

1 Presbytery of Central Florida

2 **STANDING RULES**

3 As Amended through the 185th Stated Meeting, November 10, 2020, April 27, 2021, November 9, 2021,
4 August 23, 2022, April 18, 2023

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8 **ARTICLE I- NAME**

9
10 The name of this Presbytery shall be THE PRESBYTERY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.
11

12 **ARTICLE II- MEETINGS**

13
14 **STATED MEETINGS:** Normally at least four stated meetings shall be held each year.

15
16 **ADJOURNED MEETINGS:** Adjourned meetings of stated meetings may be held as deemed
17 advisable. Matters permissible for consideration shall be those which would have been permissible
18 at the meeting of which this is an adjourned meeting.

19
20 **CALLED MEETINGS:** Called meetings may be held as deemed necessary, as provided in the
21 BCO 13-12. Ordinarily, the examination of ministers from other Presbyteries, or of candidates
22 seeking ordination, shall not be handled in called meetings.

23
24 **QUORUM:** The quorum for all meetings shall be three Teaching Elders and three Ruling Elders
25 (BCO 13-4).

26
27 **DOCKET:** A proposed docket setting forth the order of business shall be prepared by the Stated
28 Clerk.

29
30 The order of the Permanent Committee reports shall be docketed in a rotating order. The
31 committee reporting last at one meeting is to be docketed to report first in the following meeting,
32 with all others moving down in the order.

33
34 All Permanent Committees other than the Examining, Minister and His Work, Mission to North
35 America and Candidates shall be limited to ten minutes.

36
37 At the meeting at which the Administrative Committee presents the budget, it shall always report
38 first and shall have its time limit removed.

39
40 Other exceptions to the above order and time limitations may be approved by a majority vote of
41 those present at the meeting for which the exceptions are requested.

42
43 Committee reports shall be made as concise as possible, and prayer offered only when specifically
44 requested.

45
46 A docket shall be adopted by the Presbytery, by majority vote, and may be amended at any time
47 during the meeting by majority vote. Reports of church planters and other domestic or foreign
48 missionaries shall not normally be given during the business portion of presbytery.

49
50
51 **ATTENDANCE:**

52 Every Teaching Elder should attend every meeting, unless providentially hindered, and all

1 church Sessions should be represented at every meeting, unless providentially hindered.
2 When providentially hindered from such attendance, a Teaching Elder or Session
3 representative will be expected to request Presbytery to excuse him - stating his reason
4 for non-attendance. Due to the fact that stated meetings are known months or even years)
5 in advance, according to our Standing Rules; that the term "providentially hindered" has
6 reference to death, illness, and other emergency situations and not scheduling problems;
7 and further that ministers and Ruling Elders should seek to schedule other events and
8 activities in the light of stated meetings (and called meetings, if possible).
9

10 Members of Presbytery will be expected to arrive on time and to attend all sessions unless
11 specifically excused by Presbytery.
12

13 Teaching Elders not engaged in pastoral work or not residing within the bounds of
14 Presbytery will be expected to report to each fall stated meeting concerning their location
15 and activities through the Minister and His Work committee. Ministers, who are honorably
16 retired or permanently disabled, are exempt from the above requirements, but are
17 encouraged to attend.
18

19 PLACE OF MEETING: Presbytery may at any time receive and vote on invitations from churches
20 to host future meetings of Presbytery. If at any time the location of the next meeting is
21 undetermined or needs to be changed, the Stated Clerk will undertake to secure an invitation from
22 any church he selects.
23

24 25 TELEPHONE AND ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

26 Stated and Called meetings of Presbytery, and Presbytery commissions or committees may
27 conduct meetings by teleconference or video-conference with the following restrictions and
28 provisions.
29

