

## WHAT IS THE *BOOK OF ORDER*?

The *Book of Order* is Part II of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

It is published by the Office of the General Assembly in English, with translations in Indonesian, Korean, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, and Spanish.

The *Book of Order* is available in the following formats:

- Paperback book
- CD-ROM, including *The Book of Confessions*,
- Braille,
- Selected sections available on the church's website at <http://oga.pcusa.org/constitution.htm>,
- In an annotated version (printed edition and on CD-ROM) with notes on changes and interpretations made since 1983, historical summaries, and General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission decisions.

Because the *Book of Order* is available in so many forms, it does not rely on page numbers. Instead it has a reference number system: e.g., G-10.0200, W-7.5003

The letter indicates which division the citation is located.

F = The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity

G = Form of Government

W = Directory for Worship

D = Rules of Discipline

The numeral(s) left of the decimal point = chapter.

The numerals right of the decimal point = section and subsection.

The *Book of Order* contains some language with implicit meaning:

- (1) SHALL and IS TO BE/ARE TO BE signify practice that is mandated,
- (2) SHOULD signifies practice that is strongly recommended,
- (3) IS APPROPRIATE signifies practice that is commended as suitable,
- (4) MAY signifies practice that is permissible but not required.

**The *Book of Order* is amended frequently.  
Be sure to use the current edition!**