

**Last Call to Sessions, Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Presbytery Council and Staff, and Corporation Trustees,  
– For Counsel on GA Business Items by the beginning of the 222GA,  
June 18, 2016 –  
For our GA Commissioners and YAAD**

**A Primer of Mature Christian Counsel (III) for its  
Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners, and Young Adult  
Advisory Delegate (YAAD), regarding the  
Communications, Overtures, and Committee  
Recommendations that form the Business Items  
for consideration by the  
222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church  
(U.S.A.)**

## **Part 1: Introduction to the 222 General Assembly**



**Call for Presbytery Session and Teaching Elder Consideration – 31 March, 2016**

**By Ruling Elder Arthur W. Ritter,  
Past Moderator of the Presbytery of Nevada**

**For the Presbytery of Nevada  
Committee on Equipping the Saints**

**A Primer of Mature Christian Counsel (III)**  
regarding the  
**Business Items** for consideration by the  
**222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016)** of the  
**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

**New in this Primer III - as of 17MAY2016:**

New overtures and other items analyzed and added (total = 190 items).

PC(USA) News previews of Assembly Committee assigned Business Items (as of 05/17/16) added.—two views are better than one!

Comment period – to inform our commissioners, alternates, and delegate directly is the beginning of the 222GA, **June 18, 2016.**

No counsel was provided for inclusion in Primer III – Counselors: Please provide your counsel directly to our commissioners, alternates, and delegate (with copy to the usual administrative suspects, too, please!).

## Introduction

We Presbyterians believe that God's will is manifest in His movement within His people.

For governance of the affairs of His church under His guidance, His movement is discerned, interpreted, and enacted through a denominational form of church government (polity) defined in the denomination's constitution and under the supervision of its next larger body:

- **Believers** come together as a **congregation** unified by locality and a common understanding of God's Word, God's call, and God's sending for their collective worship of Him and collective performance through them of His mission to the world. **The congregation elects and ordains representatives from within itself and commissions these Ruling Elders** to meet regularly as a session to address the business that may face the congregations.
- **Congregations** in a specific region form a **presbytery** to address their collective witness to their region. **The Congregations compose meetings of the presbytery with both:**
  - **teaching elders** who are individually called to pastoral or other service within the congregations or in ministries operating within their bounds and who are admitted into personal membership in the presbytery – and
  - **representatives elected from each member-congregation and commissioned** to meet regularly with the teaching elder members as the presbytery
  - both to address the business that may face the member-congregations collectively within their region.
- **Presbyteries** join with neighboring presbyteries to form both:

- **synods**, which address their larger-regional ministry concerns and
- the **General Assembly** of the denomination itself, which addresses the largest of ministry concerns – to the nation and to the world.
- **The Presbyteries compose meetings of these larger bodies with representatives elected from within their constituent congregations and commissioned to meet regularly to address the business that may face the presbyteries (and their congregations) of the larger region (as a synod) or the denomination (as a whole).**

As **elected and commissioned lay representatives** of a congregation or a presbytery (and as teaching elder-members of a presbytery), these **commissioners** are to **discern God's will** and **vote their conscience in any decision-making as God leads.**

The 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will meet June 18–25, in the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) in downtown Portland, Oregon. This General Assembly will conduct a series of meetings during those eight days – and its commissioners will meet both as committees and together in plenary session to conduct its business.

The Presbytery of Nevada has elected and commissioned as representatives of its membership (*i.e.*, the Teaching Elders and congregations who are members of this Presbytery) the following persons as its commissioners, alternate commissioners, and advisory delegate to the 222<sup>nd</sup> GA:

**Teaching Elder Commissioner:** The Reverend Robert Kelly, Spanish Springs PC, Sparks. 'Robert Kelley' [bob@the-kelleys.net](mailto:bob@the-kelleys.net) Bob is assigned to the **Middle East Issues** Committee (08).

**Ruling Elder Commissioner:** Marshall Hanson, Henderson PC, Henderson. 'Marshall Hanson' [mhanson@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:mhanson@interact.ccsd.net)  
Marshall is assigned to the **Mission Coordination** committee (10).