- 30 1. Each member Church in the Presbytery or member of the Commission or Committee must
31 have a way to participate.
- 32 2. The meeting shall be conducted in a manner that fully follows the Book of Church Order
33 and Standing Rules. The "place of the meeting" is recognized as the virtual place
- 34 3. The technology of the conference shall ensure that:
 - 35 a. All persons participating be able to hear each other or to see and hear each other (if/when
36 video-conferencing is available) simultaneously when speaking in order to preserve the
37 deliberative nature of the meeting.
 - 38 b. Provision is available for a speaker to be recognized and given the floor to speak
 - 39 c. Provision is available for votes to be taken and outcome clearly recognized
 - 40 d. Provision is available for the Clerk or Secretary to capture the activities and actions
41 required to record accurate Minutes
 - 42 e. Provision is available for attendance to be captured
- 43 4. The meeting shall be conducted by a moderator. This will normally be the elected
44 Moderator of Presbytery, if a meeting of the Presbytery, or the chairman or convener if a
45 commission or committee. If needed a technically skilled person may assist with the
46 mechanics of the meeting,
- 47 5. Participants in such a meeting shall seek the floor by announcing his name (and church, if
48 requested by the meeting moderator). The meeting moderator shall recognize the speaker
49 by name. Participants shall take care to avoid unnecessary noises or distractions and
50 speaking out of turn (muting their microphone when not speaking).
- 51 6. A clear process is in place to respond to interruption in service and the process is
52 described at the outset of the meeting
53

54

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3 **ARTICLE III- OFFICERS**

4 MODERATOR: A Moderator shall be elected from the list of active Ruling and Teaching Elders of
5 the Presbytery to preside at each stated meeting. The duration of a Moderator's term shall be
6 determined at the same time of his election but should not exceed one year.

7 MEETING COORDINATOR: A Meeting Coordinator shall be elected from the list of active Ruling
8 and Teaching Elders of the Presbytery to promote worship, learning, and fellowship in the
9 Presbytery during the early portion of the Presbytery meetings. The Meeting Coordinator shall work
10 with the Program Committee to plan this portion of the meetings. The duration of the Coordinator's
11 term shall be at the pleasure of the Presbytery.

12
13 STATED CLERK: The Presbytery shall elect a Stated Clerk for a term of three years (with eligibility
14 for re-election), but shall not serve more than two terms in succession, as Stated Clerk, whose
15 duties shall be those ordinarily expected of this office (BCO 10-4 and 13-10), especially those
16 concerned with preparation of the docket for each stated meeting, the proper recording of
17 proceedings, the printing of these minutes suitable for preservation as well as other valuable
18 records of the Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall serve as Publicity Clerk and as Historian for the
19 Presbytery. All mail and communications to or from the Presbytery shall ordinarily come to and
20 from the Stated Clerk's office.

21
22 TEMPORARY CLERKS: Presbytery shall on the advice of the Stated Clerk elect at each meeting
23 Temporary Clerks to assist the Stated Clerk.

24
25 TREASURER OF PRESBYTERY: The Presbytery shall elect for a term of three years (with
26 eligibility for re-election) a Treasurer, whose duties it shall be to receive funds sent to him by
27 churches, other organizations or individuals, to disburse funds to Presbytery approved
28 benevolences as designated by contributors and in the case of budgeted expenses, in accordance
29 with the committee budgets or otherwise approved by Presbytery, and to make periodic reports to
30 Presbytery. When funds received by the Treasurer are not designated for a special purpose, such
31 funds are to remain available only for previously approved budgeted expenses of Presbytery
32 committees or for special purposes as may be designated by Presbytery.

33
34 The Treasurer of Presbytery shall disburse funds for legitimate and reasonable purposes which
35 have been previously approved by Presbytery. All requests for reimbursements are to be
36 authorized and submitted by the appropriate committee chairman to the Treasurer of Presbytery.
37 Commission conveners/chairmen should submit all requests for reimbursements to the
38 appropriate committee chairman, who would then submit them to the Treasurer. Allowance for
39 automobiles is to be based on a mileage allowance to be determined by Presbytery. If, in the
40 opinion of the Treasurer, any request for disbursement from Presbytery's funds does not appear
41 to be either reasonable or in accordance with the committee budget or appears to be in conflict
42 with Presbytery instructions, the Treasurer will refer the matter to the Committee on
43 Administration for further instructions.

44
45 All monies intended by local churches to be forwarded to the General Assembly causes should be
46 sent directly to the Presbyterian Church in America and not through Presbytery.

47
48 At the end of each fiscal year, the Treasurer shall send to each church in the Presbytery, a report
49 indicating the amount contributed by each church, the total amount received by the Treasurer
50 from all sources, and a statement indicating the disposition of such funds, during the year. A
51 financial statement of Presbytery's funds and accounting procedures should be done on a
52 biennial basis by a Certified Public Accountant appointed by the Administrative Committee

53
54 TERMS OF OFFICE: The above officers shall usually be elected at the last Stated Meeting of the

1 year. Those elected to these offices shall assume their duties at the close of the meeting at which
2 they were elected and shall serve until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in any of the offices
3 may be filled at any meeting of the Presbytery.

