

The Book of Church Order of Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin)

English Translation of the 2nd Revision of the BCO (2024)

Preface

As we publish the second revision of the Book of Church Order (BCO):

Since the denomination's founding in 1985, nearly 40 years have passed. Rooted in the faith traditions and heritage of the Korean Presbyterian Church (Kosin), this denomination has remained faithful to its origins while recognizing the need for a BCO that reflects the unique characteristics of immigrant churches. This led to the initial drafting of the BCO during the 13th General Assembly in 1997. The first revision to the BCO was adopted at the 31st General Assembly in 2015, and the second revision was passed at the 39th General Assembly in 2023. Following approval by Presbyteries, the present revision of the BCO is enacted officially on August 6, 2024.

This revised BCO includes the following changes:

1. The preamble has been revised to express our beliefs and doctrines more clearly and logically. "Worship" has been added as a separate section, and a vision for the next generation has been incorporated into the mission of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin).
2. The doctrinal standards, including the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, remain unchanged from previous translations.
3. The administrative standards have been updated for consistency and clarity. The previous titles, "Worship Guidelines," "Church Government" and "Disciplinary Ordinance," have been replaced with "Church Worship," "Church Governance," and "Church Discipline" respectively.
4. Changes have been made to reflect current church practices, focusing on consistency, unity, and continuity. Structural and content revisions were made, and new terminology was introduced to reflect these updates.
5. The previously existing "Constitutional Rules" has been removed, with its content relocated to related regulations.
6. Lastly, decisions made by the General Assembly and related regulations have been integrated into the revised BCO. Ambiguities that could lead to interpretive differences have been clarified with more precise language to enhance understanding.

With the publication of this second revision of the BCO, we pray that the Lord's church and its members' faith will be firmly rooted in His Word and truth. We also anticipate that the church will grow in peace and unity through a more cohesive administration and ministry. We give glory to God for His grace and the opportunity to serve in this year-long BCO revision process.

September 10, 2024

- Members of the BCO Amendment Committee: Harry D. Kwag, Jae-Gyu Kwagh, Minsok Kim, Seunghyun Kim, Joseph I. Park, Daesik Yoon, Sinkoo Lee, Paul Chun, Inseok Jeong
- Members of the BCO Translation Committee: Minsok Kim, Paul Chun, Joseph I. Park

Preamble

Believing that the Triune God has entrusted us with the responsibility to preserve and transmit the heritage and history of the universal church, thereby establishing our identity, we, therefore, set forth the confessional stance of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) in the preamble of this Book of Church Order (BCO) as follows:

1. Faith and Doctrine

- 1) We believe in the Triune God: God the Almighty Creator, Jesus Christ the Savior, and the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier.
- 2) Although the first man, Adam, became unrighteous by breaking the covenant, God promised a covenant of grace and sent Jesus Christ to open the way of life and righteousness for fallen humanity. The Holy Spirit conveys the benefits bestowed by the Father and the Son to us and seals us until the day of redemption.
- 3) The Triune God has revealed this faith through the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. The early church's three ecumenical creeds (the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed) faithfully summarize this faith.
- 4) When the medieval Roman Church deviated from this early church faith, God raised Reformers to restore true faith and reform the church.
- 5) We particularly adhere to the historic Reformed tradition. This tradition refers to the theological position of Calvin, who systematized the doctrines arising from the Reformation initiated by Martin Luther and further developed them biblically. This theology has been handed down to us through the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms. These creeds, following Scripture, clearly set forth what we ought to believe concerning the Triune God and how justified believers should live for His glory.
- 6) Our forebears in faith, even in the face of persecution and forced participation in Shinto worship under Japanese imperialism, steadfastly maintained this Reformed faith.
- 7) As the descendants of these believers, we earnestly desire to guard the orthodoxy of this faith and the purity of its practice and to pass it on to future generations. We pray that the Triune God will grant us the wisdom and strength to fulfill this responsibility.

2. Worship

- 1) In the Old Testament, God met with His covenant people through sacrifices and the temple. However, Jesus Christ abolished the temple and sacrificial system by offering His body as a one-time, perfect sacrifice, thereby completing eternal redemption. Now, we worship in Spirit and truth.
- 2) Jesus Christ completed His work of redemption through His crucifixion and resurrection. He established the means of grace namely the Word (preaching), the sacraments (baptism and the Lord's Supper), and prayer - through which we receive the grace of redemption. Through these means, we praise and magnify the Triune God who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

3. Church Governance

We believe that the Scripture must regulate church governance, and following the Westminster Standards, we define Presbyterian church polity as follows:

- 1) Jesus Christ, the sole head of the Church, has established office-bearers who serve the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the Word.
- 2) The Session, which is the governing body of a local church, is composed of ministers and elders, who may also serve as members of Presbyteries and the General Assembly.
- 3) No church or office-bearer shall have dominion over another church or office-bearer in any manner.
- 4) The decisions of the governing bodies are binding as long as they align with the Word of God, and such decisions must be obeyed.
- 5) The ultimate purpose of church governance is to achieve peace in Jesus Christ.
- 6) Church discipline should be properly administered for the protection of sound doctrine, the purity of the church, and the repentance of offenders.
- 7) These principles are confirmed in the first eight articles of Church Governance in this BCO and are specifically reflected in the sections of Church's Worship, Governance, and Discipline.

4. Mission of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin)

- 1) We strive to preserve the purity of our faith in the Triune God, vigilantly opposing and rejecting all challenges to this faith and any doctrines that distort the truth.

- 2) We adhere to the core principles of God-centeredness, Scripture-centeredness, and church-centeredness in our faith and life. We aim to establish Reformed churches not only in Korea but also throughout the world, which bear witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the Kingdom of God to the ends of the earth.
- 3) Following the martyr-like faith of our forebears, who resisted Shinto worship, we reject all forms of idolatry and worship only the true Triune God. We live as the light and salt of the world, uncompromisingly confronting the world's injustices, and seeking to realize God's justice and peace on earth.
- 4) We desire to fulfill the will of the Triune God, who intends to renew all things through the church, by nurturing church members to be faithful servants who testify to the lordship of Jesus Christ in every sphere of the world, and by sending them into the world.
- 5) We commit to preserving the natural environment given by God, respecting life, and striving to ensure that all lives, including the socially vulnerable, enjoy justice, peace, and joy in the Triune God.
- 6) Recognizing that God's earnest will for us in this era is the unity of the church in truth, we are grieved by its divided state and seek to unite with churches that truly confess the Triune God in accordance with Scripture.
- 7) Even within the Reformed tradition that we pursue, if anything is found to be contrary to Scripture, we will remain faithful to continual reformation, correcting such matters through proper and transparent discussion and study.
- 8) We will nurture the next generation of children in the spirit of Reformed theology, with a faith centered on God, Scripture, and the church, training them to testify Christ through their whole lives.

Part I: Doctrinal Standards

The Westminster Confession of Faith

The Larger Catechism

The Shorter Catechism

Part II: Administrative Standards

Church Worship

Chapter 1: The Church and Worship

Article 1: The Church

The church is a community of Christians, saved by the merit of Jesus Christ, who gather to worship God. As the body of Jesus Christ, the church must, through the work of the Holy Spirit, maintain its integrity by proclaiming the Word of God purely and accurately, administering the sacraments rightly, and exercising discipline justly.

Article 2: Worship

1. Worship is the core of the Christian life, where believers, saved by faith in Jesus Christ and made children of God, express gratitude for God's grace. Although a believer may worship the omnipresent God individually at any time or place, it is proper and fitting to worship corporately at a designated place on the Lord's Day, the day of Christ's resurrection, in accordance with the manner prescribed by God.
2. Worship is fundamentally covenantal. The covenant parties are God and His people. Because worship is covenantal, there are aspects where God comes to His people in worship and aspects where the people approach God through worship. The former consists of the invocation, proclamation of pardon, the Word, sacraments, and the benediction, while the latter includes confession, praise, prayer, and offering.

Chapter 2: Observance of the Lord's Day

Article 3: Duty to Observe the Lord's Day

It is the duty of believers to observe the Lord's Day. This day must be kept holy according to the teachings of Scripture. On the Lord's Day, believers must refrain from pursuing personal gain that hinders worship and rest, and avoid worldly concerns, secular activities, or indulgent behavior.

Article 4: Corporate Worship on the Lord's Day

It is the fundamental duty of believers to gather for corporate worship on the Lord's Day.

Article 5: Preparation for the Lord's Day

The Lord's Day should be kept holy, with sincere and devout preparation beforehand, ensuring that the worship is an occasion for communion with God. Necessary preparations for daily life should be made in advance so that nothing hinders the worship and the sanctity of the Lord's Day.

Article 6: Activities on the Lord's Day

On the Lord's Day, believers should attend worship services and engage in Bible study, meditation, prayer, praise, evangelism, and acts of charity, all to glorify God and foster fellowship among the saints.

Chapter 3: Lord's Day Worship

Article 7: Attitude of Worship Participants

Those attending worship should maintain the following attitudes:

1. Arrive early to avoid disrupting the preparation for worship.
2. Upon entering the sanctuary, sit quietly and pray, confessing trust in the glory of the Triune God and the mediatory work of Jesus Christ.
3. Pray for the minister leading the service and for all elements of the worship to proceed reverently, mainly focusing on listening to and meditating on the sermon with a desire for it to bear fruit in their lives.
4. Pray for the unity of faith within the church to be manifested in worship, and for both those present and those absent.
5. Avoid any actions that would disrupt the worship, lay aside all worldly matters, and pray for the Holy Spirit's help in cultivating humility, faithful obedience, gratitude, love, and gentleness.

Article 8: Elements and Order of Worship

The elements of worship are as follows, with the order determined by the Session:

- Call to Worship and Greeting of Blessing
- Public Confession of Sin and Declaration of Pardon
- Confession of Faith
- Scripture Reading
- Proclamation of the Word
- Sacraments
- Prayer
- Praise

- Offering
- Vows
- Declaration of Church Discipline and Restoration
- Fasting and Thanksgiving
- Benediction (Proclamation of Blessing)

Article 9: Confession of Faith

When the people of God gather for worship, it is appropriate to jointly confess the faith using the creeds recognized by this denomination as in accordance with God's Word (Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed, Westminster Confession of Faith, Larger and Shorter Catechism).

Article 10: Scripture Reading

Scripture reading during worship may involve the pastor and congregation reading a designated passage responsively or reading the passage intended for the sermon. The sermon passage is the Word of God given to the congregation, and the pastor or a designated person reads it. Responsive reading, especially from the Psalms, serves as the congregation's praise, thanksgiving, and confession of repentance to God.

Article 11: Singing Hymns and Praise Songs

1. Congregational Singing
Singing hymns and praise songs is a natural duty of saved believers and an expression of gratitude for grace (Hebrews 13:15). When singing hymns and praise songs, the congregation should fully understand the meaning of the lyrics, sing with heartfelt sincerity, and sufficiently rehearse to bring glory to God. The hymns and praise songs should be sung collectively by the entire church.
2. Frequency of Hymns and Praise Songs
The number of hymns and the duration of singing during worship are at the pastor's discretion, ensuring that all members of the congregation can participate.
3. Special Praise
During worship, the choir or designated individuals may present prepared songs on behalf of the congregation.

Article 12: Prayer

Prayer, accompanied by thanksgiving, is a particular part of worship and is required by God from everyone. For a prayer to be acceptable, it must be offered with understanding, reverence, humility, fervor, faith, love, and patience, in the name of the Son, through the assistance of the Holy Spirit, and by God's will, using the language understood by the congregation.

1. **Preparation for Prayer**

Just as a pastor prepares a sermon, they should also prepare for prayer in advance. The pastor must diligently read the Bible, study prayer-related literature, and meditate to cultivate the spirit and power of prayer. They should also carefully prepare their hearts and choose their words, ensuring that the prayer is beneficial and relatable to the participating congregation.

2. **Preparation of All Worship Prayer Leaders**

All who lead prayer during worship must prepare with the same piety and attention as described in Paragraph 1 above.

3. **Content of Prayer**

Formal prayer should be offered with the awareness of God's infinite authority, confessing sins, and asking for forgiveness through the gracious presence of the Holy Spirit and the merits of Jesus Christ. The content should include:

1) **Adoration**

Acknowledge God's glory and perfection as revealed in His creation and in the clear and complete revelation of the Scriptures.

2) **Thanksgiving**

This is an expression of gratitude for all the graces bestowed by God, including common and special graces, spiritual and physical blessings, and collective and individual benefits, especially the hope of eternal life through Jesus Christ and the grace of the Holy Spirit.

3) **Confession**

Confession of original sin and personal sins, recognizing that sin originates from estrangement from God, and includes sins against God, sins of speech and action, secret sins, profane sins, inadvertent sins, and habitual sins.

4) **Supplication**

Supplication for the grace of forgiveness through the blood of Christ, reconciliation with God, a joyful life through His grace, the sanctifying grace of the Holy Spirit, the ability to faithfully fulfill one's duties, comfort and guidance during trials, and mercy in this perilous world. It should be remembered that the basis for receiving answers to prayer lies in our own insufficiency, God's abundant grace, the merits of Jesus Christ, His intercession for us, and God's glory revealed through His care for His people.

