

On Amending G-3.0307 to Clarify the Responsibility of the Presbytery—From Heartland Presbytery.

Heartland Presbytery respectfully overtures the 223rd General Assembly of the PCUSA as follows:

Amend G-3.0307 as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as bold and/or italic.]

G-3.0307 Presbytery as Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor

Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations.

Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor and counselor to its ~~pastors, both ministers of the Word and Sacrament, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service~~ **commissioned pastors, (also called commissioned pastors (also known as commissioned ruling elders), as well as the and certified Christian educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, ~~pastors, ministers of the Word and Sacrament, commissioned pastors,~~ and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient.**

Rationale

The Presbytery of Santa Fe, submitted Overture 03, (similar to this) was one of the concurring presbyteries on the 2016 overture that became Amendment 16-C, recommendations C.1 through C.8, ratified by a majority of the presbyteries. They were mindful of the valid criticism of recommendation 16-C.6 (g-3.0307 raised by the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, as well as repetitive wording. Heartland Presbytery concurs with their Overture but believes that, with one slight change to the title of this section, ministers of the Word and Sacrament, commissioned pastors, and certified Christian educators, as well as congregations, can experience the benefits of each presbytery serving as pastor, counselor, and advisor to them.

Overture 003

On Amending G-3.0307 to Clarify the Responsibility of the Presbytery—From the Presbytery of Santa Fe.

The Presbytery of Santa Fe respectfully overtures the 223rd General Assembly of the PCUSA as follows:

Amend G-3.0307 as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as bold and/or italic.]

G-3.0307 Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to its ~~Pastors~~ Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Congregations

Presbyteries shall be open at all times to communication regarding the life and ministry of their congregations.

Each presbytery shall develop and maintain mechanisms and processes to serve as pastor and counselor to its ~~pastors, both~~ ***ministers of Word and Sacrament, ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service commissioned pastors, (also called commissioned pastors (also known as commissioned ruling elders), as well as the*** and certified Christian educators of the presbytery; to facilitate the relations between the presbytery and its congregations, ~~pastors, ministers of Word and Sacrament, commissioned pastors,~~ and certified Christian educators; and to settle difficulties on behalf of the presbytery where possible and expedient.

Rationale

The Presbytery of Santa Fe was one of the concurring presbyteries on the 2016 overture that became Amendment 16-C, recommendations C.1 through C.8, ratified by a majority of the presbyteries. We are mindful of the valid criticism of recommendation 16-C.6 (G-3.0307) raised by the Advisory Committee on the Constitution, as well as other concerns about repetitive wording. We believe this can be easily remedied by our proposed amendment.