

45-12

The Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards Proposed Amendments to *The Book of Government* 18-3

| Current Language: G.18-3 | Proposed Language: <u>additions</u> , noted in <u>bold italics</u> , deletions |
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| <p>18-3 Authority and Responsibilities of the Session</p> <p>In maintaining the spiritual supervision of the local church, the Session has the following authority and responsibilities:</p> <p>A. To oversee the worship of the congregation in accordance with the Book of Worship, including the time and place of worship, special services, the music program, and the celebration of the sacraments. This shall not infringe on the responsibility of the Pastor in the selection of hymns, Scriptures, sermon, administration of the sacraments, or other duties that are incumbent on the office of Pastor.</p> <p>B. To organize itself within the bounds of this Constitution and lawful acts of the higher Church courts for the advancement of the gospel and the mission of that congregation.</p> <p>C. To initiate the ministry of evangelism as the first business of the Church, and to seek to lead persons to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.</p> <p>D. To oversee the discipleship ministries of the church, leading members to maturity in Christ.</p> <p>E. To monitor the spiritual conduct of the members, and to take action when appropriate according to procedures set forth in <i>The Book of Discipline</i>.</p> <p>F. To remind parents of the responsibility of presenting their children for baptism and to provide</p> | <p>18-3 Authority and Responsibilities of the Session</p> <p>In maintaining the spiritual supervision of the local church, the Session has the following authority and responsibilities:</p> <p>A. To oversee the worship of the congregation in accordance with the Book of Worship, including the time and place of worship, special services, the music program, and the celebration of the sacraments. This shall not infringe on the responsibility of the Pastor in the selection of hymns, Scriptures, sermon, administration of the sacraments, or other duties that are incumbent on the office of Pastor.</p> <p>B. To organize itself within the bounds of this Constitution and lawful acts of the higher Church courts for the advancement of the gospel and the mission of that congregation.</p> <p>C. To initiate the ministry of evangelism as the first business of the Church, and to seek to lead persons to an acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.</p> <p>D. To oversee the discipleship ministries of the church, leading members to maturity in Christ.</p> <p>E. <u>To oversee church members seeking ordination as Teaching Elders.</u></p> <p>1. <u>By examining Applicants prior to endorsing them.</u></p> <p>2. <u>By assigning an active Ruling Elder as Session Liaison to guide and nurture the Applicant throughout Candidacy until ordained as a Teaching Elder or until removed from candidacy.</u></p> <p>3. <u>By submitting a request to the Presbytery to consider the Applicant to come under care as a Candidate.</u></p> <p>F. To monitor the spiritual conduct of the members, and to take action when appropriate according to procedures set forth in <i>The Book of Discipline</i>.</p> <p>G. To remind parents of the responsibility of presenting their children for baptism and to provide</p> |

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| <p>instruction as indicated in <i>The Book of Worship</i>, Section 3-2.G. To this end, Sessions should establish and conduct under their authority Sunday schools and Bible classes and adopt such other methods as may be found helpful. The Session shall encourage the parents of the Church to guide their children in the catechizing and disciplining of them in the Christian religion.</p> <p>G. To receive, dismiss, restore, grant affiliation, remove members, and keep rolls in accordance with G.8-1, 8-2, and 8-3. The Session may establish a minimum age for the active roll and to vote in congregational meetings.</p> <p>H. To determine and oversee the finances of the local church including the budget and the benevolence objectives of the congregation.</p> <p>I. To oversee the educational program of the congregation and to approve its literature.</p> <p>J. To oversee the work of the Board of Deacons and to review its minutes at least semi- annually unless otherwise provided for by the Session. It is also desirable for the Session to call a joint meeting at least semi-annually to discuss matters of common interest, although each body must act separately on matters under its charge.</p> <p>K. To fulfill its obligations to train and examine those elected to the office of Ruling Elder or Deacon as set forth in Sections 12-3 and 13-8, 9, and 10.</p> <p>L. To determine policies regarding the use of the property and facilities of the congregation.</p> <p>M. When there is no Pastor, to convene the people for worship on the Lord's Day, offering prayers, praise, reading the Scriptures and teaching thereof. It is also appropriate for a Ruling Elder to preach or to read a sermon by some Minister of the Word of the Church.</p> <p>N. To overture Presbytery on matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church and to observe and carry out the injunctions and instructions of the higher courts. The Session shall elect commissioners to Presbytery and shall hear a subsequent report on that court.</p> <p>O. To order special offerings, special days of prayer and fasting, special days of worship, and other matters that benefit the spiritual life of the people.</p> <p>P. To do whatever else may be necessary for the spread of the gospel, the edification of the members, the wellbeing of the Church, the</p> | <p>instruction as indicated in <i>The Book of Worship</i>, Section 3-2.G. To this end, Sessions should establish and conduct under their authority Sunday schools and Bible classes and adopt such other methods as may be found helpful. The Session shall encourage the parents of the Church to guide their children in the catechizing and disciplining of them in the Christian religion.</p> <p>H. To receive, dismiss, restore, grant affiliation, remove members, and keep rolls in accordance with G.8-1, 8-2, and 8-3. The Session may establish a minimum age for the active roll and to vote in congregational meetings.</p> <p>I. To determine and oversee the finances of the local church including the budget and the benevolence objectives of the congregation.</p> <p>J. To oversee the educational program of the congregation and to approve its literature.</p> <p>K. To oversee the work of the Board of Deacons and to review its minutes at least semi- annually unless otherwise provided for by the Session. It is also desirable for the Session to call a joint meeting at least semi-annually to discuss matters of common interest, although each body must act separately on matters under its charge.</p> <p>L. To fulfill its obligations to train and examine those elected to the office of Ruling Elder or Deacon as set forth in Sections 12-3 and 13-8, 9, and 10.</p> <p>M. To determine policies regarding the use of the property and facilities of the congregation.</p> <p>N. When there is no Pastor, to convene the people for worship on the Lord's Day, offering prayers, praise, reading the Scriptures and teaching thereof. It is also appropriate for a Ruling Elder to preach or to read a sermon by some Minister of the Word of the Church.</p> <p>O. To overture Presbytery on matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church and to observe and carry out the injunctions and instructions of the higher courts. The Session shall elect commissioners to Presbytery and shall hear a subsequent report on that court.</p> <p>P. To order special offerings, special days of prayer and fasting, special days of worship, and other matters that benefit the spiritual life of the people.</p> <p>Q. To do whatever else may be necessary for the spread of the gospel, the edification of the members, the wellbeing of the Church, the</p> |
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| advancement of the Kingdom, and the growth in grace of all. | advancement of the Kingdom, and the growth in grace of all. |
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Rationale: G.18-3.E - The Session retains immediate jurisdiction over both the Applicant and the Candidate during the ordination process. These three responsibilities expand upon the Session's role in the preparation of Applicant/Candidate for ordination.

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