**Alternate\* Teaching Elder Commissioner:** The Reverend Ed Lockett, Jr.  
[b.e.lockett.jr@gmail.com](mailto:b.e.lockett.jr@gmail.com)

**Alternate\* Ruling Elder Commissioner:** Elaine Noble, [the.nabob@sbcglobal.net](mailto:the.nabob@sbcglobal.net)

\* These alternate commissioners will serve as the Commissioners to the 222 GA in 2016.

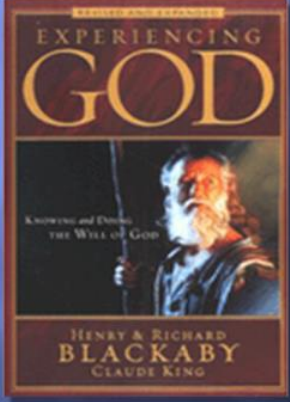
**Young Adult Advisory Delegate:** Eva Karttunen, [evastone132@gmail.com](mailto:evastone132@gmail.com)

**To the Sessions of Congregations, and Teaching Elders who are members of the Presbytery of Nevada and to the Presbytery's Council and Staff and its Corporation's Trustees ...**

So, how can a Session or Presbytery Committee – and other members of the Presbytery help our commissioners in their task of representing us?

Henry and Richard Blackaby's excellent book, *Experiencing God*, holds a great distillation on the topic of discerning God's will.


(The purpose, here, is not to sell you the Blackaby's great study on discerning God's will – and we won't debate its merits here; but, *Experiencing God* is one of the best summaries of the many great biblical studies and courses out there on finding God's will in your life – individually and corporately.)



God reveals Himself, His purposes, His ways – *by the Holy Spirit* -- through:

- ...prayer
- ...circumstances
- ...counsel of mature\* Christians
- ...the Church
- and ...**the Bible**

You come to *know God's will for you* through *Experiencing Him*



\* "mature" -- a dependable pattern of Godly thinking and living

In their book, the Blackabys note that:

God reveals to you – Himself, His purposes, and His ways by the Holy Spirit, through:

- ... prayer
- ... circumstances
- ... counsel of mature\* Christians
- ... the Church
- and ... **the Bible**

You come to know God by experiencing Him – as you obey Him – and as He accomplishes His work through ... well, *you!*

**Yes**, this is real, hard, **WORK** – and -- **No**, there is no Easy Button here!



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\* "Mature Christians" are those who show in their daily life a long and dependable pattern of Godly thought and life-choices.

As leaders, our job is to get His will for His church as revealed – out of the members' heads and into His church's actions. Specifically (for our purposes with this *Primer*):

*G-3.0102 Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction*

Councils of this church have only ecclesiastical jurisdiction for the purpose of serving Jesus Christ and declaring and obeying his will in relation to truth and service, order and discipline. They may frame statements of faith, bear testimony against error in doctrine and immorality in life, resolve questions of doctrine and discipline, give counsel in matters of conscience, and decide issues properly brought before them under the provisions of this *Book of Order*.

Our focus here is in the fourth responsibility: give counsel in matters of conscience – that our commissioners and delegate to the 222<sup>nd</sup> GA may use them to prepare as part of this body to:

- frame statements of faith,
- bear testimony against error in doctrine and immorality in life,
- resolve questions of doctrine and discipline,
- also give counsel in matters of conscience, and
- decide issues properly brought before them

Considering the business items facing the 222<sup>nd</sup> GA for consideration, the Sessions of our congregations, our Presbytery's Teaching Elder members, and the Presbytery's Council and the Trustees of its corporation are hereby requested to give counsel in matters of conscience related to these business items to our commissioners and delegate through this Primer.

When your consideration of the business items included in this Primer have led you to the point of offering counsel to our commissioners and delegate, please communicate your counsel by email to the author of this Primer ([Art@AGRiter.com](mailto:Art@AGRiter.com)) for inclusion in its later version – or (after Primer III is distributed) directly to our commissioners– before GA meets, please!

