

**NATIONAL CAPITAL PRESBYTERY
STANDING RULES OF THE PRESBYTERY**

Standing Rule # 1 (SR-1)

First Reading At Presbytery Meetings

Matters that may be properly handled through the “first reading/second reading” process, after designation by the Presbytery Council, are:

- § Amendments to the Rules of Presbytery
- § Major policy statements
- § Issues expected to be highly controversial
- § Proposals for drastic changes in Presbytery strategy

Questions for clarity may be asked of the mover at both the time of the “first reading” and the “second reading.”

Amendments may be offered at the time of each reading. Any such amendment shall not be voted upon at the time of the “first reading”, but referred to the initiating committee for consideration.

Amendments offered and seconded at the time of “first reading” shall be included in the materials sent out with the notice for the next stated meeting.

If amendments offered, seconded, and subsequently passed at the time of “second reading” substantially alter the matter, Presbytery may consider this a new “first reading” with action to be taken at a subsequent meeting. (This, however, should not be used as a means of putting off action indefinitely.)

For issues which Presbytery Council determines are likely to be controversial, the Council shall:

- § Provide a pre-meeting forum for clarification of controversial issues.
- § Coordinate presentations to be made at the time of the second reading.
- § After counseling with the interested parties, recommend a design for conduct of the discussion.
- § Committees are encouraged to identify issues of significance in the life of the church and to develop strategies to bring them before the Presbytery and local congregations over a period of months prior to asking for action by the Presbytery.
- § Each Fall, the Stated Clerk shall communicate to Sessions the Presbytery timetable for 1st/2nd reading of overtures to the General Assembly that amend the Constitution.

Standing Rule # 2 (SR-2)

Standing Rule: Canceling/Rescheduling a Presbytery Meeting

In case of weather-related factors or other emergencies which would make travel to/from a presbytery meeting hazardous, the following shall constitute an ad hoc Executive Committee empowered to make a decision regarding cancellation, and to establish a new date for the meeting:

the General Presbyter
the Stated Clerk
the Moderator of Presbytery
the Vice Moderator of Presbytery
the Chairperson of General Council

The Executive Committee will strive for unanimity; however a majority in favor of cancellation will suffice to cancel a meeting.

As soon as possible, the Executive Committee will establish a new date and time for the presbytery meeting, and will authorize the office staff to notify all churches. The General Presbyter is authorized to determine the most effective means of notification (e.g., Thursday mail, e-mail, separate first class mail, phone calls, or some combination of these.)

In the case where it is a Stated Meeting which has been canceled and rescheduled, the rescheduled meeting shall be designated as a rescheduled Stated Meeting, and the original agenda will be proposed as the agenda of the rescheduled meeting. The notice requirement will be determined by the Executive Committee.. In the case where it is a special meeting which has been canceled, notice of the rescheduled special meeting shall be given not less than ten days prior to the meeting, and the agenda will include only those items which were part of the original call.

Adopted by National Capital Presbytery on May 23, 2000.

Standing Rule # 3 (SR-3)

A Special Rule of Order for the consideration of proposed amendments to the Book of Order

When proposed amendments to the Book of Order are before the presbytery for debate and vote, the Chairperson of Bills and Overtures Committee shall present the committee's judgment and recommendation in the form of a report, not a motion. Immediately thereafter, the Moderator of the meeting shall say:

“Amendment ___ is now before the presbytery. (And, following discussion and debate, the Moderator shall continue) All in favor of Amendment ___ say “aye”; all opposed say “no”. Amendment ___ is approved/is not approved.”

The third option which is available, “take no action” would require a motion to the effect “I move that the presbytery take no action on Amendment ___” which would be made before the Moderator has called for the vote on the Amendment. It would be handled in the same manner as any main motion.

Approved by National Capital Presbytery at its meeting January 23, 2001.

Standing Rule # 4 (SR-4)

Standing Rule for the Appointment of an Investigating Committee:

National Capital Presbytery authorizes the persons in the following positions to name an Investigating Committee as permitted in D-10.0201b, provided that the names of the members are reported to the next presbytery meeting:

The Moderator of Presbytery

The Vice Moderator of Presbytery

The Chairperson of Presbytery Council

The Chairperson of the Committee on Ministry

The General Presbyter

Where any person in the above-named positions has any involvement whatsoever in the matter, or is associated with any of the parties in a way to raise conflict-of-interest issues, he/she shall disclose that information to the Stated Clerk of presbytery, and shall have no role in naming the Investigating Committee.

Adopted by National Capital Presbytery on January 22, 2002.

Standing rule # 5 (SR-5)

Voice for Former Moderators

All former Moderators of National Capital Presbytery shall have voice at all presbytery meetings.

Adopted by National Capital Presbytery on September 22, 2009.

Standing Rule #6 (SR-6)

Bringing New Business to Presbytery Meeting

Whenever new business is moved and seconded at any Presbytery meeting from the floor, that business shall be referred to the Leadership Council for its recommendation and report followed by action at the next stated meeting of the Presbytery unless $\frac{3}{4}$ of the assembly votes to consider it at the end of the agenda of the current Presbytery meeting.

Adopted by National Capital Presbytery on March 15, 2016
