

Amendment Discernment Process



Discerning Amendments 24A & 24C



General Presbyter John Molina-Moore facilitated a pre-presbytery discussion at 3:00 p.m. in Stone Hall.

([VIDEO Summary – HERE.](#))

All members of the NCP community were invited to participate. These proposed amendments were approved by the General Assembly last summer and are now among the thirteen items sent out to the presbyteries of the PCUSA for their consideration.

The Stated Clerk provided a brief presentation on the amendments: 24-A would add sexual orientation and gender identity to a list expressing the diversity of those united in Christ through baptism in F-1.0403. 24-C would amend the language of G-2.0401b, which addresses the examination of church officers, to require that the examination cover “the Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01), and ... the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403.” Currently, the Book of Order requires only that the examination address the requirements expressed in the constitutional questions asked of candidates at ordination and installation (W-4.0404).

The Stated Clerk noted that the affirmative votes of a majority of presbyteries would be required, in order for the amendments to be incorporated into the next edition of the Book of Order. Should this happen, he advised, it would be necessary for NCP’s Commission on Ministry to revise the set of questions in its examination policy that all candidates for ordination and membership are asked, in order to address the new requirements.

The General Presbyter invited participants to spend some time in groups discussing their fears or excitement around these proposed amendments, as well as their hopes for how NCP should implement them, if they are adopted. At the end of this time, the groups summarized their discussions.

Based on the discussion on September 24, the Leadership Council has decided to provide for an extended period of discernment before a vote by the presbytery on 24-A and 24-C, including the following:

✓	9/24/24	3:00 pm at National PC	In-person conversation to discuss Amendment 24-A and 24-C
✓	10/19/24	1:30 pm at Gaithersburg PC	In-person conversation to discuss Amendments with OGA’s Stated Clerk, Rev. Jihyun Oh.
✓	11/18/24	7:00 pm via Zoom	Action Item Dialogue - Zoom opportunity to discuss Amendments
	12/10/24	12:30 pm at Fairlington PC	In-person (hybrid) meeting for prayer over the presbytery’s discernment
	1/23/25 (THURS)	5:00 pm at National PC	Opportunity for small group discussion prior to the meeting and formal debate and vote on Amendments