5) **Intercessory Prayer**

Prayers should be offered for all humanity, asking for the grace of the Holy Spirit upon all people, for the peace, holiness, and revival of the church of God, for pastors and missionaries around the world, and for those suffering for righteousness. Additionally, prayers should be offered for this church, affiliated associations, the sick, those in difficult circumstances, the needy, travelers, prisoners, and government officials.

4. Prayer After the Sermon

The prayer following the sermon should briefly address the content of the sermon.

Article 13: Offerings

Offerings should be given according to the grace received to support domestic and international gospel ministries, with the timing of the offering selected as most convenient during the worship service.

1. Obligation to Give

Every believer is obligated to give an offering during worship, remembering the grace received from God, as part of worship.

2. Meaning and Types of Offerings

Offerings should be made according to biblical principles and divided into tithes and Sunday offerings. Tithes and Sunday offerings are mandatory, while thanksgiving offerings and other offerings should be made voluntarily.

3. Obligation of Tithing

All believers are required to tithe according to biblical teachings, and these tithes should be given to the church to which the believer belongs.

Article 14: Benediction (Pronouncement of Blessing)

The worship service shall conclude with the pastor's benediction (pronouncement of blessing) (2 Corinthians 13:13; Hebrews 13:20-21; Ephesians 3:20-21; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; Numbers 6:24-26).

Chapter 4: Proclamation of the Word

Article 15: Qualifications of the Preacher

A pastor, proclaiming God's Word, must be exemplary in all conduct and possess a character worthy of respect, particularly in love, faith, and purity.

Article 16: Scripture Reading

The Old and New Testaments of the Bible are the Word of God and the infallible and sole rule for faith and life. Therefore, the reader must solemnly recognize their role as a representative of God while reading. When the pastor or a person authorized by the pastor reads the Scripture, the congregation must listen attentively with humility, casting aside all distractions and with a serious demeanor.

Article 17: Sermon

The sermon is a means of God's grace for the salvation of souls; therefore, the pastor must devote themselves wholly to rightly interpreting the Word of truth.

1. Selection of the Sermon Text

The purpose of the sermon is to interpret and expound a portion of God's truth and teach it to help believers understand their duties. The scope of the text selection is at the discretion of the pastor and should be balanced between the Old and New Testaments.

2. Method of Preaching

The pastor must always prepare for the sermon through prayer and meditation. The pastor should strive to deliver the gospel and truth purely, using language that is by Scripture and easy for the congregation to understand, while being careful not to showcase their scholarship or abilities.

3. Allocation of Sermon Time

The pastor should allocate the time for the sermon so that it harmonizes with the other elements of the worship service without causing disruption.

4. Authorization to Preach

Only the senior pastor or someone authorized by the Session (the governing body of the church) may preach.

Chapter 5: Sacraments

Article 18: Types and Meaning of the Sacraments

In accordance with the teachings of Scripture, the Christian church's sacraments are limited to Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These sacraments are holy ordinances established by Christ Himself within His church to confirm and strengthen the grace of redemption to those within the covenant of grace. The sacraments serve to strengthen and increase the faith and all other graces of the believers, and compel them to obey, bear witness to and foster mutual love and fellowship among them, and distinguish them from those outside the covenant of grace.

Article 19: Baptism

Baptism is a rite administered with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, following the teachings of Scripture. It signifies our grafting into Christ, participation in all the benefits of the covenant of grace, and pledge to belong to the Lord. Baptism includes adult baptism and infant/child baptism. Infant/child baptism is administered based on the parents' pledge. Still, when the child reaches adulthood, they must confirm their status as a baptized member through their own confession of faith through a confirmation ceremony. Baptism must not be administered to anyone outside the church until they have confessed their faith in and obedience to Christ.

1. **Adult Baptism**

1) **Administrator of Baptism**

Baptism must be administered only by a pastor who has been duly ordained, without exception.

2) **Qualification of the Baptismal Candidate**

Baptism may be received by anyone who confesses that Jesus Christ is their Lord and Savior and who professes their faith.

3) **Location of Baptism**

Baptism should be administered during the Sunday worship service in the presence of the entire congregation as witnesses. However, in exceptional circumstances, such as for seriously ill persons unable to attend church or for those in the military or prison, baptism may be administered based on the decision of the Session or at the discretion of the pastor (this also applies to infant/child baptism).

4) **Instruction and Examination for Baptism**

Before administering baptism, the session must ensure that the candidate has received sufficient instruction and has been examined for their confession of faith. The individual's confession of faith must be based on the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and the session must ensure that adequate instruction has been provided based on these confessions before the baptismal examination.

5) **Baptismal Ceremony**

1. **Vows:** During the baptism, the candidate must make the following vows before the church:

- Do you acknowledge that you are a sinner before God, deserving of His wrath and that your only hope of salvation lies in the great mercy of God?
- Do you believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of sinners, and do you accept Him and promise to rely on Him alone for salvation as revealed in the gospel?
- Do you, relying solely on the grace of the Holy Spirit, vow to follow Christ, renounce all sin, and live according to His teachings and example?
- Do you acknowledge that the Old and New Testaments are the infallible Word of God, and do you vow to continue learning, believing, and following them with a sincere heart?

- Do you vow to submit to the government and discipline of the Church and strive for holiness and peace from now on?
2. **Administration of Baptism:** After the vows have been made, the pastor shall sprinkle water on the candidate's head, saying, "I baptize you (Name) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The congregation shall affirm by saying "Amen."
 3. **Proclamation:** After administering baptism, the pastor shall pray and declare, "I declare that (Name) is now a baptized member of the (Name) Church of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin), in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

2. Infant/Child Baptism

- 1) **Examination:** Parents desiring infant/child baptism must inform the pastor, and one of the parents or his/her legal guardian must bring the child before the Session at the appointed time to undergo examination.
- 2) **Exhortation:** The pastor shall exhort the parents desiring infant/child baptism to educate their child in the Word of God, raise the child according to biblical principles, and personally model a life of faith for the child.
- 3) **Baptismal Ceremony:**
 1. **Vows:** If the session determines that one parent or the legal guardian has made a firm commitment, the parent or guardian shall make the following vows before God and the church during the Sunday worship service:
 - Do you acknowledge that this child must be cleansed from sin by the blood of Jesus Christ and renewed by the grace of the Holy Spirit?
 - Do you affirm the covenant of God concerning this child and, just as you have been saved by faith, do you believe that this child can also be saved through faith in the atonement of Jesus Christ, and do you vow to exert all efforts in their spiritual upbringing?
 - Do you now dedicate this child to God, relying on His grace with a humble heart, and do you vow to model piety, pray for the child, pray with the child, teach them the holy truths, and raise them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord?
 2. **Administration of Baptism:** The pastor shall administer baptism to the child of the parent who has taken the vows, sprinkling water on the child's head in the same manner as with adult baptism, saying, "I baptize you

(Name), child of the covenant, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." The congregation shall affirm by saying "Amen."

3. **Proclamation:** After administering infant baptism, the pastor shall pray and declare, "I declare that (Name) is now an infant/child baptized member of the (Name) Church of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin). Amen."

Article 20: The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a New Testament sacrament instituted by Jesus Christ, wherein bread and wine are distributed and received in remembrance of His death. Those who partake worthily are nourished spiritually by the body and blood of the Lord, grow in grace, affirm their union and communion with Christ, express gratitude and commitment to God, and renew their love and fellowship with one another as members of the mystical body of Christ.

1. Frequency of the Lord's Supper

The Session shall determine the frequency of the Lord's Supper in a manner conducive to the edification of the church. The pastor shall be administered it during the worship service.

2. Announcement of the Lord's Supper

When the Lord's Supper is to be administered, it must be officially announced to the congregation at least one week in advance. The announcement should encourage participants to prepare by confessing their sins so that they may partake worthily.

3. Qualifications for Participation

Participants in the Lord's Supper must be baptized members (including those who have undergone confirmation). Those under church discipline and prohibited from the sacrament may not participate. Members of other churches may partake if the Session has verified their faith.

4. Conducting the Lord's Supper Preparation

The communion table must be appropriately covered with a clean cloth, the congregation's seating arranged, and the communion officers seated in their designated places. The pastor will then read and exhort from the Scripture.

1) Distribution of the Bread

The bread is distributed after appointing the communion officers and giving prayer. The communion officers distribute the bread to the congregation and then receive it from the pastor.

2) Distribution of the Cup

After all the bread has been distributed, the pastor will verify if anyone has not received it. The pastor then interprets and explains the Scripture, and the communion officers distribute the cup of wine in the same manner as the bread.

5. Attitude of Participants

Participants in the Lord's Supper must partake solemnly, acknowledging the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, who bore the cross and redeemed them from sin. They should do so with deep gratitude, recognize their communion with Christ and with one another, and commit to proclaim His death until He comes.

6. Conclusion of the Lord's Supper

After the Lord's Supper, the congregation shall sing a hymn, and the pastor shall close with a benediction.

Chapter 6: Confirmation

Article 21: Confirmation

1. Meaning of Confirmation

A child born to church members and baptized as an infant/child is under the care and discipline of the church. The church and parents are obligated to teach the child the Scriptures, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and the catechisms, as well as to instruct them in prayer, in hating sin, in reverence for God, and in loving and obeying the Lord Jesus Christ. Upon reaching adulthood, the individual must be made aware that they have been a church member since birth. Confirmation is the act of the individual confessing before the church that they now personally hold the faith professed on their behalf at infant/child baptism and are thereby admitted to partake in the Lord's Supper.

2. Confession of Faith for Confirmation

When a person baptized as an infant/child passes the session's examination and desires to partake in the Lord's Supper, they must formally profess their faith before the church and be confirmed as a baptized member.

3. Vows of Confirmation

During the confirmation ceremony, the individual must take the following vows before the church:

- 1) Do you now acknowledge and vow to sincerely uphold the confession of faith and vow that your parents made on your behalf when you were baptized as a child?
- 2) Do you acknowledge that you are a sinner before God, deserving of His wrath, and that your only hope lies in the great mercy of God?
- 3) Do you believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Savior of sinners, and do you vow to receive and rely upon Him alone for salvation, as revealed in the gospel?
- 4) Do you now vow to rely solely on the grace of the Holy Spirit, to follow Christ, renounce all sin, and live according to His teachings and example?
- 5) Do you vow to submit to the government and discipline of the Church and strive to maintain purity and peace from now on?

4. Proclamation

After the vows are taken, the pastor shall pray and proclaim as follows: "I declare that (Name) is now a confirmed member of the (Name) Church of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Chapter 7: Festivals, Thanksgiving Days, and Days of Fasting

Article 22: Festivals and Thanksgiving Days

The church may designate and observe festivals and thanksgiving days according to the circumstances of the individual congregation for the benefit of the saints, in commemoration of the history of salvation and in hope.

1. Redemptive Historical Festivals

Examples include Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost.

2. Thanksgiving Days

Examples include Harvest Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving for the First Fruits.

3. Restrictions

The church should not create or observe festivals that are unbiblical or unrelated to the history of salvation. However, if the General Assembly resolves to designate a week for evangelism and gospel work, such a week may be observed.

Article 23: Days of Fasting

When a church, Presbytery, or General Assembly initiates a fast, or when a nation or the home of a church member faces extreme difficulty or the pastor deems it necessary, the Session may establish and announce a fasting schedule to the congregation.

1. Guidelines for Fasting

Fasting should be conducted discreetly in accordance with biblical principles taught by Jesus, with a defined period that does not harm an individual's health.

2. Activities on Fasting Days

On announced fasting days, participants should practice self-restraint from physical indulgence and gather for public worship. The Session (pastor) should explain the reasons and circumstances for the fast. During the day, attendees should spend as much time as possible reading the Bible, singing appropriate hymns, and praying.

Chapter 8: Prayer Meetings

Article 24: Definition of Prayer Meetings

All gatherings for prayer, praise, preaching, and offerings, excluding regular Sunday worship, are generally considered prayer meetings.

Article 25: Duty of Prayer

Attending church prayer meetings, praying privately, and family worship are fundamental duties of believers following Christ's command. Particularly, private prayer is a clear command from Christ, and each individual should set aside time for prayer, read and meditate on the Bible, solemnly examine oneself, and perform these activities with a sincere heart.

Article 26: Types of Prayer Meetings

1. Wednesday Prayer Meeting

This historically beneficial prayer meeting allows believers to repent of sins committed during the week and to seek new strength from God. All believers should actively participate.

2. Early Morning Prayer Meeting

Believers are encouraged to gather before starting the day to worship and pray, as this practice is considered both a natural duty and a blessed means for a righteous life.

3. Family Prayer Meeting

Family gatherings for prayer benefit the family's faith and peace and are suitable for the spiritual education of children. Families should strive to read the Bible together at a set time, pray according to topics, and praise God.