As in all governance matters, our commissioners and advisory delegate shall prayerfully consider and vote their conscience as God leads them – not as their Session, nor as the Presbytery, nor as any other earthly authority may demand – on each matter brought before them for consideration and vote (*F-3.0101, F-3.0107, G-2.0105, and especially, G-3.0102* ).

Please offer your counsel by email in the format following the Business Item Matrix, below.

## To the 222<sup>nd</sup> GA Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate:

To address your responsibilities at the 222<sup>nd</sup> GA, you should obtain, read, and understand the following references as they pertain to meetings of the General Assembly of the PCUSA:

*The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),*  
Part I *The Book of Confessions*, and  
Part II *The Book of Order*. 2015-2017

(you can download these from: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/constitutional-services/constitution/>)

*The Manual of the General Assembly 2016*, including

- Standing Rules and
- Guidelines and Policies.

(you can download this manual from: <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/manual-general-assembly-ga222/>)

*Per the Manual* (Standing Rule C), Commissioners and Advisory Delegate(s) can expect several formal lead-up actions involving them and the structure in which they will serve (see the manual for detailed information):

### 1. Assembly Committee Structure

a. The Stated Clerk shall propose the number and designation of **assembly committees** ... to the General Assembly for consideration and ratification **at the first assembly meeting at which business is transacted.** ...

b. The Stated Clerk shall propose to the General Assembly for appointment the names of persons to serve as committee assistants for the duration of the General Assembly. ...

c. The Moderator of the General Assembly shall appoint a moderator and a vice moderator to each committee.

**2016 222 GA Committees**

<b>Committee Number</b>	<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Committee Interest</b>
<b>00</b>	<b>Plenary</b>	See the GA Manual 2016 for details of the GA plenary.
<b>01</b>	<b>Business Referrals</b>	The moderators and vice moderators of the assembly committees, as a group, shall function as the Assembly Committee on Business Referral. The moderator and vice moderator of the Assembly Committee on Bills and Overtures shall function as the moderator and vice moderator of this committee as well. This committee shall report to the assembly for its action at the first meeting of the General Assembly for the transaction of business.
<b>02</b>	<b>Bills and Overtures</b>	<b>Responsible for Referral of Business.</b> This committee shall neither retain any items of business for its own consideration, nor suppress any matter that comes before it. However, business that substantially duplicates matters already before the assembly may be declined by this committee and reported to the assembly with a statement of the committee's action. See the GA Manual 2016 for more detail.
<b>03</b>	<b>General Assembly Procedures</b>	Consider matters related to: meetings of the assembly and standing rule amendments, except those items assigned to the Way Forward Committee; per capita budget; operation of the Office of the General Assembly; statistics; publishing of reports; General Assembly Nominating Committee process; special committees; commissioners and advisory delegates credentials/leaves of absence; GA child protection policy.
<b>04</b>	<b>The Way Forward</b>	Consider matters related to: Overtures referring to structure of the meetings of the General Assembly; COGA and other conversations on ecclesiology; business concerning the future of six agency structure; reports of the Agency Review Committees for the OGA and the PMA
<b>05</b>	<b>Mid Councils</b>	Consider matters related to: the ongoing strengthening and nurturing of the mid councils of the PCUSA; mid council boundaries including Synod boundaries; mid council-related referrals; the report of the Mid Council Commission
<b>06</b>	<b>Church Polity and Ordered Ministry</b>	Consider matters related to: amendments to Foundations of Presbyterian Polity (chapters 1 and 3), Form of Government Chapters I–IV, VI with Advisory Committee on the Constitution advice; requests for interpretation; amendments to the Rules of Discipline with Advisory Committee on the Constitution advice; recruiting, enlistment of persons to service of church; Advisory Committee on Litigation; Advisory Committee on the Constitution.
<b>07</b>	<b>Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations</b>	Consider matters related to: Approval and enactment of the Belhar Confession; amendments to Chapter V of the Form of Government with Advisory Committee on the Constitution advice; requests for interpretation; matters dealing with relationships with, and attitudes toward, other religious movements or bodies; conversations with other Presbyterian denominations; nominations for ecumenical advisory delegates; nominations for delegations to

**2016 222 GA Committees**

<b>Committee Number</b>	<b>Committee Name</b>	<b>Committee Interest</b>
		corresponding churches; reports of corresponding bodies
<b>08</b>	<b>Middle East Issues</b>	Consider matters related to: Peacemaking, international military affairs and the arms race primarily involving the nations of the Middle East; Middle East monitoring committee; MRTI recommendations concerning Middle East nations.

