

Committees and Commissions 2020 Session Clerk Workshop

From the Book of Order

G-3.0109 Committees and Commissions

General Principles

Councils may designate by their own rule such committees and commissions as they deem necessary and helpful for the accomplishment of the mission of the church, and may create such structures jointly with other councils, in consultation with the next higher council. In appointing such committees and commissions councils shall be mindful of the principles of unity in diversity consistent with the provisions of this Constitution (F-1.0403, G-3.0103).

A committee shall study and recommend action or carry out decisions already made by a council. It shall make a full report to the council that created it, and its recommendations shall require action by that body. Committees of councils higher than the session (e.g. the presbytery) shall consist of both ministers of the Word and Sacrament and members of congregations, in numbers as nearly equal as possible.

A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a council. The designating council shall state specifically the scope of the commission's powers and any restrictions on those powers.

Administrative Commissions

Administrative commissions are designated to consider and conclude matters not involving ecclesiastical judicial process...

Functions that may be entrusted to administrative commissions include, but are not limited to:

(by sessions) ordaining and installing ruling elders and deacons, receiving and dismissing members, and visiting organizations within the congregation to settle differences therein...

Composition of Session Commissions

A commission of a session shall be composed of at least two ruling elders, and a minister of the Word and Sacrament in an installed or temporary relationship with the congregation governed by that session or a commissioned pastor (also known as commissioned ruling elder).

Other Requirements and Principles

A commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings and shall submit that record to the session for incorporation into its records. *Actions of a commission shall be regarded as actions of the session.* A commission may be assigned additional duties as a committee, which duties shall be reported and handled as the report of a committee.

The decisions of an administrative commission shall be reported to the clerk of session, who shall report it to the session at its next stated meeting.

A session may rescind or amend an action of its administrative commission in the same way actions of the session are modified.

When an administrative commission has been designated to settle differences within a particular organization or session, it shall, before making its decision final, afford to all persons affected by its decision fair notice and an opportunity to be heard on matters at issue.