



*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" – Isaiah 43:19*

Dear Friends,

We Presbyterians believe that our reformed church is always in need of reform, according to the Word of God. With much prayer and discussion, we are constantly amending our *Book of Order* to make our structures and rules a more faithful expression of the church we believe God wants us to be. At the presbytery meeting on May 23, we will be voting on 33 proposed amendments to the *Book of Order* from the General Assembly.

NCP's Standing Rule #3 requires that each amendment be considered and voted upon separately. Because of the large number of proposed amendments this year, the Bills and Overtures Committee will recommend the suspension of this rule, and the use of the following process:

1. The Bills and Overtures Committee will recommend the approval of several simpler proposed amendments in an omnibus motion.
2. When the omnibus motion is presented, any voting member of the assembly will have the right to remove any of the proposed amendments from the omnibus motion for separate consideration.
3. If the presbytery adopts the omnibus motion, the Stated Clerk will report to the Office of the General Assembly that the presbytery has voted *in favor* of all the proposed amendments not removed from this motion. If the omnibus motion fails, then all the amendments will be considered separately.
4. The presbytery will proceed to consider the remaining proposed amendments in sequence.

The Bills and Overtures Committee has studied these proposals and is finalizing its recommendations, which will be released in advance of the stated meeting. In the meantime, I encourage you, if you have not already done so, to [read about the proposed amendments on the Office of the General Assembly's website](#).

An Action Item Dialogue for discussion and questions regarding the proposed amendments will be held via Zoom on Monday, May 22, at 7:00 p.m. There will be time for your questions and insights, and a presentation on the proposed replacement to the Rules of Discipline section of the *Book of Order* (Amendment 22-GG). This event, as always, is optional—questions and comments are always in order during the formal consideration of business at the stated meeting.

The *Book of Order* reminds us that "[a]s the Church seeks reform and fresh direction, it looks to Jesus Christ who goes ahead of us and calls us to follow him" (F-1.0401). Your prayers and your faithful participation in the work of discernment will help us become the church that Christ needs us to be in this moment.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. David A. Baer, Stated Clerk