4. Other Prayer Meetings

The church may hold various prayer meetings (e.g., Friday, district, overnight, late-night, intercessory) as needed.

Article 27: Leading Prayer Meetings

All prayer meetings for prayer must be conducted under the guidance of the Session, with congregants possibly gathering at designated places based on circumstances. However, these meetings must be led by a minister or someone appointed by the Session.

Article 28: Special Gatherings and Participation

1. Special Gatherings

The church may hold or participate in special gatherings (e.g., retreats, revival meetings) for spiritual benefit and the growth of believers' faith.

2. Regulation of Special Gatherings

The Session will determine all special church gathering's time, content, and methods.

3. Participation in Other Church or Denomination Events

Participation in other churches or denominations gatherings should be approached cautiously and authorized and guided by the senior pastor or the Session.

Chapter 9: Church School

Article 29: Name of the Church School

Educational institutions operated by the church shall be referred to as "Church Schools" in accordance with the traditions of global Christianity and the Korean Presbyterian Church (Kosin).

Article 30: Educational Philosophy of the Church School

Based on Reformed principles, the church school aims to develop christians who love God and their neighbors, following the Westminster Standards (Confession of Faith, Larger Catechism, Shorter Catechism) and Church Worship and Church Governance of the BCO.

Article 31: Educational Objectives of the Church School

By teaching the Scripture, we will let the people of God:

1. To understand, love, and serve the Triune God (Worshipful Character),
2. To understand, love, and help people in God's image, spread the gospel of Christ (Relational Character), and
3. To recognizing one's purpose and call of life and be faithful in one's appointed role in his/her life situation (Cultural Character).

The objectives of the church school are to cultivate christians who embody doctrinal integrity and moral purity.

Article 32: Worship in the Church School

1. All generations are expected to participate together in Sunday worship as a principle.
2. If separate worship services for different church school departments are necessary due to church circumstances, they should be conducted under the guidance of the Session.

Article 33: Organization of the Church School

The church school may be organized according to the church's circumstances into divisions such as Infant, Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, High School, College, Young Adults, Adults,

and Seniors. Middle and high school, and college groups are referred to as Student for Christ (SFC).

Article 34: Head of the Church School

The head of the church school shall be the senior pastor of a particular church.

Article 35: Teachers of the Church School

Church school teachers should be baptized members who are exemplary in faith and have the gift of teaching. They are encouraged to receive training from the presbytery and general assembly.

Article 36: Teaching Materials

Materials based on Reformed faith should be selected and used for teaching.

Chapter 10: Marriage and Funeral

Article 37: Marriage

1. Nature of Marriage

Marriage is the union of one man and one woman, as ordained by God, to be united for life in terms of covenant, sexual relationship, and procreation. This reflects the covenantal love between Jesus and His bride, the church. Therefore, relationships such as same-sex marriages, polygamy, or non-exclusive polyamory are not in accordance with God's will. Marriage is not merely a contract between individuals but a solemn covenant before God. However, marriage is not considered a sacrament.

2. Officiant of Marriage

It is appropriate for a pastor or church minister to officiate the marriage of believers, conducting the ceremony with appropriate instruction and prayer. (Note: The officiant must be a baptized church member.)

3. Eligibility for Marriage

Marriage should be between one man and one woman and should not occur within the degrees of kinship prohibited by the Bible.

4. Parental Consent

Individuals intending to marry must have reached a sufficient age, and parental or guardian consent is generally required.

5. Announcement of Marriage

Marriage is a public matter with significant implications for public welfare, family happiness, and religious honor, so it should be announced widely several days in advance.

6. Verification of Marriage

The officiant must carefully ensure that the marriage complies with God's laws and does not contravene national laws. The officiant must secure proof from both parties that there are no objections to the marriage and that it does not disrupt family peace or stability.

7. Issuance of Marriage Certificate

The marriage should be performed in the presence of adequate witnesses, and the officiant must sign and issue the marriage certificate received from the relevant government authority, along with the witnesses.

8. Record of Marriage

The pastor must record the names of the married individuals and the date of marriage in the marriage register.

9. Validity and Legitimacy of Marriage

The church will determine the legitimacy of a marriage based on whether it conforms to the definition of marriage set forth in the church's constitution. The decision will be made in accordance with the scriptural validity of the marriage ceremony and the use of the church's facilities for the wedding.

Article 38: Funeral

1. Consolation

Funerals should include hymns, appropriate Bible readings, and sermons to provide comfort and solace. The aim is to offer God's grace to those who have experienced significant loss, transforming their grief into eternal benefit and providing consolation.

2. Assurance of Hope

Funerals should be conducted according to the officiant's guidance, ensuring that the core meaning is preserved. Efforts should be made to comfort the survivors, and hope should not be expressed for those who passed away without faith.

Chapter 11: Other Worship Practices

Article 39: Dedication of Church Buildings

1. Significance of Dedication

The dedication of a church building involves the formal worship service and the collective commitment of the entire church after the completion of the new building and the settlement of all debts.

2. Officiant of Dedication

The dedication service should be officiated by the moderator of the church's Session.

3. **Procedure for Dedication**

The procedure for the dedication service shall be prepared by the church Session according to the circumstances, including a report from the building committee and the ceremony of presenting the keys.

4. **Announcement of Dedication**

The dedication becomes effective upon the officiant's proclamation, which should be made as follows: "We, the members of (Church Name), of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin), hereby declare that this worship building is fully dedicated to God in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Article 40: Ordination of Pastors

The ordination of pastors is conducted as follows:

1. **Oath**

The Presbytery selects ordination committee members, and after the sermon, the candidate for ordination is required to take the following vows:

- 1) Do you believe that the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- 2) Do you understand and sincerely adhere to the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger Catechism, and the Shorter Catechism as a summary of doctrine taught in the Old and New Testaments?
- 3) Do you accept the church's standards for worship, church governance, and discipline as just and lawful?
- 4) Do you vow to obey your fellow laborers in the Lord?
- 5) Do you sincerely vow that your pursuit of the pastoral office is motivated by a love for God and a desire to propagate the gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ, for God's glory?
- 6) Do you vow to endure any persecution or opposition with patience and to protect the truth of the gospel, striving diligently for the purity and peace of the church?
- 7) As a believer and future pastor, do you vow to diligently perform your duties and responsibilities with a sincere heart, thereby glorifying the gospel and setting a godly example before the church that God has entrusted to you?

2. **Ordination**

After the vows, the moderator of the Presbytery will have the candidate kneel and, following the apostolic practice, will lay hands on the candidate along with other Presbytery representatives, praying and performing the rite of fellowship (Galatians 2:9; Acts 1:25).

3. **Announcement**

"I declare in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit that (Name) has been ordained as a pastor of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (Presbytery Name). Amen."

4. **Exhortation**

The moderator of the Presbytery or members of the ordination committee will exhort the newly ordained pastor, and the Presbytery will record the event in the minutes.

Article 41: Installation of Pastors

The installation of pastors is conducted as follows:

1. **Oath**

The Presbytery will conduct the installation ceremony at the appointed time and place, after which the pastor and the church are required to take the following oaths:

For the incoming pastor (by raised hand):

- 1) Do you vow to serve as the pastor of this church as requested in the call letter?
- 2) Do you sincerely vow that accepting this office is to glorify God and benefit the church?
- 3) As you receive God's grace, do you vow to faithfully discharge your pastoral duties, conduct yourself with self-control, and act in accordance with the gospel ministry as you agreed at the time of ordination?

For the congregation (by raised hand):

- 1) Do you, the members of (Church Name), receive (Name) as your installed pastor?
- 2) Do you vow to receive his teachings with humility and love and to submit to his governance (or cooperate with deacons and elders)?
- 3) Do you vow to support him in his labor, help in his teaching and leading, and contribute to the spiritual welfare of the church?
- 4) Do you vow to provide the agreed-upon compensation and support necessary for his well-being and the glory of God's work?

2. **Announcement**

"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church, and by the authority of the (Presbytery Name), I declare that (Name) has been installed as the pastor of this church in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

3. **Exhortation**

The installation committee will exhort the pastor and the church, concluding with a benediction.

Article 42: Ordination of Elders, Deacons, and Trustees

The ordination of elders, deacons, and trustees is conducted as follows:

1. **Oath**

The Session will conduct the ordination ceremony at the scheduled time and place. After the sermon, the moderator of the Session will explain the purpose, and the candidates will take the following oaths:

1) For the candidates (by raised hand):

- a) Do you believe that the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- b) Do you understand and sincerely adhere to the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Larger Catechism, and the Shorter Catechism as a summary of doctrine taught in the Old and New Testaments?
- c) Do you accept the church's standards for worship, governance, and discipline as just and lawful?
- d) Do you vow to rely on God's grace and diligently perform the duties of your office with a sincere heart?
- e) Do you vow to strive for the peace, unity, and purity of the church?

2) For the congregation (by raised hand):

"Do you, the members of (Church Name), receive (Name) as your elder (deacon, trustee) and agree to respect and support his office in accordance with Scripture and church polity?"

2. Laying on of Hands

After the vows, the moderator of the session will have the candidates kneel, and with the laying on of hands by the ordination committee and all current session members, the chair will pray and perform the rite of fellowship. (Deacons and trustees do not receive the laying on of hands.)

3. Announcement

"(Name) has been ordained as an elder (deacon, trustee) of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (Church Name), in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

4. Exhortation

The ordination committee will provide an exhortation to the newly ordained individuals and the church, concluding with a benediction.

Church Governance

Chapter 1: Principles of Church Governance

The principles of church governance for the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) are as follows:

Article 1: Freedom of Conscience

Only God presides over the conscience. He has granted freedom of conscience to ensure that individuals are not subject to commands or doctrines that violate or deviate from His Word regarding faith and worship. Therefore, everyone has the right to make judgments on religious matters according to their conscience without being subject to coercion, and others cannot infringe upon this right.

Article 2: Freedom of the Church

1. As an example of individual freedom described above, every denomination or church has the right to establish its own membership rules, qualifications for baptized members and officers, and the overall organization of church governance according to the principles set forth by Jesus Christ.
2. The church should not rely on the state's power but should seek the state's assurance of safety and equal recognition for all religious institutions.

Article 3: Truth and Conduct

Truth is the foundation of good conduct. The evidence that truth is true lies in its tendency to sanctify individuals, as the Lord said, "You will know them by their fruits." It is more erroneous and contradictory to claim that truth and falsehood are equal or that an individual's faith is irrelevant. Faith, conduct, truth and duty are interconnected and cannot be separated.

Article 4: Church Officers

The Lord Jesus, the head of the church, has appointed officers to build up His body, the church, to preach the gospel, administer the sacraments, and enforce discipline to ensure that believers adhere to truth and duty. Therefore, if any church member holds false doctrines or engages in wicked conduct, the church's representatives and the entire congregation are expected to admonish or excommunicate them. However, such actions must always be by the teachings of the Bible.

Article 5: Qualifications of Officers

According to the principles described in Article 3, the church will establish rules to select officers who fully adhere to the church's duties. Nonetheless, individual differences in personality, preferences, and opinions about church rules must be met with mutual tolerance between members and the church.

Article 6: Election of Officers

The nature, qualifications, authority, and procedures for the election and appointment of church officers are recorded in the Bible. Thus, the authority to select officers lies with the relevant assembly.

Article 7: Church Governance

Whether exercised by the entire church or its selected representatives, governance authority should only transmit God's commands. Since the Bible is the sole rule for faith and conduct, no church governing body has the right to arbitrarily impose rules that bind the conscience of its members. The authority to govern is based solely on God's revealed will.

Article 8: Church Discipline

The church must diligently uphold the principles outlined above to promote the church's glory and welfare. Church discipline, originating from the power and authority of Christ, the head of the global church, must be purely moral and spiritual. It is not a form of civil punishment, and its effectiveness depends on the fairness of governance, the endorsement of all people, and the counsel and grace of Jesus Christ, the head of the universal church.

Chapter 2: The Church

Article 9: Definition of the Church

The church is the holy assembly of the chosen people who believe in Christ, called by God, spanning the past, present, and future.

Article 10: Distinction of the Church

The church has two distinctions: the visible church and the invisible church. The invisible church is known only to God, while the visible church is comprised of congregations scattered throughout the world.

Article 11: Gathering of the Church

Since all the believers on earth cannot gather in one place to fellowship and worship God, individual local congregations are established to facilitate their gathering (Galatians 1:22; Revelation 1:4-20).

Article 12: A Particular Church

A particular church is defined as a group of individuals who confess belief in Jesus and wish to unite in a specific location to worship God, live a holy life, and expand the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. This congregation should be established according to the teachings of the Bible and the church's governance and should meet regularly for communal worship.

Article 13: Classification of a Particular Church

A particular church is classified into organized and unorganized churches:

1. An **organized church** is a local congregation governed by a Session.
2. An **unorganized church** is one without a session and is governed by a Presbytery-appointed moderator.

