



NOTICE OF SPECIAL PRESBYTERY MEETING  
7 PM, JANUARY 18, 2023  
[REGISTER FOR ONLINE MEETING HERE](#)

A special meeting of the Presbytery of the Cascades has been called by Moderator Doug Anderson upon the request of the required number of elders and minister members of the Presbytery, to take up **four** items of business:

1. Upon the request of ruling elders Lucy Foster (Salem, Westminster), Paul Lewis (Ashland, First) and ministers of the Word and Sacrament Charlotte Mace and Brett Webb-Mitchell, **the 33 amendments to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be brought as a consent agenda (to be adopted in gross).**  
*Pages 2-5*

*Following the provisions of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, any amendments may be removed from the consent agenda for discussion and separate vote at the request of any voting commissioner of member. Discussion and separate vote will be taken up at later Presbytery Meetings.*

2. Upon the request of the ruling elders and minister members of the Presbytery Leadership Commission\* consider **a motion to dissolve the Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church, Portland, Oregon.**  
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3. Upon the request of the ruling elders and minister members of the Presbytery Leadership Commission\* consider **a motion to dissolve Cherry Park Presbyterian Church, Troutdale, Oregon.**  
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4. Upon the request of those who are members and liaisons of the Warm Springs Task Force<sup>^</sup>, **a motion to authorize the administrative commission appointed by the Commission on Ministry Northeast to take original jurisdiction of the Warm Springs Presbyterian Church.**

More background papers (including the history of the congregations in items 2 and 3) will be distributed by Wednesday, January 11, 2023.

\*Members of the Presbytery Leadership Commission voting to request a special meeting for items 2 and 3 are ruling elders Doug Anderson (Trout Lake, First), Gail Black (Portland, Rose City Park), Nancy Patterson (Redmond, Community), Carole Eckerd (Roseburg, First), Mary Blain (Eugene, Peace), Lisa Snodderly (Portland, First), Marilyn Howe (Portland, First), Eileen Sheelar (Keizer, John Knox), Sharon Hasenjaeger (West Linn, Emmanuel) and ministers Vicky Brown, Susan Graham, Mark Frey, Joshua Dunham and Brad Kent.

<sup>^</sup> Members and liaisons to the Warm Springs Task Force requesting the meeting are ruling elders Greg Anable (Albany, United), Gail Black (Portland, Rose City Park), Linda Jackson-Shaw (Redmond, Community), Nancy Patterson (Redmond, Community) and ministers of the Word and Sacrament Pat Berger, Beverly Crow and Dave Dornack.

## REPORT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

The Presbytery of the Cascades Commissioners to the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly present the proposed amendments to the Constitution which require the affirmative vote from a majority of the Presbyteries to become part of the *Book of Order*. [The Proposed Amendments can be found here](#). A shorter summary follows.

Usually there are 10-15 proposed amendments returned to the Presbyteries for votes after a General Assembly but this year there are 33 proposed amendments. Because of the unusually large number of amendments, Commissioners and Presbytery staffs across the country have been discussing ways to handle this high volume of business. Many, including the Stated Clerk and General Assembly Commissioners of the Presbytery of the Cascades have decided to use a **consent agenda** to see if the noncontroversial amendments can be passed at one meeting in order to focus on the more important amendments at future meetings.

### What is the Consent Agenda process?

A consent agenda [also called an “omnibus motion” or, a “consent calendar” in *Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised 12<sup>th</sup> ed.* (“**RONR**”)] is a way to employ a motion to “adopt in gross” to sort through large amounts of business, determining what can be passed without discussion and what needs to be discussed/debated and voted on separately. According to RONR, a motion that consists of unrelated proposals can be divided at the request of any member. What this means for the 33 amendments is this:

- The 33 proposed amendments will all be on the consent agenda identified with letters of the alphabet starting with A and ending with GG. The moderator will ask if anyone wishes to remove amendments from the consent agenda. If a ruling elder commissioner/minister member wishes to remove an item or items, that person raises their hand and, when recognized by the moderator, states which proposed amendment(s) should be removed from the list so they can be debated and voted upon separately.
- Once everyone has had an opportunity to suggest proposed amendments for removal, all of the remaining proposed amendments that are still on the consent agenda will be adopted.
- After the meeting, the General Assembly Commissioners will take into consideration the number of proposed amendments that have been removed (let’s call them “**remaining amendments**”) for discussion/debate and vote. Depending on the number removed, they will then determine
  - If the number of remaining amendments removed is small enough to handle at the Spring Stated Meeting alone or whether the number is great enough to warrant dividing them up between the Spring meeting and a later meeting (either special meeting or the summer stated meeting).
  - How to help the presbytery understand and discuss these remaining amendments, developing written resources, possible workshops etc.