4 5 6 **ARTICLE IV – COMMITTEES and LIAISON**

7
8 The Committees of the Presbytery shall be Program, Standing, Permanent, Special and a Liaison.

9
10 **PROGRAM:** The Program Committee shall consist of the Moderator, the Stated Clerk, the Meeting
11 Coordinator, and the pastor of the host church (or a Ruling Elder), that is to entertain Presbytery.
12 The Moderator, Meeting Coordinator, and church representative shall, as needed, assist the Stated
13 Clerk in the preparation of a docket for stated meetings. Committee Chairmen or others wishing to
14 present a special speaker or program at a stated meeting should consult with the Stated Clerk, the
15 Moderator, and/or the Meeting Coordinator before arranging this, and these officers shall decide
16 on the suitability, advisability, and timing - subject to final approval of Presbytery.

17
18 **STANDING COMMITTEES:** At stated meetings, the Moderator shall appoint Standing Committees
19 of three members each (naming the chairman of each Committee), to consider and report on any
20 matter requiring attention at that meeting of Presbytery.

21
22 **PERMANENT COMMITTEES:** Members for Permanent Committees shall be Teaching Elders of
23 this Presbytery or officers of churches of this Presbytery. Committee members are to be normally
24 elected at the fall stated meeting for terms of three years, and in three yearly classes. Any church
25 officer, not eligible to be a commissioner to this Presbytery, must:

- 26
27 a. be a member (associate or regular) of a particular PCA church of this Presbytery;
28 b. have ordained (RE) status, in good standing, with an organized PCA church; and
29 c. be approved by the session of the church in this Presbytery of which he is a
30 member.

31
32 Presbytery at each fall stated meeting shall appoint the committee chairmen.

33
34 The Mission to North America, Minister and His Work, Examining and Candidates for the Ministry
35 committees shall be composed of nine members, three per class. The Reformed University
36 Ministries, and Deacons committees shall be composed of six members, two per class. The
37 Administration committee shall be composed of a chairman together with the current Moderator,
38 Stated Clerk and chairmen of the other Permanent Committees. As far as possible Teaching
39 and Ruling Elders should have equal representation on these committees. Vacancies in any
40 Permanent Committee may be filled at any meeting. The position of Mission to the World Liaison
41 shall be filled by a Teaching or Ruling Elder

42
43 After serving two complete terms (in addition to filling any unexpired terms, if applicable) a
44 committee member shall not succeed himself until after a lapse of one year. He shall then be
45 eligible for re-election. Exceptions may be approved by a majority vote of those present at the
46 November presbytery meeting.

47
48 Whenever any permanent committee is requested by a particular church or churches, to meet prior
49 to a normally scheduled committee meeting time (e.g. M&HW to facilitate getting men to the field,
50 etc.) it shall be the responsibility of such local church or churches to provide reimbursement for the
51 cost of such special meeting (transportation and meals).

52
53 **ADMINISTRATION:** This committee is charged with receiving and coordinating committee
54 budgets, preparation of Presbytery budget for submission at the fall stated meeting, acting as a

1 Presbytery Nominating committee, and sitting as a Legal committee when required.

2
3 Nominations for all committees for consideration by the Presbytery at the fall Stated Meeting shall
4 preferably be reported by the chairman of the Administration Committee to the Stated Clerk two
5 weeks prior to that meeting (for the purposes of making copies).

6
7 **MISSION TO NORTH AMERICA:** This committee is charged with leading the Presbytery in
8 evangelism and the development of new congregations within the Presbytery. Pastors of new
9 church developments are under its jurisdiction, as well as the Committee on the Minister and His
10 Work. Members of the Presbyterian Church in America directly involved in new church
11 development work prior to congregation organization would also be under the jurisdiction of this
12 committee.

13
14 **MISSION TO THE WORLD LIAISON;** This Liaison will serve as the communication link between
15 Presbytery and foreign missionaries whose work may be of interest to Presbytery. The Liaison will
16 coordinate potential speaking engagement with the Program Committee.

17
18 **MINISTER AND HIS WORK:** This Committee has the following primary functions: First, it shall
19 provide specific oversight of all TE's who are members of Presbytery as described below. Second
20 it shall serve as the examination committee of the Presbytery to interview already ordained
21 Teaching Elders seeking admission to the Presbytery. Third, it shall oversee pastors in the
22 Presbytery without call and/or those who are ministering "out of bounds."