Article 14: Establishment of a Particular Church

1. To establish a particular church, a worship place must be prepared, and a sufficient number of congregants must gather. Permission must be sought from the Presbytery.
2. **Establishment Criteria:** to be established, a particular church must have at least 8 members (18 years or older).
3. **Required Documents:** The following documents must be submitted for the establishment or division of a particular church:
 - 1) The name and location of the church
 - 2) The date of establishment or division
 - 3) A list of members with signatures
 - 4) The number of adults and households
 - 5) The number of children and youths
 - 6) The status of the worship place (land and building size, and copies of contracts or deeds)
 - 7) The church's financial status
 - 8) Copies of minutes from church council and congregational meetings (in case of church planting).
4. The application for the establishment or dividing a particular church must be submitted to the Presbytery through the appropriate regional committee.

Article 15: Management of Church Planting

1. A church planting within the same Presbytery is managed by the church that plants it, and after it is planted, it is managed by the Presbytery.
2. Church planning in an area of a different Presbytery is managed similarly. However, church planting permission is granted only after the issue of the pastor's Presbytery affiliation is resolved in the newly established church's Presbytery.
3. When a newly planted church becomes an organized church, its pastor becomes an installed pastor.

Article 16: Division and Merger of Particular Churches

1. To divide or merge particular churches, the church Session and congregational meetings must resolve the matter and obtain permission from the Presbytery.
2. The Presbytery receiving the application for establishment or division must carefully review the conditions and circumstances of the proposed site and, if appropriate, grant permission and appoint a Presbytery representative.
3. The procedure for merging local congregations involves resolution by the church session and congregational meetings of each petitioning church. The minutes of these meetings and a petition with signatures must be submitted to the Presbytery through the regional committee.

Article 17: Closure of a Particular Church

1. To close a church, the church Session and congregational meetings must resolve the matter and seek permission from the Presbytery. If they are unable to function, a regional committee's petition must be submitted to the Presbytery for approval.
2. A church's closure can be resolved either through a petition from the congregation or if the Presbytery deems closure necessary. The Presbytery will send representatives to handle all related matters, remove the church from the particular church list, and manage the members' records under the regional committee's guidance.
3. The ownership of the assets of a closed church by its members is not recognized. The disposition of any remaining assets requires permission from the Presbytery.

Article 18: Change of Presbytery Affiliation

1. To change a church's Presbytery affiliation, the relevant Presbyteries must make the decision.
2. Apart from changes due to regional or presbytery restructuring established by the General Assembly, a local church wishing to change its Presbytery must resolve the matter at the

church session and submit a petition with minutes, a resolution, and a statement of reasons signed by the members to both Presbyteries.

Article 19: Changes in a Particular Church

1. Changes of church's name or address: To change the name or address, a resolution must be passed by the congregational meeting and permission needs to be obtained from the Presbytery through the regional committee.
2. If a church planting congregation falls below 8 adult members for 2 years, the Presbytery will take over management. If the conditions for the church are restored, the congregation's status as a particular church will be reinstated.

Article 20: Joining from Other Denominations

1. A church from another denomination wishing to join this denomination must apply to the local Presbytery for permission.
2. **Joining Procedure:** To join, the church must submit the following documents to the regional committee and Presbytery:
 - 1) The name and location of the previous denomination and church
 - 2) A statement describing the history of the church
 - 3) Number of members (including the catechumens, baptized members, confirmed members, infant/child baptism members, and Sunday school students)
 - 4) Status of church ministers
 - 5) Status of officers
 - 6) Status of the worship place (land and building size and copies of contracts or deeds)
 - 7) Copies of congregational meeting minutes and signatures of members
 - 8) Application form for joining the church.
3. **Permission for joining:** The Presbytery receiving the application will review it carefully and grant permission, if deemed appropriate, to appoint the moderator to the church. The church's real estate should be transferred to the General Assembly's Maintenance Foundation.
4. While permanent church officers will generally succeed their positions in this denomination, the pastors will succeed according to Chapter 5, Article 55, the elders according to Chapter 6, Articles 66.

Chapter 3: Church Members

Article 21: Definition of a Church Member

A church member is one who believes in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and is therefore called a Christian.

Article 22: Classification of Church Members

Church members are classified according to their status as follows: Catechumen, Infant/Child Baptized Members, Baptized Members and Confirmed Members.

1. **Catechumen:** An individual who has decided to believe in Jesus and attends worship services.
2. **Infant/Child Baptized Member:** An infant or a child who has been baptized as a covenant child (Note: Until making a Confirmation of Faith, they cannot exercise the rights of a church member).
3. **Baptized Member or Confirmed Member:** An individual who has been baptized as an adult or has made a Confirmation of Faith.

Article 23: Eligibility for Baptismal Questioning

1. The inquiry for infant/child baptism candidates is determined by Session's decision, with at least one parent being a communicant member. If the parents are absent, a guardian's request may suffice.
2. Candidates for baptism must have attended worship services as a catechumen for at least six months. However, in exceptional cases, the session may decide to proceed with the questioning even if the six-month requirement is not met.
3. Candidates for making a Confirmation of Faith must be those who have been baptized as an infant/child.

Article 24: Rights of Church Members

1. Communicant members have the right to participate in the Lord's Supper, vote in congregational meetings, receive spiritual protection, and vote and be elected in accordance with the church's regulations. However, these rights are suspended if a member fails to attend worship services for more than six months without justification.
2. If a church member wishes to submit a petition or request to the Presbytery, it must be done through the Session. If the Session unjustifiably refuses, the member may submit the documents along with the Session's reasons for refusal to the Presbytery. However, if the documents pertain to judicial matters (discipline, administration), the church's disciplinary litigation procedures must be followed.

Article 25: Duties of Church Members

1. Church members must participate in public worship, give offerings, engage in evangelism, serve in various church ministries, and obey the church's discipline.
2. Church members must diligently learn and teach the Scriptures, doctrines, and principles of faith, strive to live a model life following Jesus Christ, and aim to reach the measure of the fullness of Christ.
3. Church members must uphold the truth of the Scriptures, adhere to church regulations, and comply with church discipline as prescribed by the BCO.
4. Obligations Concerning Members' Children: (1) All children born within the visible church are considered members. (2) Members must ensure their children are baptized and nurtured under the church's protection, subject to its discipline and guidance. (3) As children grow, they must be able to fulfill all church obligations.
5. If a member violates the sanctity of the Lord's Day, engages in superstitious practices, consumes alcohol or tobacco, commits assault, or willfully neglects their financial responsibilities to the church, the church must provide guidance and discipline according to church regulations, and church officers are expected to resign from their positions.

Article 26: Transfer of Membership

1. When a member moves or leaves the church for any reason, they must request a letter of transfer from his/her current session.
2. After transferring to another church, the member must request a letter of transfer from the previous church session within six months and remain under the previous church's discipline until the transfer process is complete.
3. Upon receiving the letter of transfer, the new church must immediately send a notice of reception to the previous church; if the transfer is not permitted, the transfer letter must be returned.
4. The letter of transfer must specify any disciplinary issues.

Article 27: Reporting of Church Members

Church members who leave the local church for reasons such as education, military service, or employment and remain absent for more than six months must report their situation to their current session.

Article 28: Qualification of Church Members

1. **Suspension and Loss of Membership Rights**

If a member leaves the church without notifying and fails to fulfill their obligations for more than six months, their membership rights are suspended; after one year, they are lost.

2. Granting of Membership Rights

A person who has lost their membership rights may have them restored by the Session after returning to the church and completing six months.

Article 29: Restoration of Membership Rights

A person who has lost their membership rights may have them restored by the session after returning to the church and completing a six-month period.

Chapter 4: Church Officers

Article 30: Founding Officers of the Church

Our Lord Jesus Christ, having established the church in the world to be one body, appointed the Apostles to perform their ministry with the power to perform authoritative miracles (Matt 10:1-8).

Article 31: Permanent Officers of the Church

The permanent officers of the church are the pastor, elder, and deacon (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9).

Article 32: Retirement Age for Permanent Officers of the Church

1. The retirement age for church officers is 70. The retirement takes effect at the end of the calendar year in which the officer reaches this age.
2. An officer holding a permanent position (pastor, elder, deacon) who wishes to retire before the retirement age may do so with the permission of the relevant governing body but cannot be reinstated.
3. To be granted emeritus status upon retirement, the officer must be at least 60 years old and have served for at least 5 years.
4. Regulations for Postponing Retirement
 - 1) Postponed retirement applies to permanent officers (elders, deacons) and temporary officers (KWONSAs) other than pastors.
 - 2) The maximum period for postponing retirement is 5 years.

- 3) Postponed retirement applies only if no existing officers in the relevant permanent positions.
- 4) For postponed retirement, elders must petition the Presbytery and obtain approval. The decision is made by a majority vote in the congregational meeting. For deacons and KWONSAs, the decision is made by the Session.
- 5) An elder with postponed retirement cannot become a delegate to the Presbytery.

Article 33: Associate Officers of the Church

Licentiates and pastoral candidates (seminarians) are considered associate officers.

Article 34: Temporary Officers of the Church

Depending on the church's needs, temporary officers may include JUNDOSAs, KWONSAs (senior deaconess), and acting deacons.

Article 35: Election and Voting for Church Officers

Church officers are elected in accordance with biblical principles (Heb 5:4), which dictates that they are called by God through proper election procedures. The election of church officers shall be conducted as follows:

1. Elections will be conducted in secret with a prayerful heart. Campaigning by recording the names of specific candidates, visiting to persuade, or using documents or meetings to campaign is strictly prohibited. Violations will result in appropriate penalties by the governing bodies.
2. Church members who have been absent from church for more than 6 months without valid reasons such as illness or travel shall not have the right to vote or be elected.
3. Ballots with names exceeding the specified number will be invalid; ballots with names within the specified number will be valid.
4. Invalid ballots using non-designated forms and abstentions are not counted in the total vote, whereas incorrectly marked invalid ballots and blank votes are counted in the total vote.

Article 36: Selection and Ordination Authority for Deacon and KWONSA

1. Only organized churches can select and ordain deacons and KWONSAs. However, if there are special circumstances that unorganized churches want to select and ordain deacons and KWONSAs, the moderator of the church may select and install them in cooperation with two members the Presbytery (one pastor and one elder), which he requests.

2. Honorary positions for deacons, KWONSAs, and elder cannot be established based on the Bible or the general purpose of the constitution.

Article 37: Voting for Elder, Deacon, and KWONSA

1. In the election of multiple officers for identical positions, the use of a single ballot containing the names of multiple candidates is permissible.
2. Elections for elders or deacons and KWONSAs must be conducted within one year of the approval acquired from the relevant governing bodies (elders require Presbytery approval, while deacons and KWONSAs require Session's decision), and voting may occur up to twice.
3. If it is difficult to elect a winner due to a split vote in the first round, the number of candidates may be reduced to no more than 1.5 times the number of positions available, based on the number of votes received in the first round. However, in the second round, voting cannot be conducted as a simple yes/no vote.
4. Before voting, the moderator of the congregational meeting must declare the voting method outlined in the above Paragraphs 1 to 3.

Article 38: Criteria for Immaculacy

The criteria for immaculacy are as follows, and these rules apply to installation but not to reinstatement or reappointment:

1. **The limit of immaculacy:** Immaculacy means not having received a disciplinary action of suspension or higher from the governing bodies nor a penalty of imprisonment or higher from the national law.
2. **The period of immaculacy:** This is calculated from the day of voting. If the officer has received the penalties mentioned in Paragraph 1, the immaculacy period starts from the date the penalty is lifted.
3. For the election of permanent officers, elders who have not received a disciplinary action of suspension or higher within 4 years and deacons for 3 years from their previous church are eligible.
4. If disciplinary action was taken in a previous church before registration in the current church, the immaculacy period applies from the date of lifting the penalty.