Our Teaching Elder Commissioner, **Bob Kelley** is a member of the **Middle East Issues** committee

<b>09</b>	<b>Immigration and Environmental Issues</b>	Consider matters related to: the church's response to US immigration policies and related issues; plight of refugees worldwide; matters related to carbon fuels and the environment.
<b>10</b>	<b>Mission Coordination</b>	Consider matters related to: Mission programs authorized by General Assembly; PC(USA) vision and mission goals; Organization for Mission and General Assembly Mission Council Manual of Operations; mission budget; audits; church-wide compensation; initiatives on church growth and the 1001 Worshiping Communities program.

Our Ruling Elder Commissioner, **Marshall Hanson** is a member of the **Mission Coordination** committee

<b>11</b>	<b>Social Justice Issues</b>	Consider matters related to: Concerns of church in national affairs; national military matters; matters relating to righteousness and justice of persons/organizations.
<b>12</b>	<b>Peacemaking and International Issues</b>	Consider matters related to: Peacemaking, international military affairs, and the arms race except matters touched upon by the Middle East Peacemaking Issues Committee; international matters; human rights; international economic justice; global evangelism and education.
<b>13</b>	<b>BOP, PILP, PPC, and Foundation</b>	Consider matters related to: Report of Board of Pensions; business related to the church's pension, annuity, and medical plans; other forms of such programs, including government or private retirement programs; business related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation and Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.
<b>14</b>	<b>Theological Issues and Institutions</b>	Consider matters related to: Amendments to the Directory for Worship and Chapter II of the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity with Advisory Committee on the Constitution advice; authority and interpretation of Scripture; Christian educators; theological institutions; celebration of Lord's Supper requests.

Now that the committees have been selected and their interests defined, you can probably do as good a job of assigning business items to the committees as the Committee on Business referrals will.



## 2. Remember; however, you will have BOTH:

- committee responsibilities for preparing certain business items for General Assembly action and
- plenary responsibilities to discern and decide on all business items brought to the General Assembly meeting in its plenary sessions for their disposition.

... so consider your preparation on the items presented in the Primer and provided by GA according to both of these responsibilities.

For those overtures that Council finds GA should consider; but which have not received the necessary “seconding” concurrence by the time it reviews them, Council may concur on them for the Presbytery by their respective deadlines, as needed, to assure GA’s consideration thereof. The Presbytery will be informed of each such decision and action.

The rest of this primer deals specifically with the Committee Recommendations and Overtures submitted so far.

**First**, some process material on how overtures are handled,

**Second**, a list and summary of the overtures themselves, as presented to date, and finally,

**Third**, pointers to information related to these overtures – and new ones as submitted.

For your information, GA generally deals with nearly 1500 business items – most disposed of in committee (by combination) or by the GA in its plenary sessions. The Constitution requires that any business item requiring a change to the Constitution of the denomination to be referred to the presbyteries for their vote (See Chapter 6 of the Book of Order for the definition of the majority needed to pass such changes).

In the past, GAs have referred about 18-20 questions to the presbyteries for vote.

The last GA referred only half that number.