23
24 1) OVERSIGHT OF TEACHING ELDER MEMBERS:

25 a) The Committee operates under the assumption that local church sessions
26 exercise a level of oversight over their pastoral staff. It is not possible or practical for
27 the Committee to fully exercise front line oversight of all of the pastors in all of the
28 churches in the Presbytery.

29 b) Oversight of TE's can be divided into two categories, one being oversight of
30 doctrine by the Presbytery and the other being local church session oversight of the
31 personal lives of their pastoral staff.

32 c) Particular cases where the Committee may be called upon to exercise oversight
33 for the Presbytery include situations where: a) There is irreconcilable division among
34 local church leadership, especially if a TE is at odds with his session or he has a
35 conflict of interest; b) A TE believes he needs outside counsel or advice; c) Local
36 church leadership is failing to hold their TE's accountable; d) And other similar
37 situations where the Committee could help to serve as an intermediary for the local
38 church.

39 d) In situations like the ones described above, a TE or church session must formally
40 request assistance from the Committee and the boundaries of the needed and
41 expected involvement of the Committee in the affairs of the church must be clearly
42 defined in this request.

43 e) A church member may appeal to the Committee after he/she has first addressed
44 any issues with the TE himself and/or the church session. (Reference BCO 31;
45 Matthew 18:15-20)

46 f) As BCO 34 makes clear, the original court of jurisdiction for any process against
47 a TE is "the Presbytery of which he is a member." The Committee shall be the
48 recipient of any formal charges against a TE in the CFP and will bring such to the
49 Presbytery with a proposal for action after the investigation is completed.

50 g) The Committee shall serve as a Standing Commission empowered to handle
51 uncontested requests for Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation (IAW BCO 23-1 Para.
52

53 2) EXAMINATION OF TEACHING ELDERS SEEKING ADMISSION

1 a) All already ordained Teaching Elders seeking admission to Presbytery are
2 required to submit a paper stating their theological beliefs on the following subjects:
3 The inspiration of Scripture, the Trinity, the person and work of Christ, his death and
4 resurrection, the doctrine of man, the final state of man, the second coming of Christ,
5 the doctrine of the Church, the person and work of the Holy Spirit (including the
6 candidate's view on the charismatic movement), the doctrine of the person and work
7 of Satan and the five points of Calvinism. Copies of this paper are to be distributed by
8 the Stated Clerk to each church at the time the docket and other reports are
9 forwarded prior to the meeting of Presbytery.

10 b) All already ordained Teaching Elders shall be interviewed by the Committee after
11 receiving their theological statement and prior to their appearance before Presbytery.
12 Ordinarily Teaching Elders shall not be examined at called meetings of Presbytery.
13 Senior Ministers must be approved by the Committee before moving onto the field.
14
15

16 c) The floor examinations of Teaching Elders wishing to transfer into the Presbytery
17 shall be led by the Committee and proceed under the following categories with
18 associated time limits:
19

- 20 1 Christian Experience - The designated examiner will be allowed up to ten
21 minutes for questioning, followed by up to ten minutes from the floor.
- 22 2 Theology - The designated examiner will be allowed up to ten minutes for
23 questioning, followed by up to ten minutes from the floor.
- 24 3 Sacraments - The designated examiner will be allowed up to five minutes for
25 questioning, followed by up to five minutes from the floor.
- 26 4 Church Government - No questions will be asked by the designated examiner.
27 Five minutes will be allowed for questions from the floor.
- 28 5 The time limit under any category can be extended by a simple majority of
29 Presbytery
30

31 d) The committee shall consult with each pastor-elect and the local church in
32 nominating to Presbytery the Commission to install the pastor whose call shall have
33 been approved by the Presbytery.
34

35 3) Teaching Elders without a call shall periodically report to the committee on the nature of the
36 work in which they are engaged.
37

38 **CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY:** The Committee on Candidates shall hear the testimony of
39 all who desire to come under the care of the Presbytery as candidates for the Gospel ministry, and
40 if the way be clear, shall present the candidates to the Presbytery when it meets with the
41 candidate's testimony to Presbytery not to exceed ten minutes. The committee shall counsel and
42 encourage the candidates throughout the period of their preparation, and provide direction,
43 oversight, and assistance in the meeting of internship requirements and anything else preparatory
44 for ordination. The committee will be responsible to evaluate men as to their having met the
45 requirements for internship and will recommend internship approvals to the presbytery when
46 deemed appropriate.
47

