

Definitions and Glossary

Amendment: A change that is made in the wording of the original motion.

BDOC: Budget Development and Oversight Committee: Prepares annual budget, recommends per capita, oversees current budget and maintains three year income projection.

Book of Order: The rules and guidelines under which Presbyterians have agreed to live. The Book of Order is Part II of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This document contains the Form of Government, Directory for Worship, Rules of Discipline, and the Formula of Agreement.

Call: A "call" is extended to a prospective pastor or associate pastor by a congregation

Call the Question: When someone thinks they have heard enough discussion and feels ready to vote, he or she can "call the question." At that point, debate stops while a vote is taken on whether the majority is ready to vote.

Candidate: Candidates are individuals seeking to become teaching elders of the Word and Sacrament who have completed the inquirer phase and been examined by their presbytery's committee on Preparation for Ministry and the presbytery as a whole and enrolled as candidates for ministry.

COM: Committee on Ministry: Furthers spiritual and temporal welfare of congregations, ministers, certified Christian educators, and commissioned lay pastors of presbytery. Responsible for churches going through pastoral transitions.

Committees of the Presbytery: Elders and clergy are elected to committee positions to implement the mission and ministry of the Presbytery. Standing Committees serve the Presbytery by doing the work assigned to them by the Presbytery; members of standing committees are nominated by the Committee on Representation, elected by the Presbytery, and ordinarily serve three-year terms on a rotational basis

COR: Committee on Representation: Members are nominated by the Big Picture Team and elected by the Presbytery; the committee year begins each August 1; persons may be re-nominated and elected for a second term of 3 years; no committee member should serve longer than six consecutive years; chairs of the committee will be elected annually by the committee

CPM: Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Assists inquirers, candidates and Elders as they prepare to become Ministers of the Word and Sacraments (Teaching Elders) or as Commissioned Ruling Elders.

Debate: A discussion of the proposal (motion) that is carefully managed by the Moderator in order to be sure that all sides of the issue are heard.

Docket: The listing of things that the presbytery wants to accomplish and the amount of time allotted for each item. If items are not on the docket, you can't talk about them unless they are brought forward as New Business.

Journal Clerk: Records and reports minutes of meetings of the Presbytery, the Big Picture Team and the Committee on Ministry, providing administrative support to these bodies and working closely with the Stated Clerk.

Judicatory: A governing body of the church: a Session, Presbytery, a Synod, the General Assembly.

Moderator: A person elected to preside over a judicatory of the church. The pastor, called by the congregation, is moderator of the Session. An elder or pastor may be moderator of a higher judicatory, the Presbytery, Synod, or General Assembly.

Moderator Elect: Presides over presbytery meeting at the request of or in the absence of the Moderator. Serves on the Big Picture Team and the Personnel Committee. Ordinarily, nominated to serve as Moderator the following year.

Officers of the Presbytery: Moderator, Moderator Elect, Stated Clerk, Treasurer - all are elected positions

Overture: A proposal to change the Book of Order. An overture starts at the local level but must be voted on at all levels of the church before it can become a new "law."

Permanent Judicial Commission: Serves as the "law court" for judicatory bodies.

Point of Order: An interruption of the debate process made by someone to ask a question about the process. When someone has called a point of order, all debate stops until the question is answered.

Principles of Representation: Presbytery, through the work of the Committee on Representation and its Teams, shall give expression to the rich diversity within in its membership, and provide means to increase inclusiveness leading to wholeness in its emerging life; persons of all racial and ethnic groups, different ages and sexes, gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, varied abilities, geographical areas and theological understandings consistent within the Reformed tradition, as well as different marital conditions (single, married, widowed, divorced) shall be guaranteed full participation and access in the decision-making of the Presbytery. (Book of Order F-1.04013, G-3.0103)

Report: The sharing of information of a group or committee within our presbytery.

Stated Clerk: Is responsible for the records of everything that happens at a presbytery meeting, keeps records on everything that happens in between presbytery meetings, writes letters and receives letters from other churches, and other organizations in the church. Knows all the rules for discussions at presbytery and answers questions about procedural problems.

Substitute Motion: another motion offered to replace a motion being debated. A substitute motion is usually substantially different from the main motion; otherwise, the maker of the motion would simply amend the motion.

Team: A Team is a group of people linked in a common purpose to equip, empower, and support congregations and neighborhoods, or the work of the Presbytery

Trustees: Responsible for property and investments of presbytery and those held in trust by congregations

Working Group: Working Groups are small groups of persons who agree to work together to accomplish identified responsibilities, objectives, and goals within a Team.

Voice and Vote: Not everyone at a presbytery meeting can speak and vote on issues. Only those designated as "commissioners" can vote. Permission of the whole presbytery is required for non-commissioners who wish to speak at a meeting.