

Current Wording	Proposed Amendments (03/05/26)
<p>BoG 9-3.A (Life and Character of Officers)</p> <p>According to Scripture, those who bear office in the Church <b>should</b> exhibit certain characteristics of life. This includes being above reproach, sound in the faith, wise in the things of God, and discreet in all things. Persons who fill this office <b>should</b> exhibit a lifestyle that is an example to all, both in and outside the Church. A congregation preparing to elect persons to <b>this</b> holy office <b>should</b> carefully study appropriate passages of Scripture relating to <b>the Ruling Elder</b> and be very prayerful in selecting persons to <b>this office</b>.</p>	<p>BoG 9-3.A (Life and Character of Officers)</p> <p>According to Scripture, those who bear office in the Church <b>shall</b> exhibit certain characteristics of life. This includes being above reproach, sound in the faith, wise in the things of God, and discreet in all things. Persons who fill this office shall exhibit a lifestyle that is an example to all, both in and outside the Church. <b>Whether single or married, officers must conform to the biblical requirement of chastity and sexual purity (see Westminster Larger Catechism Q&amp;A 138-139)<sup>1</sup> in their descriptions of themselves, their convictions, character, and conduct.</b> A congregation preparing to elect persons to <b>these</b> holy offices <b>shall</b> carefully study appropriate passages of Scripture relating <b>to these offices</b> and be very prayerful in selecting persons <b>to them</b>.</p>
<p>BoG 9-3.B (Life and Character of Officers)</p> <p>As the law of love places certain duties upon each Christian, Church Officers are especially bound by their calling to fulfill them and to be an example to all.</p>	<p>BoG 9-3.B (Life and Character of Officers)</p> <p>As the law of love places certain duties upon each Christian, Church Officers are especially bound by their calling to fulfill them and to be an example to all. <b>Officers in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church must be above reproach in their walk and Christlike in their character. While office bearers will see spiritual perfection only in glory, they will continue in this life to confess and to mortify remaining sins in light of God's work of progressive sanctification. Therefore, to be qualified for office, they must affirm the sinfulness of fallen desires, the reality and hope of progressive sanctification, and be committed to the pursuit of Spirit-empowered victory over their sinful temptations, inclinations, and actions.</b></p>

<sup>1</sup> See D.1-6C.

<p>BoG 12-2.B (examination of candidates for ordination as a Teaching Elder):</p> <p>The Candidate shall be examined in Christian experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth</p>	<p>BoG 12-2.B (examination of candidates for ordination as a Teaching Elder):</p> <p>Candidates shall be examined in Christian experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ, <b>faithful conformity to his character, obedience to him as Lord, and steady</b> progress in spiritual growth.<sup>2</sup></p>
<p>BoG 12-3.A (examination of an EPC TE transferring into another EPC Presbytery)</p> <p>EPC Teaching Elders shall be examined on views of the areas indicated in G.12-2 and they shall relate their experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth</p>	<p>BoG 12-3.A (examination of an EPC TE transferring into another EPC Presbytery)</p> <p>EPC Teaching Elders shall be examined on views of the areas indicated in G.12-2, shall relate experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ, <b>faithful conformity to his character, obedience to him as Lord, and steady</b> progress in spiritual growth.<sup>3</sup></p>
<p>BoG 12-3.B.1 (examination of a Reformed Minister transferring into an EPC Presbytery)</p> <p><b>The</b> Minister shall be examined on views and beliefs and may be examined on knowledge</p>	<p>BoG 12-3.B.1 (examination of a Reformed Minister transferring into an EPC Presbytery)</p> <p>Ministers shall be examined on views and beliefs, may be examined on knowledge, and shall relate experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ, <b>faithful conformity to his character, obedience to him as Lord, and steady</b> progress in spiritual growth.<sup>4</sup></p>
<p>BoG 12-6 (examination of candidates for RE and Deacon)</p> <p>The Session shall confer with each person <b>elected</b> to office in the local church to determine if that person feels called to office and is willing to serve faithfully. The Session shall examine candidates for ordination to the office of Ruling Elder or Deacon on 1) personal experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth, 2) theology and Sacraments of the Church, 3) the government, discipline, worship, and</p>	<p>BoG 12-6 (examination of candidates for RE and Deacon)</p> <p>The Session shall confer with each person <b>nominated</b> to office in the local church to determine if that person feels called to office and is willing to serve faithfully. The Session shall examine candidates for ordination to the office of Ruling Elder or Deacon on 1) personal experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ, <b>their faithful conformity to his character, obedience to him as Lord, and steady</b></p>

<sup>2</sup> See D.1-6C.

<sup>3</sup> See D.1-6C.

<sup>4</sup> See D.1-6C.

<p>history of the Church, and 4) an understanding of the office to which one is elected.</p>	<p><b>progress in spiritual growth,<sup>5</sup></b> 2) theology and Sacraments of the Church, 3) the government, discipline, worship, and history of the Church, and 4) an understanding of the office to which one is elected.</p>
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<sup>5</sup> See D.1-6C.