48 **EXAMINING COMMITTEE:** The examining Committee will be responsible to conduct examinations
49 for licensure and ordination of any man deemed eligible according to our constitution. These
50 examinations before the committee shall consist of all elements specified in the Book of Church
51 Order. The committee will be responsible to make a recommendation to the presbytery for any
52 man judged by them as qualified for licensure or ordination. In addition, the committee shall:
53

54 Floor examinations before Presbytery shall be conducted in the following manner:
55

- 1 a) **Christian Experience** - the designated examiner will be allowed up to ten minutes for
- 2 questioning, followed by up to ten minutes from the floor.
- 3 b) **English Bible** - the designated examiner will be allowed up to ten minutes for
- 4 questioning, followed by up to ten minutes from the floor. If the Committee was
- 5 unanimously satisfied with the Bible exam, they shall report that to the Presbytery and no
- 6 questions shall be asked by the examiner.
- 7 c) **Theology** - the designated examiner will be allowed up to fifteen minutes for questioning,
- 8 followed by up to fifteen minutes from the floor.
- 9 d) **Sacraments** - the designated examiner will be allowed up to five minutes for questioning,
- 10 followed by up to ten minutes from the floor.
- 11 e) **Church and PCA History** - the designated examiner will be allowed up to five minutes for
- 12 questioning, followed by up to five minutes from the floor.
- 13 f) **Church Government** - the designated examiner will be allowed up to five minutes for
- 14 questioning, followed by up to five minutes.

15
16 Time limits can be extended by a simple majority vote.

17
18 The Examining Committee Shall in preparation for its work:

- 19
- 20 a) Require from candidates for licensure or ordination, in addition to the written sermon, up to
- 21 nine cassette or video copies of a sermon they have preached, which the committee shall
- 22 evaluate. If the committee is unanimously satisfied with the sermon the candidate will
- 23 normally not preach before Presbytery.
- 24
- 25 b) Require from candidates a paper stating their theological beliefs three weeks in advance
- 26 of Presbytery meeting on the following subjects: The inspiration of Scripture, the Trinity,
- 27 the person and work of Christ, his death and resurrection, the doctrine of man, the final
- 28 state of man, the second coming of Christ, the doctrine of the Church, the person and work
- 29 of the Holy Spirit, including the candidate's view on the charismatic movement, the doctrine
- 30 of the person and work of Satan, and the five points of Calvinism. Copies of this paper are
- 31 to be distributed by the Stated Clerk to each church at the time the docket and other reports
- 32 are forwarded prior to the meeting of Presbytery.
- 33
- 34 c) Consult with each man who passes trials for ordination in order to nominate to Presbytery
- 35 a commission to ordain and/or install.
- 36
- 37 d) Review the calls of men coming for ordination and make recommendations concerning
- 38 them to the Presbytery.
- 39

40 Before a church shall call a senior minister, who is not ordained, his name shall be submitted to the

41 committee for consideration. A particular church may call a minister and prosecute the call before

42 Presbytery, even though the committee disapproves. Ordinarily candidates shall not be examined

43 at called meetings of Presbytery.

44
45 Senior ministers must be approved by the committee before moving onto the field.

46
47 H. REFORMED UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES: The Reformed University Ministries committee is

48 responsible for leading the Presbytery in the development and oversight of Reformed

49 University Fellowship campus ministries within the bounds of Central Florida Presbytery.

50 Teaching elders installed as RUF campus ministers are under its jurisdiction, as well as the

51 Committee on the Minister and His Work.

52
53 I. CENTRAL FLORIDA PRESBYTERY DEACONS COMMITTEE: This committee is charged

54 with leading the Presbytery to "remember the poor" (Galatians 2:10) and coordinating

1 diaconal and mercy ministry in our region. This work of coordination shall include:

- 2 a) **Equipping** Presbytery and the diaconate by sharing information and educational
3 resources in the areas of justice and mercy.
- 4 b) **Connecting** deacons in the region through conferences, fellowship and networking
5 opportunities.
- 6 c) **Serving** our region by identifying major needs and devising effective methods to meet
7 them.

