

# Congregational Meetings

What is appropriate for the congregation to vote on?

## **G-1.0101 The Mission of the Congregation**

**The congregation is the church engaged in the mission of God in its particular context. The triune God gives to the congregation all the gifts of the gospel necessary to being the Church. The congregation is the basic form of the church, but it is not of itself a sufficient form of the church. Thus congregations are bound together in communion with one another, united in relationships of accountability and responsibility, contributing their strengths to the benefit of the whole, and are called, collectively, the church.**

**Through the congregation God's people carry out the ministries of proclamation, sharing the Sacraments, a living in covenant life with God and each other. In the life of the congregation, individual believers are equipped for the ministry of witness to the love and grace of God in and for the world. The congregation reaches out to people, communities, and the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to gather for worship, to offer care and nurture to God's children, to speak for social justice and righteousness, to bear witness to the truth and to the reign of God that is coming into the world.**

### **G-1.0501 Annual and Special Meetings**

**The congregation shall hold an annual meeting and may hold special meetings as necessary, for any or all of the purposes appropriate for congregational consideration. The business to be transacted at special meetings shall be limited to items specifically listed in the call for the meeting.**

**All active members of the congregation present at either annual or special meetings are entitled to vote. Congregations shall provide by rule the quorum necessary to conduct business.**

## **G-1.0502 Calling a Congregational Meeting**

**Meetings of the congregation shall be called by the session, by the presbytery, or by the session when requested in writing by one fourth of the active members on the roll of the congregation. Adequate public notice of all congregational meetings shall be given. Congregations shall provide by their own rule for minimum notification requirements and give notice at regular services of worship prior to the meeting.**

## **G-1.0503 Business Proper to Congregational Meetings**

**Business to be transacted at meetings of the congregation shall be limited to matters related to the following:**

- a. Electing ruling elders, deacons, and trustees;**
- b. Calling a pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor;**
- c. Changing existing pastoral relationships, by such means as reviewing the adequacy of and approving changes to the terms of call of the pastor or pastors, or requesting, consenting to, or declining to consent to dissolution;**
- d. Buying, mortgaging, or selling real property;**
- e. Requesting the presbytery to grant an exemption as permitted in this Constitution (G-2.0404)**
- f. Approving a plan for the creation of a joint congregational witness, or amending or dissolving the joint congregational witness (G-5.05)**

**Whenever permitted by civil law, both ecclesiastical and corporate business may be conducted at the same congregational meeting.**

## **G-2.0401 Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons**

**Ruling elders and deacons shall be nominated by a committee elected by the congregation, drawn from and representative of its membership. Congregations may provide by their own rule for a congregational nominating committee. The rule shall meet the following criteria: (1) the minimum size of the committee as specified in the rule shall be at least three persons; (2) at least one member of the committee shall be an elder currently serving on session; and (3) a majority of those persons on the committee who are eligible to vote shall consist of persons not currently serving on session. The pastor shall serve ex officio and without vote. When elections are held, full opportunity shall always be given to the congregation for nomination from the floor of the congregational meeting by any active member of the congregation. A majority of all the active members present and voting shall be required to elect.**

## **G-2.0802 Election of a Pastor Nominating Committee**

**The session shall call a congregational meeting to elect a pastor nominating committee that shall be representative of the whole congregation. The committee's duty shall be to nominate a pastor for election by the congregation.**