

EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17197 N. Laurel Park Drive, Ste. 567 • Livonia, MI 48152-7912
(734) 742-2020 • Fax (734) 742-2033
www.epc.org • epchurch@epc.org

August 22, 2012

Dear Clerk of Session,

The 29th General Assembly (2009) instructed the Moderator to appoint a committee to review the *Book of Order* "for the purpose of identifying terms, sentences, paragraphs, and/or sections that are not clear and/or which may cause confusion when applied, and further, to offer revisions as needed, to assure clarity of intent and meaning of implementation." Since January 2010 a committee composed of Howard Shockley (Teaching Elder and Stated Clerk, Mid-Atlantic Presbytery), James Quillin (Retired Teaching Elder, Central South Presbytery) and Ted Brandsma (Ruling Elder, Presbytery of the West), resourced by Assistant Stated Clerk Ed McCallum, has been at work to complete the task. This past June, the Committee presented its first draft of a proposed revision to the *Book of Government*, which the General Assembly received and instructed that it be forwarded to Sessions and Presbyteries "for study and comment including corrections, additions and/or other pertinent information, to be submitted to the Committee Chairman (Howard Shockley) by December 31, 2012."

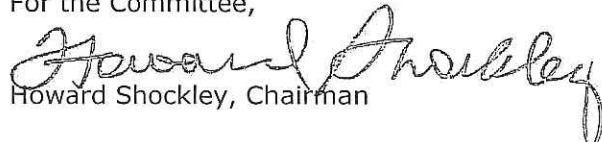
You will find enclosed a copy of the first draft of the proposed revision. Please copy it as needed for distribution to your Session as a whole or to interested parties. It is available in electronic form at www.epc.org/2012ga-documents. Every attempt has been made to lay out the criteria used for revision (see introductory pages) and highlight in detail all proposed changes and the reasons for them. The Committee's goal has not been to develop a new form of government, but to utilize our 30 years of learning as a denomination to produce a more accessible and understandable *Book of Government* for the future.

The Committee sincerely desires your Session's input between now and December 31. The Committee has already decided to make a change based on input received from a pastor. As you read the document, please note that when the second draft is published, the term "local congregation" will be changed to "local church" throughout.

Please send your input by email to hshockley@msn.com or by mail to the Constitutional Revisions Committee at the address on this letterhead. The Committee also welcomes your comments, discussion, and questions on <http://epc.socialgo.com>. To utilize this site, establish an account using the access code EPC1981 and then join the group "Book of Order Revision Discussion." The Committee will thoroughly review all input it receives by December 31 and prepare a new draft for approval by the 33rd General Assembly meeting at Cherry Hills Community Church in Highlands Ranch, CO June 19-22, 2013. If approved, the document will circulate among our eleven presbyteries as a descending overture, requiring the approval of at least nine.

Thank you for your participation in this process.

For the Committee,


Howard Shockley, Chairman