### Resources to Prepare Voters for the Consent Agenda

- The Proposed Amendments, along with rationale and recommendations from presbyteries and groups within the PCUSA can be found in this [135 page document](#)
- A summary of the proposed amendments developed by the General Assembly Commissioners is found on the next pages. This summary is no substitute for reading the amendments but hopefully will help voters keep a sense of the whole. If you want to print out this summary alone in order to mark which amendments you think should be removed, you can find the stand alone summary [here](#).

## Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the PC(USA)

- 22-A F-1.0302c THE CATHOLICITY OF THE CHURCH  
*Expands inclusive language (replace “men, women, and children” with “all people” & references “abilities and all genders”)*
- 22-B F-1.0404 OPENNESS  
*Expands inclusive language (replace “women and men” with “all people” & references “abilities and all genders”)*
- 22-C G-1.0501 MEETINGS  
*Establishes Robert’s Rules of Order (RONR) as the default parliamentary authority for congregational meetings, and authorizes electronic congregational meetings*
- 22-D G-1.0503 BUSINESS PROPER TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS  
*Adds receiving a disciplinary decision against a church member to the list of proper business at a congregational meeting*
- 22-E G-2.0503 CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP  
*Removes “honorably” before “retired” as the category for retired ministers*
- 22-F G-2.0505a(1) TRANSFER OF MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS  
*Adds the requirement to consult with the other denomination when receiving immigrant pastors without otherwise acceptable PC(USA) ordination educational requirements*
- 22-G G-2.0603 PURPOSE OF INQUIRY  
*Adds the requirement of boundary training during the inquiry phase of preparation for ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament*
- 22-H G-2.0605 OVERSIGHT  
*Adds a requirement of sessions to “report to the presbytery of any matters of sexual misconduct” of their members who are enrolled as inquirers or candidates at the presbytery.*
- 22-I G-2.0804 TERMS OF CALL  
*Adds the requirement of a minimum of twelve weeks of paid family leave in the terms of call for all installed pastors/associate pastors*
- 22-J G-2.1001 FUNCTIONS  
*Adds language allowing Commissioned Pastors to be commissioned to more than one validated ministry (e.g. two or more congregations) at a time*
- 22-K G-2.1002 TRAINING, EXAMINING, AND COMMISSIONING  
*Adds the requirement of boundary training for elders seeking to be Commissioned Pastors*
- 22-L G-2.1103 CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS  
*Adds the requirement of boundary training for those elders seeking to be certified as Christian Educators*

- 22-M G-3.0104 OFFICERS  
*Adds language that “it is appropriate” to adopt procedures for electronic session meetings*
- 22-N G-3.0105 MEETINGS  
*Adds provision that all councils and their commissions and committees may meet electronically*
- 22-O G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION  
*Adds language regarding requirements for boundary training for members of councils (e.g. elders on session and members of presbytery) including sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse to the requirement for sexual misconduct policies required of councils*
- 22-P G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION  
*Adds the requirement of an antiracism policy to the required policies of councils.*
- 22-Q G-3.0303c RELATIONS WITH SESSIONS  
*Authorizes presbyteries to establish minimum requirements for severance packages in terms of call*
- 22-R G-3.0401 COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
*Authorizes synods to enroll those serving terms in elected offices of the synod as additional members of the synod as a way to fulfill principles of participation and representation*
- 22-S G-4.0301 TRUST AND CONFIDENTIALITY  
*Expands and clarifies “confidentiality” requirements for ministers and commissioned pastors*
- 22-T W-3.0205 CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS  
*Adds administration of the sacrament of Baptism to the list of appropriate actions following the proclamation of forgiveness in a service of worship*
- 22-U W-3.0409 THEOLOGY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER  
*Adds “when appropriate” to the recommended act of providing an invitation to baptismal preparation for those who come to the table who are unbaptized*
- 22-V W-3.0414 COMMUNION  
*Removes the current requirement that a minister of the Word and Sacrament lead the prayer of thanksgiving that concludes the Lord’s Supper liturgy (another may lead that prayer).*
- 22-W W-4.0403 ORDER OF WORSHIP  
*Adds a sentence about “signs and symbols of blessing” to the section on ordination and installation services*
- 22-X W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP  
*Adds a sentence on the importance of household worship in faith formation in the Reformed tradition*