## The Process

In Presbyterian polity terms, this is “How a Bill Becomes a Law” in the PCUSA – or, to the point of this primer on overtures, “How and Overture Becomes the Ecclesiastical Law for the Denomination” in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

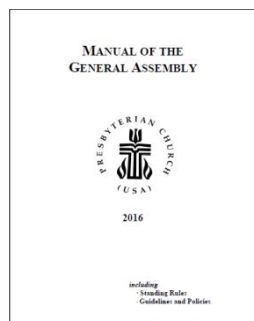
An **overture** is created by a concerned member or members of the denomination and submitted to the Stated Clerk of the GA for consideration by the up-coming GA by either the member’s presbytery or synod. The overture submission is in a specific format and contains:

1. **The action** recommended by the submitter of the overture –
  - A change to the Constitution of the PC (U.S.A.) – Part I, the *Book of Confessions* or Part II, the *Book of Order*,
  - A change to the activities of the corporate body of the PC (U.S.A.) that may have financial or budgetary implications for the corporate body or its agencies, or
  - A change to the internal or public activities or position of the PC (U.S.A.) or its agencies that has no financial or budgetary implications for the corporate body or its agencies.
2. **Rationale, and perhaps additional information**, related to why the proposed change should be adopted by the Presbyteries for the denomination.

A **concurrence** is a separate submission to GA, made by another presbytery or synod, that is closely related to the original overture. It contains **the action** urged by the submitter of the original overture and may also contain **additional rationale, and perhaps additional information**, related to the overture’s proposed action.

### BUT WAIT! THERE’S MORE!

**Overtures** are just one of several sources of business for GA as it meets as the representative, corporate body of its constituent presbyteries.



### A. Source of Business for the Meeting of the GA

1. Papers in General .....	3
2. <b>Reports</b> of Entities, Commissions, and Committees .....	4
3. <b>Overtures</b> .....	4
4. <b>Communications</b> and Resource Material .....	5
5. Advisory Committee on the Constitution Report .....	6
6. Entity and Synod Minutes .....	6
7. Presbytery Reports .....	6
8. Commissioners’ Resolutions .....	7

**Communications**, and other Resource Material, **Overtures**, and **Reports** of Entities, Commissions, and Committees (including their **recommendations**), may all contain items for consideration by the 221 GA – which may be subsequently referred to the presbyteries for affirmation or rejection and thereby become either part of the Constitution of the PC (U.S.A.), policies direction or other action vehicle for the denomination.

This primer will address only the **Communications** (COM), **Overtures** (OVT), and **Reports' Recommendations** (REC) material as they are made available for view on the PC (U.S.A.) website, [www.pcbiz.org](http://www.pcbiz.org).

**Communications** and **Recommendations** may come from any source; but, primarily come from study committees established by a previous GA.

**Overtures** are items of business that have been approved by a presbytery or a synod and shall request the General Assembly to take a particular action, or approve or endorse a particular statement or resolution. (See *Book of Order*, G-3.0302d.)

There are deadlines for submission because of the preparatory work by GA standing committees that precede the GA's consideration in its plenary meetings concerning the overtures presented for consideration:

- (1) **Overtures and other items proposing an amendment to the Constitution or requiring an interpretation by the General Assembly of the Book of Order (see Book of Order, G-6.04a and G-6.02), and all Reports** must be delivered in writing to the Stated Clerk **postmarked no later than 120 days** prior to the convening of the General Assembly, and shall be promptly referred to the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (see *Book of Order*, G-6.02 and G-6.04). After this committee determines the consistency with the Constitution, the overture is referred to the assembly committee that handles its specific content.
- (2) **All overtures and other items that have financial implications for current or future years' budgets** must be delivered in writing to the Stated Clerk **postmarked no later than sixty days** prior to the convening of the General Assembly. Overtures with financial implications not received within the designated time limit shall not be considered, but shall be returned to the originating council.
- (3) **All other overtures, communications, and recommendations** intended for consideration by the General Assembly shall be forwarded to the Stated Clerk, postmarked **no later than forty-five days** before the convening of the General Assembly.
- (4) **Overtures** not received within the designated time limits shall not be considered, but shall be returned to the originating council (i.e., presbytery or synod) for reconsideration.
- (5) **Communications** and other items not received by the designated time limits will be considered by the Stated Clerk of the GA and forwarded or returned as deemed appropriate.

