

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

AMENDMENT	SUBJECT	COMMITTEE	RECOMMENDATION
08-A	Vows of Membership (Requirement of public profession of faith)	Evangelism	Approve
08-B	Ordained Officers (Substitution in Ordination requirements)	NONE	NONE
08-C	“Sympathy” to “Compassion” (Better word for Deacon’s duties)	Smaller Churches	Approve
08-D	Name Change for GA Council (Add “Mission” to GAC title)	Coordinating Council	Approve
08-E	Non-Geographic Presbyteries (Permits congregation to join a non-geographic presbytery in another synod)	Missions	Approve
08-F	Certified Christian Educators I (Makes membership of CCE’s permissive rather than mandatory)	Christian Education	Disapprove
08-G	Synod Members on GA Committees (Corrects error in previous revision)	Coordinating Council	Approve
08-H	Ordination Exams (Requires candidates to receive training before taking exams in that subject)	Preparation for Ministry	Approve
08-I	Certified Christian Educators II (Limits privilege of floor to CCE’s - i.e not Associates)	Christian Education	Disapprove
08-J	Alternate Forms Resolution (Identifies the “parties” in an AFR)	COM	Approve
	<b>ECUMENICAL STATEMENTS</b>		
08-K	Roman Catholic Church (Mutual recognition of Baptism)	COM	Approve
08-L	Episcopal Church (Limited mutual recognition)	COM	Approve
08-M	Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Full intercommunion)	COM	Approve
08-N	Moravian Church (Full intercommunion)	COM	Approve

**PROPOSED CONSIDERATION OF  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS  
(as recommended by Coordinating Council)**

**I. CONSENT LIST (To be voted on as a group)**

(Any Commissioner may remove any item.)

(Recommendation)

08-A	Vows of Membership	Approve
08-C	Replacing “Sympathy: with Compassion”	Approve
08-D	GA Council Name Change	Approve
08-E	Non-Geographic Presbyteries	Approve
08-G	Synod Members on GA Committees	Approve
08-H	Ordination Exams	Approve
08-J	Alternative Forms Resolution	Approve

**Ecumenical Statements**

08-K	Roman Catholic Church	Approve
08-L	Episcopal Church	Approve
08-M	Korean Presbyterian Church in America	Approve
08-N	Moravian Church	Approve

**II. Debate and Vote on any item removed from the Consent List.**

**III. Debate and Vote on Proposed Amendments:**

- 08-F Presbytery Membership of Certified Christian Educators
- 08-I Certified Christian Educators

**IV. Debate and Vote (by written ballot) on Proposed Amendment.**

- 08-B Ordained Officers

**Rules Proposed by Coordinating Council (for Part IV above):**

1. Please observe the attached “Seeking to be Faithful Together” (HH-4).
2. Discussion will begin with Silent Prayer.
3. Coordinating Council has assigned one Pro Speaker (Kevin Frederick) and one Con Speaker (Bill Campbell) (7 minutes each).
  - Up to one-hour will be allotted for any subsequent speakers. Motions to end debate will not be in order.
  - Subsequent speakers will be limited to two minutes each (thoughtful conciseness will permit more to speak). No one can speak twice.
  - The Moderator will attempt to alternate Pro and Con speakers (lined up at different microphones).
4. There will be no recording of this debate, either audio or video. The actions of the Presbytery will be in the official minutes.
5. Discussion will end with Silent Prayer.
6. Only then please mark your ballot, fold once, and pass it along to the central aisle for the Tellers to count and report to the Moderator.

*“Christians who can no longer listen to one another  
will soon no longer be listening to God either.”*  
Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**\* EFFECT OF APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS 08-F AND 08-I.**

	Pre-2007 revision	Post-2007 revision	If only 08-I passes	If only 08-F passes	If 08-F and 08-I pass
<b>Certified Christian Educators</b>	Voice, No Vote G-14,0705c		Voice, Vote, if elder (under G-11.0101b)		By vote, Pby MAY grant Voice only, or if elder, Voice and Vote (under G-11,0101b), both only while engaged in educational ministry under jurisdiction of Pby
<b>Certified Associate Christian Educators</b>	No Voice, No Vote G-14.0705c (2006)		No Voice, No Vote		No Voice, No Vote
<b>certified (lower case) Christian educators 2008 AI now says this includes both Certified Christian Educators &amp; Certified Associate Christian Educators</b>		Voice, Vote, if elder (G-14.0730c)		By vote, Pby MAY grant Voice and Vote (under G-11.0101b), both only while engaged in educational ministry under jurisdiction of Pby.	

1. The 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly approved an authoritative interpretation saying that “certified Christian educator(s)” referenced at G-14.0730 b and c refer to both Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators, granting all of them a service of recognition, minimum requirements for compensation, access to the COM, and privilege of the presbytery floor with voice. If they are elders, they would be granted vote as well.
2. If neither of these amendments passes, both Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators shall be granted voice at presbytery meetings and vote if they are elders, based on the new AI.
3. If only 08-I passes, the presbytery shall grant voice to Certified Christian Educators and shall grant vote to them if they are elders. No specific mention is made of voice or vote for Certified Associate Christian Educators; the AI will no longer be in effect for G-14.0730c.
4. If only 08-F passes, the presbytery may grant voice to both Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators, and may grant vote to them if they are elders *during the term of service in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the presbytery*.
5. If both 08-F and 08-I pass, only Certified Christian Educators may be granted voice , and may be granted vote if they are elders *during the term of service in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the presbytery*. No voice or vote for Certified Associate Christian Educators.

***Seeking to be Faithful Together:***  
**Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement**

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will...

<p><b>G</b>ive them a hearing... listen before we answer</p> <p><i>John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13</i></p>	<p><b>1</b> <b>Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,</li> <li>- we will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others.</li> </ul> <p><b>2</b> <b>Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.</b></p> <p><b>3</b> <b>State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.</b></p>
<p><b>S</b>peak the truth in love</p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:15</i></p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.</b></p> <p><b>5</b> <b>Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion.</li> </ul> <p><b>6</b> <b>Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.</b></p>
<p><b>M</b>aintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace</p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:3</i></p>	<p><b>7</b> <b>Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.</b></p> <p><b>8</b> <b>Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.</li> </ul> <p><b>9</b> <b>Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously;</li> <li>- seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;</li> <li>- be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience;</li> <li>- abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways which are consistent with these Guidelines.</li> </ul> <p><b>10</b> <b>Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.</b></p>