

Committee on Ministerial Vocation

Standing Committee Report 38th General Assembly

The Standing Committee on Ministerial Vocation convened at 3:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 21, 2018 and met once. Chairman *TE Carolyn Poteet* opened the meeting with prayer.

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. Recommendation GA38-05
2. Recommendation GA38-06 (If recommendation GA38-05 is NOT approved)
3. Recommendation GA38-07
4. Recommendation GA38-08 (If recommendation GA38-07 is NOT approved)
5. Recommendation GA38-13
6. Minutes of the Permanent Committee
7. Minutes of the Chaplains Work and Care Committee

B. Recommendations:

1. **Recommendation GA38-05:** The Standing Committee on Ministerial Vocation concurs with the Permanent Judicial Commission that **GA38-06 not be adopted.**
2. **Recommendation GA38-06:** The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic **overtures** the 38th General Assembly to amend G.18.1, *Book of Government*, second sentence, from its present reading to the reading of the sentence, as follows:

Current G.18.1	Proposed G.18-1 Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
"The Session is composed of the Pastor and Associate Pastor(s) and all the Ruling Elders on active service."	"The Session is composed of <i>at least</i> the Pastor and Associate Pastor(s) and all <i>the at least two</i> Ruling Elders on active service. <i>for each Associate Pastor(s).</i> "

The Standing Committee on Ministerial Vocation recommends that **GA38-06 not be adopted.**

Rationale:

The Standing Committee on Ministerial Vocation concurs with the Permanent Judicial Commission findings that Overture 38-06 does not meet the Constitutional standard set forth in G.21-D.2 "for clarity, consistency of language, and compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution." The language is unclear as to which Teaching Elders are to be considered for Session parity calculations and it is incompatible with G. 6-3 which reserves for the local church the right to determine its number of officers.

3. **Recommendation GA38-07:** The Standing Committee on Ministerial Vocation concurs with the Permanent Judicial Commission that **GA38-08 not be adopted.**
4. **Recommendation GA38-08:** The Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic **overtures** the 38th General Assembly to amend G.9-5A.2, *Book of Government*, last sentence, as follows:

Current G.9-5A.2	Proposed G.9-5A.2 Additions in <i>bold italics</i>
"Teaching Elders shall be diligent to serve actively in the courts of which they are members,"	"Teaching Elders shall be diligent to serve actively in the courts of which they are members <i>and shall make an annual report to the Presbytery of faithfulness to preaching the Word and to the proclamation of the Gospel.</i> "

The Standing Committee on Ministerial Vocation recommends that **GA38-08 not be adopted.**

Rationale:

The Standing Committee on Ministerial Vocation concurs with the Permanent Judicial Commission findings that Overture 38-08 does not meet the Constitutional standard set forth in G.21-D.2 “for clarity, consistency of language, and compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution.” Overture 38-08 is incompatible with G. 19-4B and G. 21-2D as it infringes on each Presbytery’s right to oversee the Teaching Elders in its jurisdiction. Additionally, Overture 38-08 is unclear as to its application to Teaching Elders who serve in a non-preaching capacity

SC Chair Poteet shall request that the permanent MVC committee consider the question of how best to assure fidelity in preaching the Word and proclaiming the gospel. The MVC permanent committee chair, Michael Flake, has assured that this issue shall be discussed in September 2018.

5. **Recommendation GA38-13:** The Committee shall consist of *at least* nine members, including at least five members with experience as Chaplains and at least three Ruling Elders as nominations allow **be adopted as amended** (see below).

Rationale:

Due to rapidly growing number of chaplains being added to the roster and the subsequent and significant increase in workload, the number of chaplain contacts for each CWCC member has grown. With this continuing increase and the number of

chaplain applicants already in process it was proposed by the CWCC (with the support of the Chaplain Endorser and Assistant Stated Clerk) to increase the Committee membership to *at least* nine members.

The language ‘at least’ was added to the recommendation in order to accommodate future chaplaincy program growth.

6. That the **Minutes** of the Permanent Committee dated October 16-18, 2017, November 6th, 11th, and 18th, 2017 and March 14, 2018 **be approved with minor notations.**

TE Michael Flake, chair of the permanent MVC committee, reported on behalf of MVC.

7. That the **Minutes** of the Chaplains Work and Care Committee dated August 31, 2017, October 30, 2017, February 20, 2018, February 27, 2018, May 3, 2018 and May 17, 2018 **be approved with minor notations.**

TE Mark Ingles, EPC Chaplain Endorser, reported on behalf of the Chaplains Work and Care Committee.

C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee:

1. Per *Rules for Assembly* 9-6, the Committee voted to place the following eligible recommendation(s) on an omnibus consent motion:

[NOTE: a recommendation amended by the Standing Committee, substitute recommendation or additional recommendation in C.2 are not eligible for the omnibus consent motion.]

- **Recommendation GA38-13**
- **Minutes** of the Permanent Committees (MVC & CWCC)

The Standing Committee commends the members of the Permanent Committee on Ministerial Vocation for their good work during the past year.

TE Carolyn Poteet closed the meeting with prayer.

*Signature Page for Standing Committee
Ministerial Vocation Report*

Respectfully submitted,

_____, Chairman
TE Carolyn Poteet

_____, Clerk
TE David Hoffelmeyer