Items of business considered by the General Assembly are prepared for GA consideration in one of the following ways:

For consideration by an **assembly committee**:  
and recommendation for action by the General Assembly;

For consideration and action by an **assembly committee**  
with a report of the action to the General Assembly;

For consideration by the **General Assembly**  
through its inclusion in a consent agenda;

For consideration by the **General Assembly**  
in a plenary business session.

### **Preparing Referred Business for GA action:**

The Stated Clerk of GA shall submit to the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly a recommendation for the referral of all items of business coming before the General Assembly.

After making any necessary changes, this committee shall present the prepared referrals to the Assembly Committee on Business Referral so that it may recommend referrals to the **first meeting of the General Assembly for the transaction of business**. Ordinarily, this committee shall recommend referrals to the General Assembly for its action.

Each item of business referred to a committee shall ordinarily be considered by only one assembly committee, but in no case should there be more than one committee making a recommendation on an item of business. Business of a related nature shall be assigned to a single committee insofar as possible.

Each assembly committee shall consider only matters referred to it by the General Assembly. No assembly committee may initiate new business except as it relates to the business of the particular assembly committee.

### **Reports of Assembly Committees to the GA for consideration:**

The **Reports of Assembly Committees** shall contain only:

- (1) the recommendations to be submitted to the General Assembly, and, where necessary, a brief statement of the committee's reasons for such recommendations, and
- (2) the actions taken by the committee on items referred to the committee for action. Material necessary to identify the item of business and brief explanations may be included in the report. Extensive background information and detail contained in other documents in the hands of the commissioners shall not be included.

## Assembly Committee Minority Report

(1) A minority of the members of an assembly committee, or an individual member of an assembly committee, may submit in writing views that differ from those in the committee report.

(2) A minority report must be appropriate for consideration as a substitute motion (see *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, 2011, p. 527).

The GA considers business in the order established in its Docket.

With the presentation of their committee's report to a plenary meeting of the full GA, Committee Moderators move the approval of the recommendations in their report – with minimum comment, and material in the commissioners' printed resources shall not be read. A minority report may be moved as a substitute only after the majority report has first been moved. The business so brought to the floor of GA is debated by the body *per* Robert's Rules of Order and decided by vote.

Per the *Book of Order*, **CHAPTER SIX INTERPRETING AND AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION**, overtures moved and affirmed by the GA as a body are referred to the Presbyteries for their vote over a period of one year –

To be effective as of one year from the date of the referring GA – for all actions not related to change of the *Book of Confessions*,

– or –

To be returned to the next meeting of GA for its final affirmation and effect – for all actions related to change of the *Book of Confessions*.

## Calendar of Expected Actions – updated to the advance of events

<b>Calendar of Expected Actions</b>						
<b>Action</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
Approved Primer approach and participation	16 Jan Council Meeting					
Analyze/incorporate Items to date	16-30 Jan					
Constitutional Amendment submission deadline		20 Feb.				
Primer I – Distribution Call for counsel input to Equipping Ministries		1 Feb by email to Council, Trustees, TEs, Sessions				
Prep item analysis / counsel - Primer II		25 Feb Counsel due for Primer II				
Primer IIa – Distribution. Call for counsel input to Equipping Ministries			1 Mar by email to Council, Trustees, TEs, Sessions			
Primer IIb – Distribution. Call for counsel input to Equipping Ministries			31 Mar by email to Council, Trustees, TEs, Sessions			
Primer IIC – Distribution. Call for counsel input to Equipping Ministries				23Apr by email to Council, Trustees, TEs, Sessions		
Prep item analysis / counsel – Primer III				<b>30 Apr Counsel due for Primer III</b>		
Primer III – Distribution Call for counsel input to Commissioners, Alternates, and Delegate				TEs, Sessions	15 May by email to Council, Trustees,	
Commissioners and Delegate informed of committee assignment			DONE in early March		NLT 18May (GA Manual)	

## Calendar of Expected Actions

Action	January	February	March	April	May	June
Business Items assigned to committees			DONE by end of March		NLT End of May (GA Manual)	
<b>222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly Meets*</b>						18-25 June in Portland OR

\*The 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (2016) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), will meet June 18–25, in the Oregon Convention Center (OCC) in downtown Portland, Oregon. This General Assembly will conduct a series of meetings during those eight days – and its commissioners will meet both as committees and together in plenary session to conduct its business.