Chapter 5: Pastors

Article 39: Definition of a Pastor

A pastor, having been ordained by the Presbytery, is one who is responsible for preaching the gospel of Christ, administering the sacraments, blessing the congregation, and cooperating with elders to govern the church (Rom 11:13). The titles for this position according to various biblical responsibilities are as follows:

1. "Overseer" for taking care of the flock of Christ (Acts 20:28)
2. "Shepherd" or "Pastor" for feeding the flock with spiritual nourishment (Eph 4:11; Jer 3:15; 1 Pet 5:2-4)
3. "Elder" for setting an example and governing the house and kingdom of Christ (1 Pet 5:1-3)
4. "Servant of Christ" or "Minister" for serving Christ (2 Cor 3:6)
5. "Messenger of the Church" for being sent by God. (Rev 2:1)
6. "Ambassador for Christ" for proclaiming God's will and reconciling people with God through Christ (2 Cor 5:20; Eph 6:20)
7. "Teacher" for instructing with sound doctrine and rebuking the disobedient (1 Tim 2:7; 2 Tim 1:11; Titus 1:9)
8. "Evangelist" for proclaiming the good news of salvation (2 Tim 4:5)
9. "Steward" for managing the mysteries of God (Luke 12:42; 1 Cor 4:1-2)

Article 40: Qualifications for a Pastor

A pastor must meet the following qualifications:

1. A male baptized church member with at least 7 years of immaculacy
2. Academic qualifications: A graduate of a seminary recognized by the General Assembly or another seminary approved by the General Assembly, with licensure certificate
3. Completion of the training and service period as determined by the General Assembly
4. Passing the presbytery's examination for pastors
5. Genuine faith
6. Teaching ability
7. Conduct consistent with the gospel

8. Good management of his household
9. Earning respect and esteem from both believers and non-believers

Article 41: Duties of a Pastor

The duties of a pastor include:

1. Praying for the members of the church
2. Reading and preaching the Word of God and selecting preachers
3. Leading hymns
4. Administering the sacraments
5. Blessing the congregation as God's messenger
6. Educating the congregation
7. Visiting members
8. Overseeing worship services
9. Exercising governance in cooperation with elders
10. Evangelizing the local community and working with other local churches

Article 42: Titles of a Pastor

The titles of a pastor are as follows:

1. **Installed Pastor:** a senior (lead) pastor who is called and installed by a church with the permission of the Presbytery
2. **Senior Pastor (Lead) Pastor:** a pastor serving as a senior pastor of an unorganized church with permission from the Presbytery
3. **Assistant Pastor:** a pastor assisting and cooperating with the senior pastor.
4. **Mission Pastor:** a pastor sent to minister at independent churches, other denominational churches, or special locations with Presbytery approval.
5. **Institutional Pastor:** a pastor serving at seminaries, hospitals, schools, or other recognized institutions by the General Assembly

6. **Military Chaplain:** a pastor sent by the General Assembly to serve in the military.
7. **Missionary Pastor:** a pastor sent by the governing bodies to preach to other ethnic or cultural groups.
8. **Vacant Pastor:** a pastor without a specific church assignment
9. **Retired Pastor:** a pastor who has reached retirement age or has retired for special reasons with the approval of the Presbytery.
10. **Emeritus Pastor:** a pastor who has served for over 15 years at a single church and is honored with the title by that church upon retirement.
11. **Honorary Pastor:** a pastor who has served blamelessly for over 15 years in one Presbytery and is honored with the title upon requesting retirement.

Article 43: Status and Honor for Retired and Emeritus Pastors

1. A retired pastor shall remain affiliated with the Presbytery to which his church belonged at retirement. However, by issuing a certificate of transfer, the retired pastor may transfer his affiliation to the Presbytery of his current residence. If a pastor who has served in a single church for 15 years or more wishes to retire and be honored as an Emeritus Pastor, the church shall provide a living allowance in recognition of their service.
2. The retirement benefits for retired pastors shall be implemented according to the General Assembly's pension system. For pastors not enrolled in the General Assembly's pension system, the church where the pastor last served shall provide a severance payment equivalent to the pastor's final salary multiplied by the number of years served.
3. A retired pastor may receive a certificate of affiliation from the presbytery to which he belongs.
4. In cases where a retired pastor plants a new church or where there is no senior pastor at a church, the Presbytery shall appoint an interim moderator to exercise governance of the church, while the retired pastor may be entrusted with preaching and pastoral duties.

Article 44: Reappointment of Senior Pastors

Senior pastors and assistant pastors may continue their service unless there is a special reason for their departure.

Article 45: Duties and Authority of Assistant Pastors

1. **Service:** An assistant pastor cannot become the senior pastor of the church where he is currently serving without the Presbytery's approval. However, if the senior pastor of a

church retires, the assistant pastor may be called to serve as the senior pastor with the consent of the retiring pastor.

2. **Authority:** If the senior pastor is incapacitated, the assistant pastor may, with the Presbytery's approval and a resolution by the Session, act as an interim moderator.

Article 46: Ordination and Installation of Pastors

1. In accordance with church governance, a person who meets the qualifications for a pastor may be ordained by the Presbytery upon receiving a call from a church or other institution by laying hands during the Presbytery meeting. The installation ceremony shall be conducted at the church where the pastor will serve.
2. The chairperson of installation service shall be one of the installed pastors in the Presbytery.

Article 47: Installed Pastor

1. **Qualifications:** A pastor approved by the Presbytery to be an installed pastor shall be considered a senior pastor until the installation ceremony is conducted.
2. **Service:** The pastor's service as an installed pastor begins upon the installation ceremony. Except in exceptional cases, an installed pastor cannot resign from their church within five years of installation.
3. **Installation Timeline:** The installation ceremony must be conducted within one year of the Presbytery's approval. The pastor shall be considered a senior pastor if not conducted within a year. If the installation is delayed due to circumstances, the Presbytery may grant a one-year extension.
4. If the Session is dissolved after the installation, efforts must be made to reorganize the session as soon as possible. If the Session is dissolved, the installed pastor automatically becomes a senior pastor. However, if the Session is reorganized, the pastor's status as an installed pastor is restored.

Article 48: Calling of Pastors

The procedures for calling a pastor by a church or institution are as follows:

1. An organized church shall call a pastor as an installed pastor.
2. The Presbytery's executive committee must approve the transfer of an assistant pastor within the same Presbytery, and the transfer shall be reported to the Presbytery afterward.
3. The institution decides on the calling of institutional pastors or military chaplains and petitions the Presbytery for approval.

Article 49: Voting for Calling Pastors

1. The calling of a pastor requires a resolution by the church's session and approval by two-thirds of the members present at the congregational meeting. The call document must include the signatures of a majority of the baptized communicants and be accompanied by the opinion of the moderator of the congregational meeting. It must be submitted to the presbytery through the regional committee.
2. If a two-thirds majority is achieved in the vote to call a pastor, but there is significant opposition, the moderator may recommend postponing the decision. However, if the majority does not yield, efforts should be made to promote harmony.
3. The vote for installing a senior pastor may only occur once within the same session. If the vote fails, the pastor remains a senior pastor.
4. When calling a successor pastor, the current moderator of session may preside over the decision.

Article 50: Handling the Calling of Assistant Pastors

1. The calling of an assistant pastor requires the approval of two-thirds of the church's Session members. The call document must be signed by a majority of the Session members and be accompanied by the opinion of the session moderator. It must then be submitted to the Presbytery through the regional committee.
2. The Presbytery may delegate the handling of the assistant pastor's call to the executive committee, depending on the circumstances of the Presbytery.

Article 51: Calling of Pastors Residing Abroad

A pastor residing abroad (with permanent resident status or citizenship) may be called, provided he is graduated from a seminary recognized by the General Assembly.

Article 52: Documents for Calling a Pastor

1. The call document must be submitted as follows: (1) Two copies when calling a pastor within the same Presbytery, (2) Three copies when calling a pastor from another Presbytery.
2. The format for the call document is as follows:
"The members of [Church Name] are convinced that you possess the character and ability required to share the spiritual benefits with our souls and now call you to serve as [Position] of this church. Additionally, during your service, the members pledge to provide all necessary conveniences and comforts, to submit to your authority in the Lord, and to offer [Amount] per month/year for your living expenses. We respectfully request

your acceptance of this call." [Date], Sign of the moderator of the Congregational Meeting. Enclosed: Signatures of the communicant members

3. The moderator's opinion of the congregational meeting must detail the total votes, votes in favor, votes against, and abstentions and must be submitted to the Presbytery along with the call document.

Article 53: Approval of the Call

The call document shall be submitted to the Presbytery that oversees the pastor being called. If the Presbytery approves, it shall be delivered to the pastor. The church or institution cannot deliver the call document directly to the pastor without the Presbytery's approval.

Article 54: Calling a Pastor from Another Presbytery

The process for calling a pastor from another Presbytery is as follows:

1. The church or institution shall prepare and submit the call document to the Presbytery.
2. If the presbytery approves, the call document shall be sent to the Presbytery to which the called pastor belongs.
3. If the receiving Presbytery approves the call, the call document shall be delivered to the pastor, and the Presbytery shall send a transfer certificate to the calling Presbytery.
4. Upon receiving the certificate of transfer, the calling Presbytery shall send a confirmation of receipt to the sending Presbytery.

Article 55: Admission of Pastors from Other Denominations

A pastor from another denomination seeking to join a Presbytery of this denomination must follow these procedures:

1. They must possess academic qualifications equivalent to ordained pastors of this denomination.
2. They must receive recommendations from at least two denomination pastors and obtain associate membership in the relevant Presbytery.
3. They must complete the courses required by the presbytery's examination committee, and the required courses are as follows: (1) They must earn 10 credits (3 credits in the history of this denomination, 6 credits in systematic theology, and 1 credit in the denomination's constitution) from the denomination's seminary or the Presbytery's examination committee. (2) Pastors from NAPARC affiliated denominations or seminaries recognized by the General Assembly need only complete the courses on this denomination's BCO and its church history.

4. After fulfilling these requirements, the pastor must take an examination by the Presbytery and take the pastoral oath.

Article 56: Resignation of a Pastor

1. **Voluntary Resignation:** If a pastor wishes to resign voluntarily, he must submit a resignation letter to the Presbytery. The Presbytery shall investigate the reasons for the resignation and, if sufficient, approve the resignation.
2. **Involuntary Resignation:** If a local church finds it difficult for the pastor to continue serving due to exceptional circumstances, the Presbytery shall hear explanations from the pastor and representatives of the congregation before deciding on the resignation.

Article 57: Dismissal of a Pastor

1. **Voluntary Dismissal:** If a pastor wishes to be dismissed voluntarily and submits a resignation to the Presbytery, the Presbytery shall carefully review and process the request.
2. **Involuntary Dismissal:** If a pastor loses the qualifications necessary for ministry or if he does not serve in ministry for five years despite being healthy and having opportunities to serve, the Presbytery shall request his dismissal.

Article 58: Pastors Leaving the Denomination

Any pastor who leaves the denomination without the permission of the Presbytery or joins a heretical sect, shall be dismissed.

Article 59: Reinstatement of Pastors

A pastor who has resigned and seeks to be reinstated must follow the procedures outlined below:

1. The pastor must submit a petition for reinstatement to the Presbytery, including recommendations from three pastors who are serving different ministries.
2. The Presbytery, after thoroughly examining whether the reasons for voluntary resignation or recommended resignation have been resolved, may approve reinstatement with a two-thirds majority vote.
3. Upon approval of reinstatement, the pastor must take the same vows as during ordination.

Article 60: Pastors Taking Leave

1. A pastor currently serving may take a short leave for health recovery, theological study, or other reasons with the approval of the Session.

2. Presbytery approval is required if a pastor seeks to take leave for more than six months. For leave extending beyond one year, reapproval from the Presbytery is necessary.
3. Sabbatical or study leave may be granted after six years of service during the seventh year.

Chapter 6: Elders

Article 61: Origin of Eldership

As elders existed under the era of the law, so in the gospel era, those who collaborate with pastors in governing the church are selected as ruling elders.

Article 62: Authority of Elders

Elders hold membership rights in both the Session and higher governing bodies of the church.

Article 63: Qualifications for Eldership

Elders must meet the following qualifications:

1. Male communicant members aged between 40 and 66, who have been immaculate for at least seven years. (Churches in exceptional situations with an average membership age of over 65 may extend this with presbytery approval. For English Ministry, the age range is 30 to 66.)
2. Exemplary and evangelical in faith and conduct
3. Possesses considerable knowledge and leadership
4. Free from public or private disgrace
5. Manages his household well
6. Of amiable character and dignified reputation (1 Timothy 3:1-7)
7. Registered as a member of the church for at least three years (this period may be shortened for mission churches by presbytery resolution)
8. Regularly observes the Lord's Day, attends worship services, and practices tithing

Article 64: Duties of Elders

The duties of elders are as follows (1 Timothy 5:17; Romans 12:7-8):

1. To manage administration and discipline in cooperation with the pastor
2. To oversee the spiritual condition of the church
3. To visit, comfort, and instruct the members of the church
4. To exhort the members
5. To monitor the members' adherence to Christian living as taught from the pulpit
6. To nurture the covenant children
7. To pray for the members of the church and evangelize
8. To discuss and assist the pastor with matters necessary for the ministry

Article 65: Selection of Elders

1. Elders are elected with the approval of the Presbytery, following a decision by the Session.
2. Elders are elected by a two-thirds majority vote in the congregational meeting.
3. The Session may recommend candidates for election at the congregational meeting.

Article 66: Ordination of Elders

1. After being elected as an elder, the candidate must receive at least six months of training under the Session's guidance and pass the Presbytery's examination. After that, ordination is conferred through laying on of hands in the church.
2. When an elder from another denomination transfers, they must undergo an examination by the Presbytery.

Article 67: Elders on Leave

1. An elder who temporarily resigns from their duties is called as an elder on leave.
2. During the leave period, the elders retain their positions, but they are not counted toward the quorum needed for the Session's decisions.
3. If the Session seeks to establish a rotational system for elders' service, it must be approved by two-thirds of the members.

Article 68: Non-serving Elders

1. An elder who leaves the church where they are serving and does not take office in another church is referred to as a non-serving elder.
2. If a non-serving elder wishes to resume service, they must have registered with the new church for at least three years and receive approval from the Session and a two-thirds majority vote at the congregational meeting.

