and confidentiality for those serving in pastoral roles.**