## News Flash: PC-Biz is redesigned in time for GA222

News Release Louisville - March 3, 2016

The website that houses Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly business has gotten a facelift and tummy tuck.

[PC-Biz](#), home to assembly business going back to 2006, has a fresh look and an updated structure, improving navigation and accessibility for users. And, the makeover is just in time as commissioners, advisory delegates, and others prepare for the [222nd General Assembly](#) (2016), set for June 18–25, in Portland, Oregon.

“PC-Biz is critical to the work done by the General Assembly, and enables those gathered and the church at-large to access all the business in an accurate and timely manner,” said Tom Hay, director of assembly operations. “This new redesign provides even greater support than before for those discerning the mind of Christ for the denomination and the for whole church.”

Among the greatest improvements for PC-Biz is its ability now to be read on computers, tablets, and smart phones in a size and format right for that screen. This responsive design works across all platforms and devices and allows users to simply open up [www.pc-biz.org](http://www.pc-biz.org) in any browser. The former PC-biz app is no longer needed and can be deleted.

Users who already have a PC-Biz account can log in as usual and browse the new site. Newly elected commissioners who already have an account will have their accounts automatically upgraded to add special permissions. Newly elected commissioners completely new to PC-Biz will have an account created for them in the next few days.

A tutorial on how to use the new PC-Biz is available [online](#), and additional new features will be added as the 222nd General Assembly (2016) nears.

Users should review this tutorial! As a result of this update, the portrayal of business items in the Primer has been changed as well – to group the items by committee, provide an index to the committee’s items and provide the analysis of action items (info items are not analyzed here).



## **Format for offering counsel on Business Items identified as coming to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly, 2016;**

Dear Commissioner and Delegate,

After prayerful consideration of the information related to Business item number \_\_, titled: \_\_\_\_\_, the Holy Scriptures, my/our review of the counsel of the church and both parts of its Constitution as exists on this item, my/our assessment of the circumstances surrounding our denomination, my/our review of the appropriate religious press coverage of this item, as exists, and my/our discussions with other mature Christians who are also knowledgeable of this business item, my/our counsel to you is to (please pick and elaborate upon one of the following):

\_\_\_ support the content of this business item in such form as it may appear before the General Assembly or its committee(s), because:

\_\_\_ oppose the content of this business item in such form as it may appear before the General Assembly or its committee(s), because:

\_\_\_ modify or support the modification of the content of this business item in such form as it may appear before the General Assembly or its committee(s), as follows:

... because:

Please sign and date your counsel.

For your response to this call for counsel, please send your counsel in an email to: **Art Ritter (Art@AGRitter.com)**, by **March 25, 2016**, for inclusion in Primer II, which is scheduled for distribution by Equipping Ministries on April 1 (no fooling), 2016.

Additionally, you may wish to communicate the following:

To the Presbytery Council,  
Please consider concurring with Overture number \_\_, titled \_\_\_\_\_ to ensure that it gets considered by the 222<sup>nd</sup> GA because: .

Send such in an email directly to our **commissioners, alternates, and delegate:**

**Teaching Elder Commissioner:** The Reverend Robert Kelly, Spanish Springs PC, Sparks. 'Robert Kelley' [bob@the-kelleys.net](mailto:bob@the-kelleys.net) Bob is assigned to the **Middle East Issues** Committee (08).

**Ruling Elder Commissioner:** Marshall Hanson, Henderson PC, Henderson. 'Marshall Hanson' [mhanson@interact.ccsd.net](mailto:mhanson@interact.ccsd.net)

Marshall is assigned to the **Mission Coordination** committee (10).

**Alternate\* Teaching Elder Commissioner:** The Reverend Ed Lockett, Jr.  
[b.e.lockett.jr@gmail.com](mailto:b.e.lockett.jr@gmail.com)

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