

Proposed Amendments to the Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual Part 1: Organization and Structure

At their meeting on August 5, 2017 the Coordinating Team acted on the requests of the following three committees of the Presbytery of Arkansas to recommend amending the Presbytery's Ministry Manual to better facilitate the ministry of the Presbytery. The proposed amendments to the sections pertaining to the Committee on Church Leadership Development and the Committee on Ministry are to Part 1: Organization and Structure, which, according to 8) Amendment, A. 1. Amending Organization and Structure, on page 15:

"The Organization and Structure section may be amended by 3/5 vote of the Presbytery present and voting if the proposed amendment is distributed to all members and member congregations no less than 30 days prior to the meeting during which the vote is to take place. This rule may be waived by a 2/3 vote of the Presbytery present and voting."

The proposed amendment to the section pertaining to the Committee on Nominations is to Part 2: Ministry and Committee Duties, which, according to 8) Amendment, A. 2. Ministry Duties and Presbytery Policies, on page 15:

"The Ministry Duties and Presbytery Policies sections may be amended by majority vote of the Presbytery."

Committee on Church Leadership Development

The CCLD requested that the Presbytery restore/add two additional committee members. The number of members was reduced in the Presbytery's restructuring and has caused difficulties in serving the needs of the candidates under care and elders in the Commissioned Ruling Elder education process.

Motion to amend the Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual Part I: Organization and Structure, 5) Ministry Areas and Standing Committees, C. 1. a) Committee on Leadership Development, (1) Membership on page 8 to reflect the following:

From:

"Membership: One member from each region of the Presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term. Five at-large members representing the diversity of the Presbytery shall be elected. At least one member of the CLD shall be a Certified Christian Educator or Certified Associate Christian Educator."

To:

"Membership: One member from each region of the Presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term. Seven at-large members representing the diversity of the Presbytery shall be

elected. At least one member of the CLD shall be a Certified Christian Educator or Certified Associate Christian Educator.”

Committee on Ministry

The COM requested that the Presbytery restore/add six additional committee members, two per class for the three classes. The number of members was reduced in the Presbytery’s restructuring and has caused difficulties in serving the needs of congregations across the state.

Motion to amend the Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual Part I: Organization and Structure, 5) Ministry Areas and Standing Committees, C. 1. b) Committee on Ministry, (1) Membership on page 8 to reflect the following:

From:

Membership: Two members from each region of the Presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term. Ten at-large members representing the diversity of the presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term.

To:

Membership: Two members from each region of the Presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term. Sixteen at-large members representing the diversity of the presbytery shall be elected to serve a three-year term.

Committee on Nominations

The CoN requested that the Presbytery add additional wording to the Committee on Nominations’ section of The Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties.

Motion to amend the Presbytery of Arkansas Ministry Manual Part II: Ministry and Committee Duties adding a “Number 10” under the Responsibilities of the CoN, following line 740 on page 19 to read:

The Committee on Nominations will do the best job possible to match gifts of people with needs of the presbytery while honoring parity between elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament, and laity, where allowed, and representing both genders, several ethnicities and regional geography, aspiring to the standards required in the documents. However, when these standards cannot be met despite their best efforts, it is up to the Committee on Nominations’ discretion to bring names of persons to the presbytery as appropriately as possible, favoring those who volunteer for particular service.