

## PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PCUSA CONSTITUTION 2019

## 18-A: Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons, Amending G-2.0401

The proposed amendment clarifies the criteria by which a congregation determines its policy regarding its nominating committee. The GA committee approved the amendment 54/0, the body by 478/3. There is nothing objectionable or challenging to this proposed change. **This amendment has enough votes to be adopted**

## 18-B.1: Renunciation of Jurisdiction, Amending G-2.0509

## 18-B.2: Regarding Renunciation of Jurisdiction, Amending D-10.0401d

These proposed amendments state that no Minister of the Word and Sacrament who previously renounced the jurisdiction of the PCUSA in the midst of a disciplinary action (which would have ended the disciplinary process) can be engaged by a congregation or entity of the PCUSA for purposes of employment or volunteer purposes, and clarifies that a former Minister of the Word and Sacrament can be restored only through application to/through the presbytery in which the minister renounced jurisdiction, which would re-engage the disciplinary process of 10.0401d and D-12.0200. The GA committee approved the amendment 54/3, the body by 466/7. These amendments (to be voted on separately, given that both the Form of Government (G) and Book of Discipline (D) are to be modified, eliminate a "back door" of sorts for a person who had previously renounced to enter into service in congregation or entity of the PCUSA without facing the original disciplinary process. **These amendments have enough votes to be adopted**

## 18-C: Officers, Amending G-3.0104

This proposed amendment anticipated changes in the "Johnson Amendment" which was a statute prohibiting charitable organizations, including churches, from endorsing or opposing political candidates. The proposed amendment was amended in committee to add "*Except in cases of extreme danger to the common good, and even then with cautions against extreme partisanship*" to the beginning of the proposed amendment. The GA committee approved the proposed amended amendment 31/24, the body by 370/99. As of 2.27.19, this was the only amendment not sailing to passage nationally. With 92 presbyteries having voted the tally was 26 in favor, 66 against. **This amendment is projected to be defeated**

## 18-D: Membership of Presbytery, Amending G-3.0306

Clarifies the communications necessary for ministers of the Word and Sacrament regarding laboring outside the bounds of the presbytery of membership. The GA committee approved the amendment 52/1, the body 442/13. There is nothing objectionable or challenging to this proposed change. **This amendment has enough votes to be adopted**

18-E: Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to Its Pastors and Congregations, Amending G-3.0307

The amendment changes language back to "Ministers of Word and Sacrament" as a continuing clean-up of the new Form of Government adopted previously. The GA committee approved the amendment 52/0, the body by 464/3. There is nothing objectionable or challenging to this proposed change. **This amendment has enough votes to be adopted**

18-F: Welcoming to the Table, Amending W-4.0202

The amendment modifies previous language regarding baptized children and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, allowing for the children to be welcomed as well as the session having responsibility for receiving ongoing instruction regarding the Sacraments. The GA committee approved the amendment 50/1, the body by voice vote. There is nothing objectionable or challenging to this proposed change.

**This amendment has enough votes to be adopted**

18-G: Disciplinary Offense, Amending D-2.00203b

The amendment adds the following language to D-2.0203b: *Sexual abuse as defined in Section D-10.0401c shall be considered contrary to the Scriptures or Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and therefore an offense for purposes of these rules.* The GA committee approved the amendment 53/0, the body by 416/13. There is nothing objectionable or challenging to this proposed change. **This amendment has enough votes to be adopted**

18-H.1 and 18-H.2: Time Limit, Amending D-10.0401

The amendment adds the following language to D-10.0401: *There is also no time limit for charging that a person who knew or reasonably should have known of the reasonable risk of sexual abuse of another as defined in D-10.0401c(1) or (2) failed to take reasonable steps to minimize the risk. (H.1);* and proposes that D-10.0401c(1) read (text to be deleted is shown with strike-through): *(1) any person under the age of eighteen years or anyone ~~over the age of eighteen years~~ without the mental capacity to consent; or"...* These amendments are voted on separately.

The GA committee approved the amendment 47/1, the body by 455/16.

There is nothing objectionable or challenging to this proposed change.

**These amendments have enough votes to be adopted**

**(See Attachment #2 for Riverside Presbytery Meeting 3/23/19)**