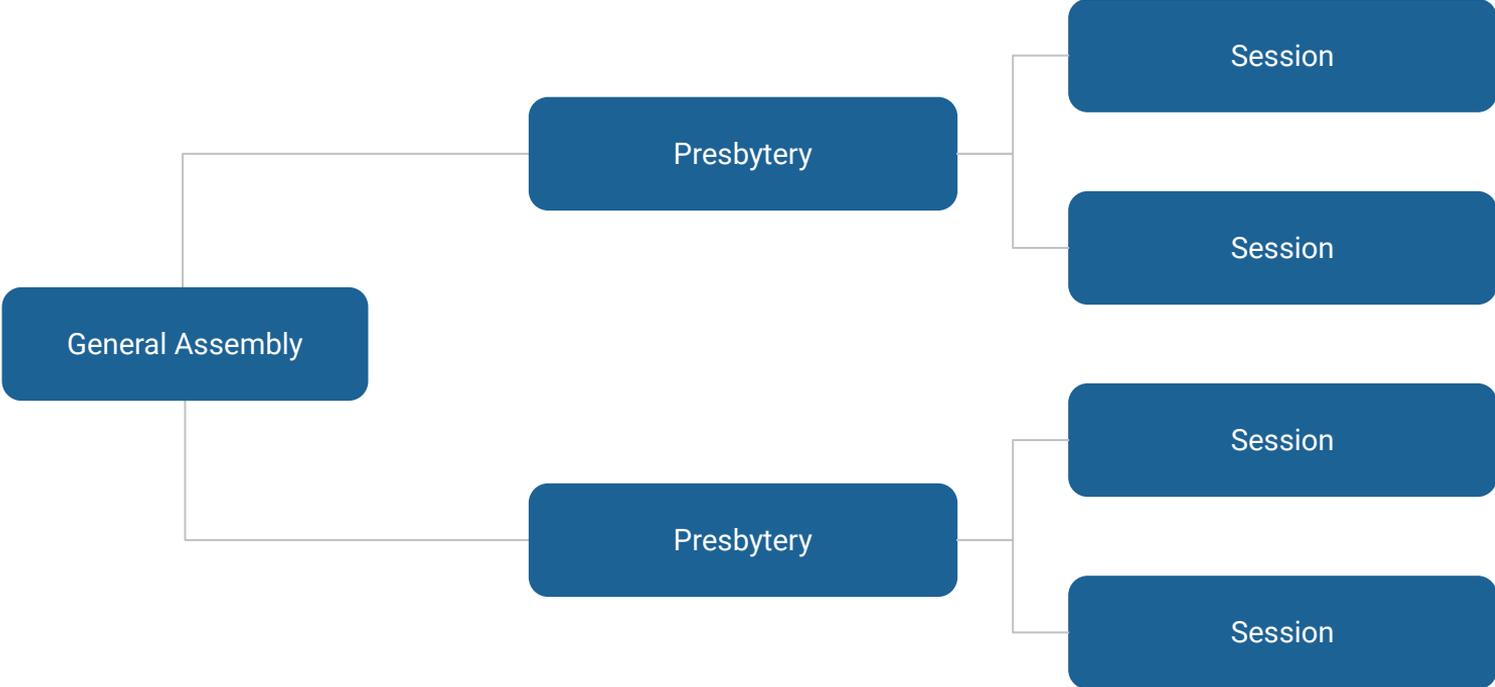


48th General Assembly

How do We Love the PCA,
What are the Issues Before Her,
And How do We Pray for Her Future?

Rev. Dr. David T.A. Strain
August 4, 2021

PCA Structure



Glossary

GA - General Assembly

WCF - Westminster Confession of Faith

BCO - Book of Church Order

RPR - Review of Presbytery Records

Constitution

- Subject to and subordinate to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments
- Consists of:
 - ***Westminster Confession of Faith***
 - ***Larger and Shorter Catechisms***
 - ***Book of Church Order***

Commissioner

- ordained ruling or teaching elder nominated by the Session to attend the General Assembly
- tasked to vote on overtures and reports submitted to the General Assembly

Permanent Committees of GA

- Administrative Committee (AC) of GA
- Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM)
- Committee on Mission to North America (MNA)
- Committee on Mission to the World (MTW)
- Committee on Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)

Overtures Committee

- A committee of commissioners attending the GA tasked to discuss and approve all overtures to the GA from Presbyteries and Sessions.

Overture

- an official communication submitted to the General Assembly from a lower court to a higher court requesting to take a particular action, approve/disapprove, or endorse a particular statement/ resolution.

Overture 14

- Overture 14, from Evangel Presbytery, calling for amendment of the MTW policy manual to limit “line authority” leadership of all field teams involved in church planting and church development to ordained elders, was adopted.
- The vote was 961–814.

Overture 38

- Overture 38 from Calvary Presbytery, calling to "Commend Human Sexuality Report" in the affirmative.
- The vote in Overtures Committee was 124-3-0.
- <https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Overture-38-Commend-Human-Sexuality-Report.pdf>

Overture 23

- Overture 23 from Gulf Coast Presbytery, to amend BCO 17.
- The Overture as Received:
BCO 17-4. Men who self-identify as a “gay Christian,” “same-sex attracted Christian,” “homosexual Christian,” or like term shall be deemed not qualified for ordination in the Presbyterian Church in America.

Overture 23

- BCO 16-4 Officers in the Presbyterian Church in America must be above reproach in their walk and Christlike in their character. Those who profess an identity (such as, but not limited to, “gay Christian,” “same sex attracted Christian,” “homosexual Christian,” or like terms) that undermines or contradicts their identity as new creations in Christ, either by denying the sinfulness of fallen desires (such as, but not limited to, same sex attraction), or by denying the reality and hope of progressive sanctification, or by failing to pursue Spirit-empowered victory over their sinful temptations, inclinations, and actions are not qualified for ordained office.
- The final vote was 1438-417 after the language was amended.

Overture 37

- Overture 37 from Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery, to amend BCO 21-4 and 24-1 to more specifically examine the moral requirements for church office, adopted as amended.

Overture 37

- BCO 21-4 e. In the examination of the candidate's personal character, the presbytery shall give specific attention to potentially notorious concerns, such as but not limited to relational sins, sexual immorality (including homosexuality, child sexual abuse, fornication, and pornography), addictions, abusive behavior, racism, and financial mismanagement. Careful attention must be given to his practical struggle against sinful actions, as well as to persistent sinful desires. The candidate must give clear testimony of reliance upon his union with Christ and the benefits thereof by the Holy Spirit, depending on this work of grace to make progress over sin (Psalm 103:2-5, Romans 8:29) and to bear fruit (Psalm 1:3; Gal. 5:22-23). While imperfection will remain, he must not be known by reputation or self-profession according to his remaining sinfulness but rather by the work of the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus (1 Cor. 6:9-11). In order to maintain discretion and protect the honor of the pastoral office, Presbyteries are encouraged to appoint a committee to conduct detailed examinations of these matters and to give prayerful support to candidates.
- The vote was 1130-692.