8
9 **ARTICLE V – ACCECPTABLE CALLS**

10 CFP will only approve calls for existing Teaching Elders or ordain new Teaching Elders to serve
11 in CFP PCA churches. This policy does not impact our current practice of ordaining men to serve
12 out-of-bounds in non-ecclesiastical ministries within our Presbytery. PCA Teaching Elders who
13 currently serve at a non-PCA church are exempt from this requirement until they change their
14 current position

15
16
17 **ARTICLE VI - COMMISSIONS**

18
19 COMMISSIONS: A commission of the Presbytery shall consist of at least three Teaching Elders
20 and three Ruling Elders, with two Teaching Elders and two Ruling Elders constituting a quorum.
21 The Presbytery may clothe a commission with powers, judicial and authoritative to conduct judicial
22 process, or with power to ordain a minister of the Gospel. Any Teaching or Ruling Elder named to
23 preside and propound the Constitutional questions, in a commission appointed to ordain and install
24 a Teaching Elder, is to be recognized as the chairman of the commission. In other particulars, such
25 as the election of a secretary, the commission shall affect its own organization. No one may be
26 appointed to be a member of a commission who is not eligible to vote as a member of the
27 Presbytery. The necessary expenses of members of a commission to ordain and to install a new
28 Teaching Elder should, if possible, be paid by the church or churches for which the service is
29 performed; otherwise, it shall be paid by the Presbytery.

30
31 **REVIEW OF SESSION RECORDS COMMISSION**

32 While Commissions are generally temporary, the Review of Session Records is a permanent
33 Commission for the purpose of carrying out responsibility of Presbytery under BCO 13-9 b and
34 12-7, Art VII of Standing Rules. The current Stated Clerk of Presbytery shall be one of the
35 members and chairman of the commission. (It is desirable that Stated Clerks of Sessions serve
36 on this commission)

37
38
39 **ARTICLE VII- PREPARATION FOR MEETINGS**

- 40
41 1. All overtures, and all reports of permanent and special committees which are to be presented
42 at a meeting of Presbytery, shall preferably be furnished to the Stated Clerk at least two weeks
43 prior to such meeting.
- 44
45 2. All overtures or committee reports for a prospective meeting of Presbytery are to be prepared
46 for electronic distribution; these, together with the proposed docket electronically distributed at least
47 one week prior to the meeting of Presbytery to each Teaching Elders of the Presbytery and each
48 Clerk of the Session and each Candidate. Each attendee to Presbytery will be responsible for
49 providing his own copy of the documents or electronic reading device required to access the

1 documents.

2
3 3. Communications from the church courts, agencies or others, which require action to be taken
4 by the Presbytery are also to be distributed electronically by the Stated to each Teaching Elder of
5 the Presbytery, Clerk of Session of each church and to each Candidate, at least one week prior to
6 the meeting of Presbytery. Each attendee to Presbytery will be responsible for providing his own
7 copy of the documents or electronic reading device required to access the documents.

8
9 4. If a Session desires the counsel of Presbytery in any matter of doctrine or polity, yet the matter
10 is not before the lower court in such a manner as to make it the subject of a reference (BCO 41-1),
11 it shall request Presbytery to consider the matter at a stated meeting or at a called meeting provided
12 it meets the requirements hereinafter set forth. This request shall be in writing and shall set forth
13 specifically the question or questions to be answered, giving some indication as to why the Session
14 is seeking such counsel. The request shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk at least two weeks
15 prior to the scheduled meeting, and copies sent to each Session and pastor in the Presbytery at
16 the same time. It shall be the prerogative of the Presbytery to determine whether to appoint and ad
17 hoc committee to consider the matter. Every effort shall be made to give answer for the Presbytery
18 before adjournment of the day's meeting.

19 20 ARTICLE VIII- SESSIONAL and PRESBYTERY RECORDS

21
22 1. Sessions shall keep their records according to the Guidelines for Keeping and Examining
23 Session Minutes adopted by the Presbytery, secured from the Stated Clerk. A copy of the
24 Guidelines shall be posted inside of the front cover of their sessional record books.

25
26 2. Sessional records shall be presented for examination at the January stated meeting of the
27 Presbytery. The examination shall be conducted by the permanent Review of Session Records
28 Commission using the Reviewers Report Form for Annual Review of Sessional Records and the
29 results reported back to presbytery at the next stated meeting.

