

Ascending Overture: That The Book of Government 12-2.C be amended.

Current Book of Government 12-2.C	Proposed amended Book of Government 12-2.C
The Candidate shall be examined in writing and orally in the following areas: Theology and Sacraments, English Bible, the Book of Order, the history of the Church and the Reformed tradition, and the nature of the office of Teaching Elder.	The Candidate shall be examined in writing and orally in the following areas: Theology and Sacraments, English Bible content , the Book of Order, the history of the Church and the Reformed tradition, and the nature of the office of Teaching Elder.

Rationale:

In keeping with the Revelation 7:9 emphasis of our denomination, and the growing number of Spanish speaking congregations, our Book of Order should not restrict examinations of the Bible only to the English language.

The Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean has examined no less than 4 Spanish speaking TEs in the last 12 months. The Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean seeks to overture the 46th General Assembly to amend our Book of Order to more accurately describe our ordination examinations. If we are going to be a global church, and one of our perceived goals is to better reach the Latin community or other communities where English may not be the primary language, our governing document should reflect that. We believe that the purpose of the “English Bible exam” is to test the candidate's knowledge of the Bible. We believe this objective would be best accomplished if the exam were to take place using the primary language of the person being examined. By deleting the word “English” and simply stating “Bible,” and adding the word “content” the purpose of the exam will be clear without disadvantaging someone due to their language of origin.