

RECOMMENDATION 42-07

Descending Overture from the 41st General Assembly Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Descending Overture 21-D

To amend the *Book of Government* 9-5E and *Book of Worship* 3-1.A, by deletion of the final sentence and insertion of a footnote to *Book of Worship* 3-1A in the first sentence as follows, “‘*Lawfully ordained Minister*’ includes EPC Chaplains who are called to serve in a military or civilian organization, have been approved by their Presbytery, and have been endorsed by the General Assembly (see G.9-5E and *Rules for Assembly* X.10-11).”

Current <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5.E	Proposed <i>Book of Government</i> 9-5E <i>Amendments in bold italics</i>
<p>E. Chaplain</p> <p>A court of the church, a hospital, the military, institutions, universities, or other appropriate fields of service may call a Teaching Elder as Chaplain if the Presbytery deems it appropriate. In such cases, the Chaplain shall always have as a primary responsibility the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. The Presbytery may authorize the Chaplain to administer the sacraments in that role.</p>	<p>E. Chaplain</p> <p>A court of the church, a hospital, the military, institutions, universities, or other appropriate fields of service may call a Teaching Elder as Chaplain if the Presbytery deems it appropriate. In such cases, the Chaplain shall always have as a primary responsibility the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ. <i>The Presbytery may authorize the Chaplain to administer the sacraments in that role.</i></p>

Current <i>Book of Worship</i> 3-1A	Proposed <i>Book of Worship</i> 3-1A <i>Amendment in bold italics</i>
<p>3-1 A</p> <p>A. Administration of sacraments Ordinarily, only lawfully ordained Minister²⁸² may administer the sacraments...</p>	<p>3-1 A</p> <p>A. Administration of sacraments Ordinarily, only a lawfully ordained Minister²⁸² may administer the sacraments...</p>

²⁸² A ‘*lawfully ordained minister*’ includes EPC Chaplains who are called to serve in a military or civilian organization, have been approved by their Presbytery, and have been endorsed by the General Assembly. Also, a lawfully ordained minister in good standing of a non-EPC church may be authorized to serve communion in an EPC Church, with the concurrence of the Presbytery (*Acts of Assembly* 94-22 and 14-06) See also **Westminster Confession of Faith** 27-4.

2021-22 Ballot Information for Descending Overtures

Presbytery	Overture 21-D - YES	Overture 21-D - NO
Alleghenies	99	1
Central South	64	0
East	62	9
Florida and the Caribbean	50	0
Great Plains	60	0
Gulf South	72	0
Mid-America	15	8
Mid-Atlantic	191	0
Midwest	82	2
Pacific Northwest	50	1
Pacific Southwest	46	2
Rivers and Lakes	58	1
Southeast	60	0
West	44	0
TOTAL	953	24