Article 69: Associate Elders

If a non-serving elder (who previously served in the denomination or in a church within the NAPARC) is capable of serving, the Session may appoint them as an associate elder. Associate elders have the right to speak at Session and officer's meetings with the Session's approval.

Article 70: Retired and Emeritus Elders

1. **Retired Elders:** Elders who retire due to reaching the mandatory retirement age or for other special reasons later in life are considered retired elders.
2. **Emeritus Elders:** Elders who have served for at least 15 years at a local church may be designated as emeritus elders upon retirement by a resolution of the congregational meeting.

Article 71: Resignation and Reinstatement of Elders

An elder may voluntarily resign due to health reasons or if they are no longer beneficial to the church, or they may be advised to resign by a decision of the Session and congregational meeting.

1. **Voluntary Resignation:** An elder wishing to resign for personal reasons must petition the Session for approval. Then, to resume service, they must obtain the Session's approval.
2. **Advised Resignation:** If a majority of the church members do not wish for the elder to continue serving, the session may propose an advised resignation with the approval of two-thirds of the session members present, followed by a two-thirds majority vote in the congregational meeting. To resume service, the session must determine whether the reasons for resignation have been sufficiently resolved, and a new resolution must be passed with a two-thirds majority vote in both the session and the congregational meeting.

Article 72: Dismissal and Reinstatement of Elders

1. **Dismissal:** Elders may be dismissed voluntarily due to health reasons or if they are no longer beneficial to the church, or they may be advised to resign by a decision of the Session and congregational meeting.

- (1) **Voluntary Dismissal:** An elder wishing to be dismissed for personal reasons must petition the Session for approval.
 - (2) **Advised Dismissal:** If a majority of the church members do not wish for the elder to continue serving, the session may propose an advised dismissal with the approval of two-thirds of the session members present, followed by a two-thirds majority vote in the congregational meeting.
2. **Reinstatement:** An elder who has been dismissed and wishes to be reinstated must follow these procedures:
- (1) Submit a petition for reinstatement to the Session.
 - (2) The session will examine whether the reasons for dismissal have been sufficiently resolved and, if so, may approve reinstatement with the presbytery's approval and a two-thirds majority vote at the congregational meeting.
 - (3) Upon approval of reinstatement, the elder must take the same vows as during ordination.

Chapter 7: Deacons

Article 73: Qualifications for Deacons

A deacon must meet the following qualifications:

1. A male communicant member, aged between 35 and 66, who has been immaculate for at least five years (For English Ministry, the age range is 25 to 66)
2. Of good reputation, with sincere faith, wisdom, and discernment
3. Conduct consistent with the gospel and exemplary in life (1 Timothy 3:8-13)
4. Registered as a member of the church for at least two years
5. Observing the Sabbath, attending worship, and practicing tithing

Article 74: Duties of Deacons

Under the guidance of the session, deacons are responsible for the church's service, administration, finance, and benevolence.

Article 75: Selection of Deacons

1. Deacons are elected by a two-thirds majority vote at a congregational meeting, after the Session approves them.
2. The Session may recommend candidates for election at the congregational meeting.

Article 76: Ordination of Deacons

After being elected as a deacon, the candidate must undergo at least six months of training under the session's guidance and pass the examination. After that, ordination is conferred through laying on of hands in the local church.

Article 77: Deacons on Leave

A deacon who temporarily resigns from their duties is referred to as a deacon on leave.

1. A deacon may take leave for personal reasons with the session's approval or may be recommended to take leave by the session's resolution.
2. To resume service, a deacon on leave must obtain the approval of at least two-thirds of the session members.

Article 78: Non-serving Deacons

1. A deacon who leaves the church where they were serving and does not take office in another church is referred to as a non-serving deacon.
2. If a non-serving deacon wishes to resume service, they must have been registered with the new church for at least three years and receive approval from the session, followed by a two-thirds majority vote at the congregational meeting.

Article 79: Retired Deacons

A deacon who retires due to reaching the mandatory retirement age or for other special reasons later in life is considered a retired deacon.

Article 80: Resignation and Dismissal of Deacons

Even if a deacon has not committed a crime, they may voluntarily resign or be dismissed if they have grown old or are no longer beneficial to the church. The Session may also recommend dismissal if two-thirds of the session members approve.

Article 81: Reinstatement of Deacons

If a deacon who has resigned wishes to be reinstated, the following procedures must be followed:

1. Submit a petition for reinstatement with the recommendation of session members.

2. The session will examine whether the reasons for resignation have been sufficiently resolved and, if so, may approve reinstatement with a two-thirds majority vote at the congregational meeting.
3. Upon approval of reinstatement, the deacon must take the same vows as during ordination.

Chapter 8: Assistant Officers and Temporary Officers

Article 82: Qualifications for Assistant Officers

Assistant officers belong to the Session but serve under the Presbytery in their official capacity. Their qualifications are as follows:

1. **Licentiate:** A licentiate is someone who has passed the licensure examination conducted by the General Assembly, gained the qualification to preach, and serves under the guidance of the Presbytery but does not have governing authority in the church.
2. **Ministerial Candidate:** A ministerial candidate is a male communicant member who has been blameless for at least five years, displays exemplary faith and possesses the qualities befitting a pastor. With the Presbytery's approval, he takes theological education under its guidance and is considered equivalent to a JUNDOSA in terms of qualifications.

Article 83: Duties of Assistant Officers

1. Licentiates and ministerial candidates may become members of the officers meeting of a local church with the session's approval. In unorganized churches, they may serve as a temporary moderator of the officers meeting with the Session moderator's approval.
2. If a licentiate or ministerial candidate displays misconduct or fails to comply with Presbytery guidance, the Presbytery may revoke their licensure and approval.

Article 84: Transfer of Assistant Officers and JUNDOSAs (assistant pastoral staffs)

1. Licentiates, ministerial candidates, and JUNDOSAs who wish to transfer to another Presbytery must obtain the approval of their current Presbytery, submit a certificate of transfer, and resume to the new Presbytery and gain its approval. If they have temporarily moved under the session moderator's approval, they must complete the transfer process within six months.
2. As individuals, they belong to the Session and must submit a certificate of transfer along with their family to the church where they will be serving.

Article 85: Qualifications for JUNDOSA

A JUNDOSA must be a communicant member, aged between 25 and 66 who has been immaculate for at least five years and has passed the JUNDOSA examination conducted by the Presbytery.

Article 86: Duties of a JUNDOSA

A JUNDOSA assists with the duties of a local church under the guidance of the Session or pastor.

Article 87: Qualifications for a KWONSA (a senior deaconess)

A KWONSA must meet the following qualifications:

1. A female communicant member, aged between 45 and 66, who has been immaculate for at least five years. (For English Ministry, the age range is 25 to 66.)
2. Conduct consistent with the gospel and exemplary in life
3. Of good reputation and sound judgment
4. Registered as a member of the church for at least two years

Article 88: Duties of KWONSA

Under the guidance of the Session, KWONSAs visit church members, especially the sick, the poor, those facing trials, and the weak, providing comfort and encouragement and striving to edify the church.

Article 89: Selection of KWONSA

1. KWONSAs are elected by a two-thirds majority vote at a congregational meeting, following a resolution by the Session.
2. The session may recommend candidates for election at the congregational meeting.

Article 90: Ordination, Leave, Resignation, and Reinstatement of KWONSA

1. After being elected as a KWONSA, the candidate must undergo at least six months of training under the Session's guidance and pass the examination conducted by the Session. They are then installed without the laying on of hands.
2. The procedures for leave, resignation, and reinstatement of KWONSAs, and the rules for non-serving and retired KWONSAs, shall follow the relevant articles concerning deacons.

Article 91: Selection of Acting Deacons

Acting deacons are selected by the pastor from among sincere communicant members (with the session's consultation) based on the circumstances of the local church. They serve for a one-year term.

Article 92: Qualifications for Temporary Church Officers

1. Acting deacons must be communicant members, immaculate for at least two years, aged between 25 and 70, and exemplary in faith and conduct.
2. If there are non-serving deacons, the Session may appoint them as acting deacons. If they are elected as ordained deacons at the congregational meeting, they shall only undergo an installation ceremony without the laying on hands.
3. The pastor may appoint a KWONCHAL from among sincere communicant members who have been blameless for at least two years (with the session's consultation) to visit church members, with a one-year term. This may also be an additional duty for a deacon.

Chapter 9: Church Officer Examinations

Article 93: Pastoral Examination

1. **Examination Eligibility:** To receive ordination as a pastor, a licentiate must undergo training and service before petitioning for the pastor examination.
 - 1) A licentiate who has passed the licentiate examination conducted by the General Assembly may petition for the pastor examination at the following regular Presbytery meeting.
 - 2) Military chaplain candidates and missionary candidates recommended by the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee may receive ordination as pastors after passing the pastor examination of the affiliated presbytery, following the licentiate examination.
2. **Required Documents:** The applicant for the pastoral examination must submit the following documents to the Presbytery:
 - 1) Petition for Pastoral Examination
 - 2) Copy of Licentiate Certificate or Certification of Qualification
 - 3) Resume
 - 4) Recommendation and Evaluation from the Senior Pastor
3. **Examination Subjects:**

- 1) **Written Subjects:** Church Worship, Church Governance, Church Discipline, Pastoral Theology
 - 2) **Practical Subjects:** Sermon (Floor Test)
 - 3) **Oral Examination:** Candidates who pass the written exam must undergo an oral examination on the Bible, theology, and their reasons for pursuing the ministry. The Presbytery may also use other examination methods until it is satisfied with the candidate's qualifications.
 - 4) Candidates transferring from the Korean General Assembly must also complete examinations in thesis writing, exegesis, and the history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.
4. **Validity:** If a candidate who has passed the pastoral examination does not receive ordination within two years without a valid reason recognized by the Presbytery, the examination results become invalid.

Article 94: Elder Examination

Applicants for the elder examination must submit their petition according to the rules of their affiliated Presbytery and undergo the examination as follows:

1. **Eligibility:** Candidates must have been elected as elders in a congregational meeting of the local church and have reported to and received approval from the Presbytery.
2. **Examination Subjects:**
 - 1) **Written Subjects:** Bible, Doctrine, Church Worship, Church Governance, Church Discipline, and other subjects as determined by the Presbytery.
 - 2) **Oral Examination:** Candidates who pass the written exam must undergo an oral examination.

Article 95: Licentiate Examination

Applicants for the licentiate examination must submit their petition in accordance with the detailed regulations of the General Assembly Examination Committee and undergo the examination as follows:

1. **Eligibility:**
 - 1) Holders of an M.Div. degree from a seminary directly managed by the General Assembly (Evangelia University in California) or from a seminary recognized by

the General Assembly or NAPARC member churches, or those expected to graduate around June of the current year.

- 2) Blameless communicant members with strong Reformed faith, a clear calling, and spiritual leadership.
 - 3) Candidates who have received at least one year of training as ministerial candidates under their affiliated presbytery.
2. **Required Documents:** Petition for Licentiate Examination, Bachelor's degree (B.A.) certificate, Master of Divinity (M.Div.) certificate, seminary transcript, resume, evaluation from the senior pastor, recommendation from the moderator of the Presbytery, and certificate of completion of licentiate training.
 3. **Examination Subjects:**
 - 1) **Essay Subjects:** Thesis, Exegesis, Sermon
 - 2) **Written Subjects:** Bible, Systematic Theology, Church History
 - 3) **Oral Examination:** Sermon, Interview
 4. **Timing:** The examination is held annually before the regular General Assembly in October.

Article 96: JUNDOSA Examination

Applicants for the JUNDOSA examination must submit their petition by the rules of their affiliated Presbytery and undergo the examination as follows:

1. **Eligibility:** As outlined in Chapter 8, Article 85.
2. **Required Documents:** Petition for JUNDOSA examination, resume, and recommendation from the Senior Pastor.
3. **Examination Subjects:** Bible, Shorter Catechism, Church Governance, Denominational History, Interview, and others.

Article 97: Deacon and KWONSA Examination

The examination for deacons or KWONSAs shall follow the procedures of the elder examination as determined by the Session.

Chapter 10: Church Governing Bodies

Article 98: Definition of the Governing Body

1. The church is managed through meetings that follow a regular and structured process known as governing bodies. These bodies ensure that church members adhere to the church's laws concerning moral and spiritual matters.
2. When discernment regarding the church's order and administration is necessary, the governing bodies work to promote the church's holiness and peace according to biblical teachings.

Article 99: Types of Governing Bodies

The governing bodies are divided into the Session, the Presbytery, and the General Assembly. All governing bodies are composed of pastors and elders, and appeals can be made in sequentially from the Session to the Presbytery to the General Assembly.

Article 100: Meetings of Governing Bodies

The Session must meet at least once annually, the Presbytery at least twice annually, and the General Assembly once annually.

