



A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

**44-23** (to the Theology Standing Committee)  
**Overture from Pacific Northwest**

The **Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest** respectfully **OVERTURES** the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly **APPROVE** amending *Book of Government 8-2 C* and *Book of Worship 3-3 J*.

Current Language <b>G. 8-2 C.</b>	Proposed Language Changes in <b><i>bold italics</i></b> or strikethrough
<p><b>C.</b> The Session shall satisfy itself that each applicant for membership demonstrates evidence of true commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and determination to live as becomes a follower of Christ. It is appropriate for the Session to ask for testimonials of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a sharing of one's growth in faith.</p>	<p><b>C.</b> The Session shall satisfy itself that each applicant for membership demonstrates evidence of true commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and determination to live as becomes a follower of Christ. It is appropriate for the Session to ask for testimonials of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a sharing of one's growth in faith. <b><i>In the case of baptized, covenant children and adults, who are developmentally disabled, unable to demonstrate the above-listed evidence, the Session may consider them as members in good standing, admitting them to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.</i></b></p>

Current Language <b>W. 3-3. J</b>	Proposed Language Changes in <b><i>bold italics</i></b> or strikethrough
<p><b>J.</b> Baptized children may be admitted to the Lord's Supper provided they have appeared before the Session and professed their faith in a manner acceptable to the Session. At its discretion, the Session may admit such persons to full membership.</p>	<p><b>J.</b> Baptized children may be admitted to the Lord's Supper provided they have appeared before the Session and professed their faith in a manner acceptable to the Session. At its discretion, the Session may admit such persons to full membership. <b><i>Also at its discretion, the Session may admit to the table developmentally disabled persons who have been deemed members in good standing.</i></b></p>



**EPC**

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**Rationale:** both the *Book of Government* and the *Book of Worship* give the Session authority to examine candidates for membership and baptized children seeking admission to the Lord's Supper and determine if they should be received as members or admitted to the Lord's Supper. These proposed amendments would allow Sessions to also consider developmentally delayed individuals for membership and admission to the Lord's Table.

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