



EPC

A Global Movement of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches

44-25 (to the Theology Standing Committee)

Overture from the Presbytery of Rivers and Lakes

The **Rivers and Lakes Presbytery** respectfully **OVERTURES** the 44th General Assembly **APPROVE** amending the *Book of Worship* 3-3 I concerning explicit qualifications for admission to the sacraments of the Lord’s Supper.

Current Language W. 3-3. I	Proposed Language Changes in <i>bold italics</i> or strikethrough
<p>I. The Minister shall invite all true believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, including those from other congregations that are a part of the true Church to partake in the Lord’s Supper. All should be reminded of the need to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord, to repent of sin, and to covenant once more to live as followers of Jesus. Those who are ignorant in their knowledge of Christ or who are living ungodly and unrepentant lives should be warned of the serious consequences for those who unworthily partake.</p>	<p>I. The Minister shall invite all true <i>baptized</i> believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, including those from other congregations that are a part of the true Church, to partake in the Lord’s Supper. All should be reminded of the need to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord, to repent of sin, and to covenant once more to live as followers of Jesus. Those who are ignorant in their knowledge of Christ or who are living ungodly and unrepentant lives should be warned of the serious consequences for those who unworthily partake.</p>

Rationale: The proposed amendment introduces baptism as an explicitly necessary condition for partaking of the Lord’s Supper, applying to adults the same restriction applied to children; it also deletes the unhelpful modifier “true” and adds a comma at the end of the restrictive clause. This amendment clarifies who may partake of the Lord’s Supper—a clarification which aids pastoral efforts to fence the table and also generates pastoral opportunity to invite to the waters of baptism any who have received and rested on Jesus alone for salvation but have not yet been baptized.

Overture from Rivers and Lakes