Article 101: Authority of the Governing Bodies

Each governing body exercises administration and discipline per the BCO and church regulations to maintain church order, holiness, and peace. They may also establish their own rules based on the BCO when necessary.

Article 102: Nature of Governing Body Decisions

1. While each governing body has its authority, it is not independent. Therefore, all churches under the General Assembly recognize decisions according to the law by any governing body.
2. Each governing body possesses its unique privileges but is subject to the guidance and supervision of the higher governing bodies in sequence.

Article 103: Method of Decision-Making in Governing Bodies

1. Unless specified in the BCO, decisions in governing bodies are made by a majority vote.
2. If a decision results in a tie, it is considered rejected.

Article 104: Moderator of the Governing Body

Each governing body selects a moderator, who is a senior pastor, to manage proceedings in an orderly and efficient manner.

Article 105: Authority of the Moderator

The authority of the moderator includes the following:

1. Convening and presiding over meetings according to the rules of the governing body
2. Maintaining order and holding all necessary authority to handle agendas
3. Taking measures to ensure compliance with rules and order
4. Preventing infringement of speaking rights among members
5. Taking actions to prohibit insulting or sarcastic remarks among members
6. Facilitating thorough and prompt deliberation and resolution of agenda items
7. Controlling unauthorized departures from the meeting
8. Explaining and declaring decisions
9. Announcing emergency adjournments

Article 106: Clerk of the Governing Body

Each governing body appoints a clerk to record the minutes and safeguard documents.

Article 107: Duties of the Clerk

The clerk of each governing body must meticulously record the minutes, keep all documents, and issue certified copies upon request. The governing body treats certified copies signed by the clerk as original.

Article 108: Standards for Reviewing Minutes

The higher governing body reviews the minutes of the lower body based on the following criteria:

1. Whether the minutes accurately reflect the facts
2. Whether the minutes were recorded following the rules
3. Whether the decisions comply with church law
4. Whether the decisions are wise, fair, and contribute to the edification of the church

Article 109: Instructions for Correcting Minutes

If errors are found in the minutes of a lower governing body, the higher body instructs the lower body to correct them. The lower body must promptly correct the errors and report the results to the higher body.

Article 110: Mediation and Full Commission Committees

The Presbytery or General Assembly may send mediation or full commission committees to address complex issues within individual churches, Presbyteries, or the General Assembly.

Article 111: Composition of the Full Commission Committee

The Full Commission Committee of the Presbytery consists of 3 members (2 pastors and 1 elder), and that of the General Assembly consists of 7 members (5 pastors and 2 elders).

Article 112: Scope of the Full Commission Committee's Authority

1. The Presbytery's Full Commission Committee may temporarily suspend the authority of the local church's session and its members, appoint another pastor as an interim or acting session moderator, and manage the situation with administrative authority.
2. The General Assembly's Full Commission Committee may temporarily suspend the authority of the presbytery's moderator and officers and manage the situation with administrative authority.

Article 113: Effectiveness and Appeals of Full Commission Committee Decisions

1. The Full Commission Committee's decisions take effect immediately upon notification, and appeals can be filed within 15 days of notification.
2. The Full Commission Committee must report its decisions to the governing body.

Chapter 11: The Session

Article 114: Organization and Classification of the Session

The Session is composed of the senior pastor and ruling elders of a church. If there is only one ruling elder, it is called a "provisional Session," and if there are two or more ruling elders, it is called a "full Session."

Article 115: Requirements for Organizing a Session

To organize a Session, there must be at least 20 baptized members and qualified elders. However, unorganized churches are an exception.

Article 116: Handling of Duties in a Provisional Session

A provisional Session may handle general Session duties, but if there is a dispute regarding the elder's disciplinary issue or other matters, the Presbytery should be consulted for resolution.

Article 117: Meetings of the Session

The Session is convened by the moderator in the following cases and must meet at least once a year:

1. When the moderator deems it necessary
2. When two or more elders request a meeting
3. When directed by a higher governing body

Article 118: Notification Requirement for Session Meetings

The moderator must notify all Session members in advance so that everyone is aware of the meeting.

Article 119: Quorum for Session Meetings

A quorum for a Session meeting is met with two elders if there are at least three elders; otherwise, one pastor and one elder are sufficient for a quorum.

Article 120: Session Moderator

The moderator of the Session of a local church is appointed and sent by the Presbytery based on the following:

1. The installed pastor moderates the local church's Session.
2. The senior pastor (who is not an installed pastor) may become the moderator by resolution of the Presbytery.
3. When the position of the installed pastor of a church is vacant, the Presbytery appoints an interim moderator.

Article 121: Interim Session Moderator

1. When the senior pastor is ill or absent, or the agenda concerns the pastor personally, the Presbytery appoints an interim moderator of the Session.
2. An interim moderator not appointed by the Presbytery may only exercise the right to preside over meetings.

3. An interim moderator appointed by the Presbytery manages all pastoral duties except for disciplinary actions requiring the Presbytery's approval.

Article 122: Session Moderator in Unorganized Churches

1. In unorganized churches, the Session moderator handles general Session duties. For problematic issues, the moderator may seek the assistance of the Presbytery. For disciplinary actions, they must request the assistance of one pastor and one elder from the Presbytery. The Session must submit administrative records for annual review by the Presbytery.
2. When selecting elders, deacons, and KWONSAs, unorganized churches may request two presbytery members (a pastor and an elder) to assist with the selection and ordination.

Article 123: Duties of the Session

The duties of the Session include the following:

1. Supervising all matters of the faith and conduct of church members
2. Overseeing all worship services
3. Conducting and implementing the questioning and administration of baptism and confirmation, and encouraging parents to have their children baptized
4. Administering the Lord's Supper
5. Convening congregational meetings
6. Issuing, receiving, and deleting church membership certificates
7. Selecting, examining, and ordaining deacons and KWONSAs
8. Requesting the election and ordination of elders
9. Appointing and dismissing church officers
10. Overseeing the collection and use of church offerings
11. Appointing elder delegates to the Presbytery
12. Reporting and petitioning to the Presbytery
13. Supervising and guiding affiliated organizations and institutions

14. Managing the primary assets of the church

15. Handling all matters related to church discipline

Article 124: Criteria for Selecting Elder Delegates to the Presbytery

The Session may send serving elders as elder delegates to the Presbytery.

Article 125: Session Minutes

The Session's minutes must record resolutions and be reviewed by the Presbytery once a year.

Article 126: Maintenance of Registers

The session must maintain the following registers, which may be kept in electronic format:

1. Register of catechumens
2. Register of baptized children
3. Register of baptized members (communicants)
4. Register of membership transfers
5. Marriage Register
6. Register of missing members
7. Register of disciplinary actions and restoration
8. Death register

Article 127: Dissolution of the Session

A session automatically dissolves if, after its organization, it no longer has serving elders.

Chapter 12: The Presbytery

Article 128: Definition of the Presbytery

Since the one church, as the body of Christ, has been divided into multiple local churches (Acts 6:1-6, 9:31, 21:20), the Presbytery is established as a higher governing body to preserve doctrinal purity and integrity, promote faith, unify church administration and discipline, prevent apostasy and immorality, and manage all general matters of the church, including pastoral issues.

Article 129: Organization of the Presbytery

A Presbytery is organized within a specific region and consists of at least five pastors from different churches and elders sent from at least five sessions. Particular regions may be exempt from this requirement.

Article 130: Meetings of the Presbytery

1. **Regular Meetings:** The Presbytery meets at least twice a year (in spring and autumn) at a scheduled time and place, with notifications sent out at least two months in advance.
2. **Special Meetings:** A special meeting of the Presbytery is convened upon the decision of the Presbytery Executive Committee or when at least two pastors and two elder delegates from different churches request it. Notice of the agenda must be sent to all pastors and elder delegates at least seven days before the meeting, and only the matters listed in the notice may be addressed.
3. **Adjustments for Disasters:** If regular meetings are deemed difficult due to national or natural disasters, the Executive Committee decide to alter the meeting method.

Article 131: Quorum for Presbytery Meetings

A Presbytery meeting requires the presence of at least three pastors and one elder delegate from different churches to be considered quorate.

Article 132: Qualifications of Presbytery Members

The qualifications and rights of Presbytery members are as follows:

1. **Pastors:** installed senior pastors, senior pastors, assistant pastors, mission pastors, institutional pastors, military chaplains and missionary pastors are members of the Presbytery. They are classified as active or inactive members.
 - 1) **Active Members:** (1) Pastors who are fully engaged in their ministry, free of disqualifications, and actively participate in the work of the Presbytery and General Assembly. (2) Active members have the right to be members of the Presbytery and General Assembly and participate in committees.
 - 2) **Inactive Members:** (1) Pastors who miss three or more regular meetings without valid reasons, pastors without a current ministry position, or pastors whose churches are not affiliated with the denomination. (2) Inactive members have the right to be members of the Presbytery and General Assembly but cannot hold office or serve on standing or special committees, although they have speaking and voting rights.

- 3) **Associate Members:** Pastors from other denominations who have joined the Presbytery, with speaking rights for one year after joining.
2. **Elder Delegates:** Elder delegates are those who have been sent by a church Session and received and called by the clerk. They hold membership rights during the presbytery meeting.
3. **Pastoral Members:** Pastors are considered members of that meeting when called by the clerk.
4. **Retired Pastors:** Retired pastors have the right to speak but cannot be members of standing committees or other committees of the governing body.

Article 133: Fulfillment of Member Obligations

If a Session does not send a delegate to the Presbytery, the Presbytery shall admonish that Session. If an elder delegate is absent without a valid reason, the Presbytery shall instruct the Session to censure them. If a pastor neglects to attend Presbytery meetings without a valid reason, the Presbytery shall censure both the pastor and the Session.

Article 134: Duties of the Presbytery

The duties of the Presbytery include:

1. Supervising the Sessions, local churches, pastors, licentiates, JUNDOSAs, ministerial candidates, and affiliated institutions and organizations within its jurisdiction
2. Receiving and processing petitions, requests, inquiries, and grievances from Sessions
3. Receiving and processing administrative lawsuits, appeals, and referred decisions from Sessions
4. Managing and overseeing the examination, ordination, installation, removal, transfer, and discipline of pastors
5. Educating, transferring, and disciplining licentiates, JUNDOSAs, and ministerial candidates
6. Supervising the selection, ordination, and qualification examinations of elders in local churches
7. Administering the qualification examinations for JUNDOSAs
8. Reviewing the minutes of Sessions and administrative records of unorganized churches for legality

9. Interpreting matters related to doctrine and discipline
10. Inspecting local churches to promote holiness and peace
11. Supervising the establishment, division, merger, closure, and organization of Sessions in local churches
12. Overseeing the calling of pastors in local and unorganized churches
13. Guiding and encouraging evangelistic efforts and strengthening education to promote spiritual benefit (Acts 6:1-6, 9:31, 21:20)
14. Processing petitions, proposals, inquiries, grievances, administrative lawsuits, appeals, and referred decisions submitted to the General Assembly
15. Reporting the status of the Presbytery to the General Assembly
16. Sending elder delegates to the General Assembly
17. Implementing directives from the General Assembly
18. Managing property issues of local churches and affiliated institutions

Article 135: Presbytery Minutes

The minutes of the Presbytery must record all proceedings and decisions and be reviewed annually by the General Assembly.

Article 136: Registers Maintained by the Presbytery

The Presbytery shall maintain the following registers:

1. Register of installed pastors, non-stalled senior pastors
2. Register of assistant pastors
3. Register of mission pastors
4. Register of institutional pastors
5. Register of military chaplains
6. Register of missionary pastors and lay missionaries
7. Register of inactive pastors
8. Register of deceased pastors
9. Register of retired pastors
10. Register of emeritus pastors
11. Register of licentiates
12. Register of ministerial candidates and JUNDOSAs
13. Register of local churches (including the date of establishment, division, merger, or closure)

14. Register of elders

Article 137: Establishment, Division, Merger, and Dissolution of Presbyteries

1. Presbyteries' establishment, division, merger, and dissolution require the resolution of the relevant Presbytery and approval from the General Assembly.
2. In such cases, the General Assembly shall send a commission to manage the process and report to the General Assembly.
3. The General Assembly shall reorganize the register of Presbyteries based on the report and manage the transfer of pastors, licentiates, ministerial candidates, and JUNDOSAs from dissolved Presbyteries.

Article 138: Setting and Changing Presbytery Boundaries

1. The boundaries of Presbyteries are set according to the regional division criteria determined by the General Assembly.
2. Changes to Presbytery boundaries may occur during a division or when necessary for specific reasons, with the General Assembly considering the opinions of the relevant Presbyteries before making changes.

Article 139: Regional Committee

1. The Presbytery shall establish regional committee within its jurisdiction to guide and manage local churches effectively.
2. The Presbytery determines regional districts.

Article 140: Regional Committee Members

1. The Presbytery shall appoint regional committee members (including a moderator, a clerk, and treasurer) from the pastors and elder delegates within the regional district. Regional committee members include pastors and elders assigned to the region.
2. The Presbytery determines the number of regional committee members. They shall inspect local churches, provide guidance on significant matters, and report to the Presbytery.

