

## REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

The Florida and the Caribbean Presbytery overtured the 46th General Assembly to amend Section 12-2C of the *Book of Government* (the “***FCP 12-2 Overture***”). The Permanent Judicial Commission of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (the “***PJC***”) subsequently examined the proposed amendment for clarity and consistency of language and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, in each case as required by Section G.21-3D.2.a.

The PJC understands the categories “clarity,” “consistency,” and “compatibility” to have particular meanings. *Clarity* asks whether the language of the amendment is sufficiently precise that a reasonably informed reader of the Constitution could determine what the provision requires, permits, or forbids without reference to the debate that produced it. *Consistency* examines whether the amendment employs language in a manner consistent with the vocabulary, terminology, and logic used in the Constitution and within the amendment itself. *Compatibility* asks whether the amendment integrates coherently into the broader constitutional framework without creating conflict with other provisions or with the structure of the Constitution as a whole.

After due consideration,<sup>1</sup> the PJC determined as follows regarding the FCP 12-2 Overture:

Question Presented	PJC Determination
Does the amendment satisfy the requirement of clarity of language?	Yes. Vote: 9-0.
Does the amendment satisfy the requirement of consistency of language?	Yes. Vote: 9-0.
Does the amendment satisfy the requirement of compatibility with other provisions of the EPC Constitution?	Yes. Vote: 9-0.

Accordingly, the PJC respectfully and prayerfully recommends that the General Assembly answer the FCP 12-2 Overture with reference to the Ad-Interim Committee on Ordination Standards, which, among other things, has also proposed to amend Section G.12-2C.

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<sup>1</sup> The PJC’s task was limited. We did not determine the wisdom, necessity, or pastoral desirability of the FCP 12-2 Overture, but rather evaluated whether the proposed language is prepared for integration into the Constitution. Our evaluation of the “three-C” criteria helps the General Assembly determine whether an amendment is constitutionally serviceable in its present form, apart from the merits of the proposal itself.