

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PC(USA) CONSTITUTION 2019—PMRV February Stated Meeting**

Amendment	Brief Description	Arguments for Affirmative	Arguments for Negative
<p><b>18-A</b>  <b>Election of Ruling Elders</b>  <b>And Deacons On</b>  <b>Amending G-2.0401</b>  <b>(Item 06-11)</b></p>	<p>Intended to clarify the somewhat ambiguous language regarding the nominating committee membership. It sets the minimum size of the nominating committee at three members, not including the pastor. The goal is to provide clarity while preserving overall permission-giving nature of the Form of Government.</p>	<p>Ideal for small congregations yet also provides flexibility for churches to add more from the minimum.</p> <p>From ACC: Adds clarity and is consistent with past practice.</p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>18-B.</b>  <b>Renunciation of Jurisdiction</b></p>	<p>These two amendments (18-B.1 and 18-b.2), 06-09, Recommendations 1. and 2.) come out of the intent to clarify congregational prohibition and individual jurisdiction when PC(USA) minister of Word and Sacrament renounces jurisdiction while in the midst of disciplinary proceedings and then wants to rejoin the PC(USA). The General Assembly approved the combination of two proposed amendments in one item. The advice on each of these proposed amendments come from the separate items, (Items 06-09 and 06-07) not on the combined items.</p>		
<p><b>18-B.1</b>  <b>On Amending G-2.0509</b>  <b>(Item 06-09)</b></p>	<p>The [former] amendment to G-2.0509, while intended to protect the church and its entities from ministers who have left the church without submitting to the constitutional process for establishing guilt or innocence and providing for repentance when repentance is needed, have instead created a situation in which the administration of justice, as defined by the amendment, is impossible to carry out. See the complete rationale on pages 3 and 4 of the Amendment Booklet.</p>		

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<b>18-B.2</b> <b>On Amending D-10.0401d</b> <b>(Item 06-09)</b>	See edited rationale on pages 5 and 6 of the Amendment Booklet.	Seems reasonable and the process understandable	No articulated opposition expressed in committee See discussion in booklet by Advisory Committee on the Constitution
<b>18-C</b> <b>Officers</b>  <b>On Amending G-3.0104</b> <b>(Item 06-16)</b>	Since 1954, the Johnson Amendment has been a provision in the United States tax code prohibiting charitable organizations, including churches, from endorsing or opposing political candidates. Action has been taken to loosen this prohibition. This amendment would offer explicit guidance to governing bodies or to those in leadership positions regarding endorsing or opposing candidates running for political office.	Preferable to passing after Johnson amendment is removed by Congress  Get in front of possible changes to Johnson amendment Assists in protecting 501(c)(3) status  In plenary: divisive times, enables time honored separation of church and state  In plenary: Not interfere with minister of Word and Sacrament speaking to social policy	Presbyterian sensibilities tells us not to advocate for or against a candidate  Specific prohibition implies the absence of authority to speak from the pulpit with the authority of scripture  See Advisory Committee on the Constitution's lengthy discussion
<b>18-D.</b> <b>Membership of Presbytery</b>  <b>On Amending G-3.0306</b> <b>(Item 06-05)</b>	This amendment would provide clarify to minister members seeking permission to labor within the bounds of a presbytery beyond that of the membership of the minister of Word and Sacrament's membership.	Clarifies laboring outside bounds of presbytery of membership  Brings back language from old Book of Order	None
<b>18-E.</b> <b>Pastor, Counselor, and</b> <b>Advisor to Its Pastors and</b> <b>Congregations</b> <b>On Amending G-3.0307</b> <b>(Item 06-02)</b>	The proposed amendment seeks to clear up repetitive wording in G-3.0307.	Correcting language  Limited discussion	None

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<b>18-F.</b> <b>Welcoming to the Table</b>  <b>On Amending W-4.0202</b> <b>(Item 14-03)</b>	Seeks to clarify that when children receive the Lord’s Supper for the first time, the Directory of Worship is not suggesting a service such as “first communion.”	Advisory Committee on the Constitution advises approval	None
<b>18-G.</b> <b>Disciplinary Offense</b>  <b>On Amending D-2.0203b</b> <b>(Item 06-04)</b>	Intended to insure that violations of a council’s sexual misconduct policy are contrary to the Scriptures or the Constitution and may be addressed through the disciplinary process.	Makes offense definition clear  No discussion in plenary	Concerns were expressed prior to approval of amendment to the overture  None following approval of amendment
<b>18-H.</b> <b>Time Limit</b> <b>On Amending D-10-0401</b> <b>(Item 06-24)</b>  <b>18-H.1 &amp; 18-H.2</b>	Proposes to impose a level of responsibility on persons that is not currently part of the Rules of Discipline (H.1). The proposed language also recognizes that minors cannot consent (H.2). Motion to refer overture to Rules of Discipline Task Force ultimately failed and a substitute motion was approved.	None	None