

## Committee on Theology

### Standing Committee Report 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

The Standing Committee on Theology convened at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 19, 2024, and met once. Chairman TE Aaron White opened the meeting with prayer.

#### A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. Recommendation GA44-22
2. Recommendation GA44-23
3. Recommendation GA44-24
4. Recommendation GA44-25

#### B. Recommendations:

1. **Recommendation GA44-22:** The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 44th General Assembly **DECLINE** amending the Book of Government sections 8-2 C and Book of Worship 3-3 J and that Recommendation 44-23 be answered by this action **be adopted**.
2. **Recommendation GA44-23:** The Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest respectfully **OVERTURES** the 44th General Assembly **APPROVE** amending Book of Government 8-2 C and Book of Worship 3-3 J **not be adopted**.

Current Language <b>G.</b> 8-2 C.	Proposed Language Changes in <b>bold italics</b> or strikethrough
C. The Session shall satisfy itself that each applicant for membership demonstrates evidence of true commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and determination to live as becomes a follower of Christ. It is appropriate for the Session to ask for testimonials of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a sharing of one's growth in faith.	C. The Session shall satisfy itself that each applicant for membership demonstrates evidence of true commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and determination to live as becomes a follower of Christ. It is appropriate for the Session to ask for testimonials of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a sharing of one's growth in faith. <b><i>In the case of baptized, covenant children and adults, who are developmentally disabled, unable to demonstrate the above-listed evidence, the Session may consider them as members in good standing, admitting them to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.</i></b>

Current Language <b>W. 3-3. J</b>	Proposed Language Changes in <i><b>bold italics</b></i> or strikethrough
<p>J. Baptized children may be admitted to the Lord’s Supper provided they have appeared before the Session and professed their faith in a manner acceptable to the Session. At its discretion, the Session may admit such persons to full membership.</p>	<p>J. Baptized children may be admitted to the Lord’s Supper provided they have appeared before the Session and professed their faith in a manner acceptable to the Session. At its discretion, the Session may admit such persons to full membership. <i><b>Also at its discretion, the Session may admit to the table developmentally disabled persons who have been deemed members in good standing.</b></i></p>

**C. Recommendation GA44-24:** The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 44th General Assembly **DECLINE** amending the Book of Worship 3-3 I and **REFER** to the permanent Committee on Theology the question of whether the Westminster Standards limit receiving Communion to those baptized; and that Recommendation 44-25 be answered by this action **not be adopted**.

**D. Recommendation GA44-25:** The Rivers and Lakes Presbytery respectfully **OVERTURES** the 44th General Assembly **APPROVE** amending the Book of Worship 3-3 I concerning explicit qualifications for admission to the sacraments of the Lord’s Supper **not be adopted**.

Current Language <b>W. 3-3. I</b>	Proposed Language Changes in <i><b>bold italics</b></i> or strikethrough
<p>I. The Minister shall invite all true believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, including those from other congregations that are a part of the true Church to partake in the Lord’s Supper. All should be reminded of the need to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord, to repent of sin, and to covenant once more to live as followers of Jesus. Those who are ignorant in their knowledge of Christ or who are living ungodly and unrepentant lives should be warned of the serious consequences for those who unworthily partake.</p>	<p>I. The Minister shall invite all <del>true</del> <i><b>baptized</b></i> believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, including those from other congregations that are a part of the true Church, to partake in the Lord’s Supper. All should be reminded of the need to trust in Jesus Christ as Lord, to repent of sin, and to covenant once more to live as followers of Jesus. Those who are ignorant in their knowledge of Christ or who are living ungodly and unrepentant lives should be warned of the serious consequences for those who unworthily partake.</p>

**E. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee:**

- a. 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.]*

- b. *Enter any other recommendations here*

**44-44**      *The Theology Standing Committee moves to create an Ad-Interim Committee to Draft a Pastoral Letter on Disability and access, especially regarding the sacraments.*

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

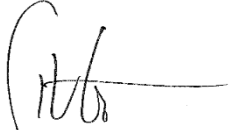
TE Aaron White closed the meeting with prayer.

---

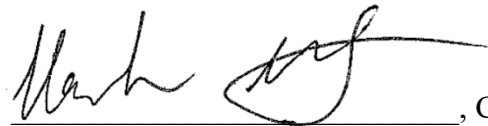
*Signature Page for Standing Committee on Theology Report*

---

Respectfully submitted,



\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
TE Aaron White



\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk  
TE Hannah Attaway