

The Following is a letter sent to each presbytery of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church about actions taken at the 76th General Assembly concerning the *Book of Church Order*.

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June 16, 2009

The Presbytery of ...

Dear Brethren:

The Seventy-sixth General Assembly of The Orthodox Presbyterian Church, meeting on May 27 - June 3, 2009, at Kuyper College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, took the following actions that have to do with *The Book of Church Order*.

**1. FINAL PROPOSED REVISION (FPR):** The proposed revised version of *The Directory for the Public Worship of God* was adopted by the 76<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The FPR will be placed on the OPC website for all presbyters to see it. Please refer to the website for the text. By means of this letter I am sending it to you for approval in accordance with *Form of Government XXXII:2*. That section says, in part:

...each presbytery shall vote on the question before the next regular assembly, and the clerk of each presbytery shall notify the clerk of the assembly, in writing, of the action of the presbytery; if a majority of the presbyteries has thus signified approval of the amendment, the amendment shall become effective on January 1 of the first year ending in 5 or 0 following the year in which the clerk announces to the assembly that a majority of the presbyteries has approved the amendment.<sup>1</sup>

Please put this matter on your dockets and inform me as soon as your presbytery has taken a vote as to the outcome of the vote.

**2. GROUNDS FOR THE FPR:** The General Assembly adopted the grounds for the FPR as recommended by the Committee on Revisions to the *Directory for Worship*. These grounds will be placed on the OPC website for the use of presbyters.

**3. AMENDMENTS TO THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT:** The 76<sup>th</sup> General Assembly determined to send to the Presbyteries certain amendments to the *Form of Government*. These will be placed on the OPC website for all presbyters to see them. By means of this letter I am sending them to you for approval in accordance with *Form of Government XXXII:2*. The ground given by the General Assembly for proposed amendments is:

*Ground:* This is for the convenience of the moderator conducting services.

Please inform me when you have voted on these amendments.

**4. SUGGESTED FORMS FOR PARTICULAR SERVICES:** The General Assembly approved Suggested Forms for Particular Services. These will be placed on the OPC website for information.

**5. FORMS FOR THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE:** The General Assembly approved the forms for imposition and removal of censure for inclusion in the Suggested Forms for the *Book of Discipline*. These will be placed on the OPC website for information.

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<sup>1</sup> Note the 76<sup>th</sup> GA passed the following recommendation:

That under the provisions of Form of Government XXXII. 2 the Assembly declare that the revisions of the Directory for Public Worship and the Form of Government will take effect on January 1 of the year following the year in which the clerk announces to the assembly that a majority of presbyteries has approved the amendments and that the Committee on Christian Education be directed to delay publication of the BCO until that announcement.

**6. COMMITTEE DISSOLVED:** The *Journal* of the 67<sup>th</sup> General Assembly records the following:

**154. COMMITTEE DISSOLVED.** Recommendation 7 of the Committee was adopted in the following amended form: That the Assembly dissolve the Committee with our most profound thanks. The Assembly gave the Committee a standing ovation.

The *Journal* also includes the following:

**235. GALBRAITH LETTER.** Mr. Olinger presented the following letter which the Assembly ordered sent to Mr. Galbraith from the Assembly:

Dear Mr. Galbraith,

On the occasion of its approval of the Amended Proposed Revised Version of the Directory for Public Worship, the 76<sup>th</sup> General Assembly gives thanks to God for your faithful service on the Committee on Revisions from 1989 to 2006, having earlier served on the Committee on Revisions to the Form of Government from 1948-1978. We are deeply grateful to you for your labors and for the example that you have set of faithfulness to Christ and love for his church in serving on committees dealing with the Book of Church Order for almost 50 years. Though you were not able to be part of the Assembly in which the APRV was finally approved, your role in getting us to this point was gladly acknowledged.

May God continue to bless you and give you the strength to serve him each day.

May the Lord of the church bless you in your work in his kingdom in the coming year.

Yours in Christ's service,  
Donald J. Duff, Stated Clerk