

Dear Friends:

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The presbytery General Council has studied the new Form of Government and proposed changes to the presbytery's Manual of Operations that bring our rules and procedures into compliance with the new denominational requirements and nomenclature, and that respond to its new flexibility.

The General Council proposal includes three substantive changes in what we are familiar with. First, the separate Committee on Representation (COR) is eliminated and its function assigned to the general council. The 'old' Book of Order required each level of the PC(USA) to have many identical structures and committees, and the General Assembly, all synods, and all presbyteries had to have a separate COR. This reflected the PC(USA) and our presbytery's commitment to equal representation, but was very difficult and unwieldy for small presbyteries. The new Form of Government requires that the function continue but each presbytery determines how they will do it, and we propose assigning this to general council.

Second, the presbytery assigned to general council a review of the work and function of the Native American Consulting Committee (NACC), particularly in light of the completion of the denominational tasks that initiated NACC. The general council appointed a taskforce of three—Moderator Barbara Searls, Rev. Henry Fawcett, and Rev Linda Wescott—and the general council endorses their recommendation that NACC be continued as a committee of presbytery but that it be brought under the general rule of the presbytery with regard to membership. We propose that NACC members and chair be elected by the presbytery to the familiar three year terms, and that a person may serve up to six years consecutively.

Third, the personnel policies of the presbytery contained documents from the old national PC(USA) handbook as well as overly detailed job descriptions and outdated programs. The general council proposal eliminates some of these and asks that the maintenance of the presbytery's personnel policies be assigned to general council, much as the Committee on Ministry maintains the presbytery's minimum terms of call.

Thank you in advance for reviewing this extensive document and all the necessary and requested changes. Please provide a copy of the proposed changes to your commissioners.

God bless you,

David Dobler