- 22-Y W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP  
*Adds an additional paragraph to the existing section on household worship*
- 22-Z W-5.0201 THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH  
*Adds "discipleship" to a list of the Church's ministries that are connected to its worship, and adds references to statements in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity*
- 22-AA W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE  
*Adds "particular specialized pastoral care" rather than adding to an existing list of such specialties*
- 22-BB W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE  
*Adds clarifying language in a section on "services of wholeness" to better express a Reformed understanding of those services*
- 22-CC D-3.0106 WHEN JURISDICTION ENDS (ROD-05)  
*Allows a disciplinary process to continue after an accused has renounced jurisdiction*
- 22-DD D-10.0302 IF CHARGES ARE TO BE FILED (ROD-04 3)  
*Grammatical change to an existing provision of the Rules of Discipline*
- 22-EE D-10.0303 PETITION FOR REVIEW (ROD-04 1)  
*Amends the current Rules of Discipline to include notifying the person accused if no charges will be filed (instead of just the person(s) who made the accusation)*
- 22-FF AMENDING THE USE OF "THE ACCUSED" IN THE CURRENT RULES OF DISCIPLINE (ROD-04 2)  
*Changes "the accused" to "the person accused" wherever it occurs in the current rules of Discipline*
- 22-GG REPLACING THE CURRENT "RULES OF DISCIPLINE" WITH A NEW "CHURCH DISCIPLINE" SECTION (ROD-03)  
*Proposes a complete revision of the Rules of Discipline*

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION COLONIAL HEIGHTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PORTLAND, OREGON

### FOR ACTION

1. Dissolve Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church on January 18, 2023 with celebration and thanksgiving for its faithful ministry and desire to leave a legacy in the community through its stewardship of the property and outreach to community partners.
2. Order the stated clerk to:
  - retain any members still on the rolls until December 31, 2023;
  - notify the General Assembly of the dissolution; and
  - take necessary steps to wind down the affairs and close the corporation.
3. Under Form of Government, G-4, All property of Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church is held in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Administrative Commission for Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church of the Presbytery of the Cascades (“Commission”), is authorized to take possession of all real and personal property, financial records, inventories of equipment, and arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of all accounts and real property known to be in the possession of Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church.
4. Authorize the Commission to approve the disposition of property or to arrange for its retention and storage for future use at the direction of the presbytery.
5. Authorize the Commission and/or the Board of Trustees to assert claim of the presbytery to any property of the Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church not known at this time or property which may come to the Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION CHERRY PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, TROUTDALE, OREGON

### FOR ACTION

1. Dissolve Cherry Park Presbyterian Church on January 18, 2023 with celebration and thanksgiving for its faithful ministry and desire to leave a legacy in the community through its stewardship of the property and outreach to community partners.
2. Order the stated clerk to:
  - retain any members still on the rolls until December 31, 2023;
  - notify the General Assembly of the dissolution; and
  - take necessary steps to wind down the affairs and close the corporation.
3. Under Form of Government, G-4, All property of Cherry Park Presbyterian Church is held in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Administrative Commission for Cherry Park Presbyterian Church of the Presbytery of the Cascades (“Commission”), is authorized to take possession of all real and personal property, financial records, inventories of equipment, and arrange for transfer of title to the Presbytery of all accounts and real property known to be in the possession of Cherry Park Presbyterian Church.
4. Authorize the Commission to approve the disposition of property or to arrange for its retention and storage for future use at the direction of the presbytery.
5. Authorize the Commission and/or the Board of Trustees to assert claim of the presbytery to any property of the Cherry Park Presbyterian Church not known at this time or property which may come to the Cherry Park Presbyterian Church as the beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.