30
31 3. Presbytery shall keep its records according *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised*, the rules
32 adopted by the General Assembly and in accord with the guidance of the General Assembly's
33 Review of Presbytery Records Committee.

34
35 4. Presbytery records shall be presented for review to the General Assembly's Review of
36 Presbytery Records Committee by the date set annually by the PCA Stated Clerk's office and the
37 results of the review reported to Presbytery.

38
39 5. In accord with *Robert's Rules of Order*, Session and Presbytery records are viewable only by
40 members of the respective courts and others at the discretion of the court. This is especially true
41 concerning records of Executive Sessions, which must be viewed only in an executive session.
42 Accurate excerpts, germane to a specific subject, of Session or Presbytery records, may be
43 provided at the court's discretion through its clerk upon request when properly required.
44 (RRONR 47:33.4; 47:36, BCO 10-4)

45 46 47 ARTICLE IX- SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

48
49 1. LORD'S SUPPER: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be observed under the supervision
50 of the Presbytery's Coordinator of Meetings.

51
52 2. MEMORIALS: At the January stated meeting, Ruling Elders who have died during the past
53 year shall be memorialized, and a special page of the minutes devoted to their memory; with the
54 name of the Elder, his church, and the date of his death being given. When a minister dies, he shall

1 be memorialized at the next convenient stated meeting following his death, and a page in the
2 minutes set apart for a brief account of his life and work. Memorials at the January stated meeting
3 shall ordinarily be observed in connection with the Communion Service; the Moderator or Stated
4 Clerk shall arrange for someone to present to the Presbytery a proper memorial paper.
5

6 ARTICLE X- THE COVENANT

7
8 1. Each Teaching Elder received into the Presbytery and each candidate examined for ordination
9 shall, upon the Presbytery's vote to receive the Teaching Elder, or upon the Presbytery's vote to
10 approve the examination of the candidate and his ordination, subscribe his name to the vows
11 prescribed in the Book of Church Order, section 13-7.
12

13 2. The subscriptions shall be kept by the Stated Clerk as part of the records of Presbytery in a
14 book readily available.
15

16 ARTICLE XI- EXPENSES OF PRESBYTERY

17
18 Necessary funds for the current expenses of the Presbytery shall be provided by a solicited gift
19 from each member church in the amount voted by Presbytery when it voted to receive the budget
20 (fall meetings). Normally, the asking will be a per capita amount based on membership reported to
21 the last General Assembly.
22

23 ARTICLE XII- OFFICERS OF THE CORPORATION

24
25 1. The officers of the corporation shall be: President, Secretary/Registered Agent, Treasurer, and
26 such other officers as may be provided in the By-laws.
27

28 2. The officers shall be elected annually.
29

30 3. The Chairman of the Administration committee of the Presbytery shall be the President of the
31 corporation, the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery shall be the Secretary/Registered Agent of the
32 corporation, and the Treasurer of the Presbytery shall be the Treasurer of the corporation.
33

34 ARTICLE XIII- LEAVE OF ABSENCE /OUT OF BOUNDS

35
36 1. LEAVE OF ABSENCE from the Presbytery or permission to labor outside its bounds, when
37 given by the Presbytery, shall be on an annual basis, except that in the case of missionaries serving
38 outside the United States, or of military chaplains, this permission shall be granted for the duration
39 of their service.
40

41 2. MINISTERS ON LEAVES OF ABSENCE OR LABORING OUT OF BOUNDS, however, shall be
42 expected to communicate with Presbytery at least once a year, as set out in these Standing Rules
43 through the Minister and His Work Committee.
44

45 3. MISSIONARIES serving in foreign lands shall be regarded as having evangelistic authority for
46 use in such service.
47

48 ARTICLE XIV- RULES OF ORDER

49
50 The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall be the parliamentary
51 authority governing the Presbytery in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are
52 not inconsistent with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America, or any Standing Rules
53 which Presbytery may adopt.

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ARTICLE XV- SUSPENSION OF RULES/AMENDMENTS

1. The Standing Rules may be suspended upon motion, by affirmative vote of three-fourths of the representatives present and voting.
2. The Standing Rules may be amended by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the representatives present and voting, at two successive stated meetings of Presbytery.

1 POLICY
2 REGARDING TRANSFER OF CREDENTIALLED MEN
3 FROM OTHER DENOMINATIONS AND INDEPENDENCY
4

5 **Guiding principles for this policy:**

- 6 *Recognition that the PCA is not the only legitimate expression of the Lord's church
7 * Recognition that it is our duty as presbyters to preserve the purity of teaching and
8 leadership within our churches.
9 * A desire for equitable treatment of candidates for presbytery membership
10 * Submission to the dictates of the BCO
11

12 **Discussion:**

13 The directives of our BCO concerning applicants for admission into our presbytery is
14 supplied in BCO 13:6 (see below) This section of the BCO is clear with respect to
15 procedures for examination, and silent with respect to the validity of non-PCA
16 "ordinations." What is spelled out in this portion of the BCO is that alien candidates are to
17 be examined in a fashion similar to unordained candidates. This means that all
18 requirements under 21:4 (see below), "Trials for Ordination", should be routinely followed
19 by our presbytery and its committees. Since this is the normal labor of the examining
20 committee, such transferring ministers will be henceforth dealt with and brought before
21 presbytery by that committee, not by MHW.
22

23 Since BCO 21:4 allows for the admission of candidates viewed as "exceptional," it is
24 possible for the presbytery to receive men without a full exam. This may be expected in
25 cases of those who have labored in the ministry for many years, in a non-PCA context, or
26 whose circumstances lead us to see wisdom in giving something less than a full exam. A
27 committee may make recommendations regarding these matters to the presbytery, but
28 the final decision lies with the court, which must approve exceptions by a ¾ vote.
29

30 BCO 19:7 (see below) speaks to another issue of concern. This is the duty of presbytery
31 to ensure that men placed in teaching-elder positions have been adequately trained and
32 tested in actual ministry prior to taking formal leadership in our churches. These are our
33 rules for internship.
34

35 Although the BCO does not give specific instruction about the legitimacy of alien
36 ordinations the spirit of the book would be violated if we require more practical
37 experience from PCA men than from those coming to us from other groups. Therefore, it
38 is incumbent upon our presbytery, through its candidates committee, to make
39 assessment, as to whether a candidate for admission with an alien ordination has, in his
40 experience, reasonably approximated the requirements for internship held by our own
41 denomination. BCO 19:16 supplies the basic criteria for such a review. This means that,
42 upon our first awareness that such a candidate for admission is before us, assessment
43 be made (by stated clerk and/or committee chairmen) as to whether any reasonable
44 question exists on this point. If there is some question, the matter and the candidate
45 should be first reviewed by the candidates committee prior to his coming before the
46 examining committee.
47

48 If the candidates committee and/or the presbytery believe that internship requirements
49 have not been met or approximated, the presbytery will, as a practical matter, disregard
50 the alien ordination, and deal with the candidate as one coming under care of the
51 presbytery, with internship requirements still required prior to ordination.
52

53 Any non-PCA church, holding the membership of a man who desires to be a teaching
54 elder in the PCA, should work in cooperation with the candidates committee to ensure
55 that the requirements for internship are actually being met. Because the candidate is
56 expressing a desire for PCA ordination, the candidates committee ordinarily recommends

1 that the candidate should spend the significant portion of his internship in a PCA context.
2

3 **Candidacy Policy**

- 4 1. A potential candidate must be a member or an associate member for six
5 months and be under care of that local PCA church's session (BCO 18-2, 18-
6 8, 46-4). If the candidate is transferring his candidacy from another
7 denomination or independent church, he must provide a recommendation
8 from that governing body (BCO 18-8).
9 2. A candidate must have the recommendation of his local PCA Session and
10 follow the application process outlined in the Presbytery of Central Florida's
11 Candidate's Manual to come under care and/or establish an internship (BCO
12 19-7).
13 3. In the case of internship, the candidate should normally have most of his
14 internship requirements met in the context of a local PCA church (BCO 19-7).
15 4. Where a candidate is desiring to establish and (sic) internship and when a
16 significant portion of the internship requirement would be met in a non-PCA
17 local church context (e.g. ARP church, EPC church, independent church,
18 etc.), then the candidate's committee should deal with the requests on a
19 case-by-case basis (BCO 19-7). The committee's primary focus is to
20 represent the Central Florida Presbytery in assisting and overseeing men in
21 their preparation for the office of teaching elder in the PCA (BCO 18-1, 18-2,
22 18-4, 18-5).
23

24 Motion to approve the policy as presented. M/S/P, 98th Stated Meeting, January
25 15, 2002
26
27