Article 141: Duties of the Regional Committee

The duties of the regional committee within their districts are as follows:

1. The regional committee shall guide and counsel on the calling of pastors and encourage small churches to unite in calling pastors to ensure that all churches have pastors.

2. The regional committee shall plan and guide joint church projects.
3. The regional committee shall review and forward documents submitted by local churches to the Presbytery.
4. The regional committee may inspect the condition of churches as necessary and guide their practices.
5. The regional committee shall report to the Presbytery on the status of churches and the results of delegated matters.
6. The regional committee is not a governing body and cannot independently intervene in disciplinary matters but may handle cases delegated by the Presbytery.

Article 142: Presbytery Regulations

Each Presbytery shall establish and implement its regulations based on the BCO to govern detailed organization and operations.

Chapter 13: General Assembly

Article 143: Definition of the General Assembly

The General Assembly is the highest governing body of this Presbyterian denomination, and its official name shall be the General Assembly of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin).

Article 144: Organization of the General Assembly

The General Assembly is organized by pastors and elders sent by each Presbytery.

Article 145: Delegates to the General Assembly

1. Each Presbytery shall send delegates to the General Assembly according to Chapter 11, Article 132, selecting from its active members.
2. The delegates to the General Assembly are those whose names have been received from the Presbytery and called by the clerk of the General Assembly.

Article 146: Quorum for Convening the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be considered duly convened if the majority of the presbyteries and the majority of the delegates (pastors and elders) sent by the presbyteries are present at the designated time and place.

Article 147: Duties of the General Assembly

The duties of the General Assembly are as follows:

1. The General Assembly oversees all affairs and relationships of the individual churches and governing bodies within the denomination.
2. The General Assembly receives and processes proposals, petitions, appeals, administrative lawsuits, inquiries, and entrusted judgments from the lower governing bodies.
3. The General Assembly examines the minutes of each Presbytery.
4. The General Assembly has the full authority to establish, amend, and interpret the BCO.
5. The General Assembly has the authority to establish, merge, divide, or dissolve Presbyteries and to define their boundaries.
6. The General Assembly mediates church disputes and promotes peace and holiness.
7. The General Assembly establishes and manages theological seminaries, trains pastors, and oversees the examination of candidates for ministry.
8. The General Assembly plans and implements education, missions, and charity activities.
9. The General Assembly fosters fellowship with Reformed churches both domestically and internationally.

Article 148: Convening of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall convene annually at the designated time and place. In the event of the moderator's absence, the vice moderator or the previous moderator shall open the meeting and preside until a new moderator is elected. The officers of the General Assembly shall continue their duties until the next General Assembly. Delegates shall have membership rights of that particular meeting once their names have been received by each Presbytery and called by the clerk of the General Assembly.

Article 149: Continuation of the General Assembly or Emergency General Assembly

1. If the General Assembly is adjourned due to a lack of quorum or recessed for an extended period, it may reconvene as a continuation of the original General Assembly.

2. The members of the continuation of the General Assembly shall be the delegates of the original General Assembly.
3. An emergency General Assembly may be convened in the event of a national disaster or similar crisis.

Article 150: Position and Duties of the Moderator of the General Assembly

1. The Moderator of the General Assembly represents the General Assembly and oversees its operations and subsidiary organizations.
2. If the moderator is absent, the vice moderator shall act in his place. If the vice moderator is also absent, the immediate past moderator (or in reverse order) shall act in his place.

Article 151: Opening and Closing of the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be opened and closed with prayer. The moderator shall declare the closing with the following statement and benediction: "By the authority entrusted to me by the church, I declare that this General Assembly is now adjourned."

Chapter 14: Church Meetings and Affiliated Organizations

Article 152: Congregational Meeting

1. **Members:** Members of the congregational meeting are those who hold church membership rights in the church and are baptized members (communicants) who are 18 years or older without any disciplinary issues.
2. **Convening:** The congregational meeting is convened by the decision of the Session, or in the following cases, by the Session moderator, who shall announce the date, place, and agenda one week in advance:
 - 1) When requested by the officers meeting
 - 2) When requested by more than one-third of the baptized members in good standing
 - 3) When directed by a higher governing body.
3. **Moderator and Clerk:**
 - 1) The moderator is also the moderator of the church's Session. If the moderator is absent, Chapter 10, Article 121, Paragraph 1 shall apply.
 - 2) The clerk is also the clerk of the church's Session and shall compile and keep separate minutes of the meeting.

4. **Quorum:** The congregational meeting can be convened with the members present at the designated time and place. However, if the attendance is too low, the moderator may set a new time for the meeting.
5. **Meeting Agenda:** The following matters shall be decided by the congregational meeting:
 - 1) Matters proposed by the Session or the moderator
 - 2) Budget and financial statements of the church
 - 3) Acquisition and disposition of the church's principal assets
 - 4) Election of church officers
 - 5) Matters directed by the higher governing body.

Article 153: Officers Meeting

1. **Members:** Members of the officers meeting shall include the pastors, elders, deacons, and KWONSAs of the church. By resolution of the Session, membership may also be granted to licentiates, JUNDOSAs, and acting deacons.
2. **Convening:** The officers meeting is convened by the moderator in the following cases:
 - 1) When the moderator deems it necessary to convene the meeting
 - 2) When requested by more than one-third of the members.
3. **Officers:** The moderator of the officers meeting shall be the Session moderator. The Session or the officers meeting shall appoint the clerk and treasurer.
4. **Quorum:** The officers meeting shall convene with those present at the designated time after the church has publicly announced the meeting.
5. **Meeting Agenda:** The following matters shall be decided by the officers meeting:
 - 1) Execution of the budget as decided by the congregational meeting
 - 2) Budget amendments
 - 3) Management of regular assets and special offerings
 - 4) Other important financial matters.

Article 154: Officers Meetings of Unorganized Churches

In unorganized churches, the pastor, licentiates, JUNDOSAs, and acting deacons shall conduct the business of the officers meeting.

Article 155: Limits on the Duties of the Officers Meeting

The officers meeting cannot pass any resolutions that infringe on the inherent duties of the congregational meeting or the Session beyond what is permitted by the BCO. However, they may decide on matters that have been delegated to them.

Article 156: Joint Session

If there are two or more Sessions within a region, a joint Session may be organized for the convenience of joint church projects. The members of the Joint Session shall include all members of each Session, but it shall not have governing authority.

Article 157: Joint Officers Meeting

If two or more individual church officers meeting within a region want, a joint officers meeting may be organized for cooperative projects such as joint finances, evangelistic activities, church education, and promoting church development. The members shall include the moderators of the officers meetings of all participating churches and delegates sent by each officers meeting.

Article 158: Affiliated Organizations of Presbytery and General Assembly

Each Presbytery and the General Assembly may establish affiliated organizations or institutions for the development of their meetings and shall oversee them as follows:

1. Permission from the governing body must be obtained before organizing affiliated organizations or institutions.
2. The governing body must approve the Bylaws, rules, officer appointments, and business plans of the affiliated organizations or institutions.
3. Affiliated organizations or institutions shall conduct activities for church development, such as education, missions, and charity under the supervision of their pastors and are subject to financial audits.

Article 159: Church Affiliated Organizations and Institutions

1. Church-affiliated organizations refer to direct organizations appointed by the Session, and affiliated institutions are subordinate institutions operated under the pastor's supervision.
2. If an affiliated institution or voluntary organization does not submit to the pastor's supervision or refuses proper guidance, the Session may issue a warning to its

representative. If the warning is not heeded, it may take legal action and order the dissolution of the institution or organization.

Chapter 15: Missions and External (Denominational, Organizational) Exchanges

Article 160: Purpose

God desires that all people be saved, and He has commanded the church to spread the gospel. Therefore, the church must focus on missions. Furthermore, since Christ, the head of the church, is united with His body, the church, and has entrusted the fellowship among believers, the General Assembly shall strive to promote unity and cooperation with Reformed churches.

Article 161: Missionaries Sent by the General Assembly

The General Assembly shall send missionaries abroad to establish churches and spread the gospel through all means, including medical care and education, to carry out the Great Commission effectively.

1. Missionaries sent by the General Assembly shall be selected from among pastors or professionals.
2. Missionaries sent by the General Assembly shall also include diaspora missionaries serving in particular regions as determined by the General Assembly.
3. Missionaries sent by the General Assembly shall be guided and supervised by the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee.
4. The ecclesiastical membership of missionaries shall remain with the Presbytery to which they belonged at the time of their sending or with the sending institution's Presbytery.

Article 162: Missionaries Residing in the United States

1. If a missionary sent by a foreign church wishes to engage in mission work in cooperation with this denomination within the United States, they must submit their dispatch certificate from their home church to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall have them undergo a prescribed process, after which they may collaborate with the relevant Presbytery or institution for their mission work.
2. Missionaries residing in the United States must collaborate with the relevant Presbytery or institution while carrying out their mission work in the United States.

Article 163: Sister Church Relationships

This denomination shall establish sister church relationships with foreign churches that align with its theology and way of life, fostering goodwill and cooperation. The churches that have a sister relationship with this denomination are as follows:

1. General Assemblies organized abroad in the same spirit of this denomination:
 - 1) Korean General Assembly
 - 2) Oceania General Assembly
 - 3) European General Assembly
2. Foreign denominations eligible for sister church relationships:
 - 1) The Reformed Churches in the Netherlands (Liberated)
 - 2) The Free Reformed Churches of Australia
 - 3) The Reformed Churches in South Africa

Article 164: Friendly Relationships

This denomination shall establish friendly relationships and cooperate with denominations that agree with its theology and faith and wish to promote goodwill. The denominations that have a friendly relationship with this denomination are as follows:

1. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Korea (Hapdong)
2. The Orthodox Presbyterian Church (USA)
3. The Reformed Church in Japan
4. The Free Reformed Churches in South Africa
5. The Presbyterian Church in America

Article 165: Cooperative Relationships with Foreign Church Organizations

The General Assembly may join foreign church organizations that do not contradict the theology and faith of this denomination to contribute to the expansion of God's kingdom and cooperate with them. The foreign church organizations with which this denomination has a cooperative relationship are as follows:

1. The North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council (NAPARC)
2. The International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC)

Chapter 16: Property

Article 166: Classification of Property

The property of a particular church, a Presbytery, and the General Assembly shall be classified into fundamental property and ordinary property.

1. Fundamental property includes real estate and any property designated as fundamental by the resolution of the respective body.
2. Ordinary property includes all property not classified as fundamental property in Paragraph 1.

Article 167: Property of a Particular Church

The property of a particular church shall be as follows and shall be used for the operation of the church:

1. Property accumulated by the church
2. Property of the subordinate institutions and organizations of the church
3. Other property donated to the church

Article 168: Property of the Presbytery

The property of the Presbytery shall be as follows and shall be used for the operation of the Presbytery:

1. Property accumulated by the Presbytery
2. Property entrusted by individual churches
3. Property of the institutions and organizations under the Presbytery
4. Other property donated to the Presbytery

Article 169: Property of the General Assembly

The property of the General Assembly shall be as follows and shall be used for the operation of the General Assembly:

1. Property accumulated by the General Assembly

2. Property entrusted by Presbyteries or individual churches
3. Property of the institutions and organizations under the General Assembly
4. Other property donated to the General Assembly

Article 170: Preservation and Management of Property

1. The fundamental property of individual churches, Presbyteries, and the General Assembly, including real estate, shall, in principle, be incorporated and preserved within the Maintenance Foundation of the General Assembly of the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin) (However, real estate of individual churches not incorporated into the Maintenance Foundation may be preserved under the name of the individual churches but must follow the guidance of the General Assembly's Maintenance Foundation).
2. The acquisition, sale, donation, exchange, mortgage, or change of use of fundamental property shall be handled as follows:
 - 1) Particular churches shall pass resolutions sequentially in the Session, and congregational meeting, and Presbyteries and the General Assembly shall pass resolutions in their regular meetings.
 - 2) Property incorporated into the General Assembly's Maintenance Foundation shall be handled according to the BCO submitted to the state government, following the resolution in Clause 1 above.
 - 3) The Maintenance Foundation shall manage property entrusted by individual churches, Presbyteries, and the General Assembly in good faith by the Board of Directors, and no resolution for disposal may be made without a request from the entrusted body.
 - 4) Property entrusted to the Maintenance Foundation by individual churches shall be managed by the church's Session.
 - 5) Session shall manage the fundamental property of individual churches, and the officers meeting shall manage ordinary. Real estates should be registered in the name of the individual church.
 - 6) Since the property of individual churches is not shareable by church members, those who leave the church shall be deemed to have forfeited their rights to the property.

Article 171: Restrictions on Property Rights

1. Church members may not claim any share of the church's property.

2. Those who entrusted their property to the Maintenance Foundation shall not be able to claim any rights to that property if they leave the Presbytery without following the proper procedure.
3. All property rights of those who do not adhere to the doctrines or regulations of this denomination may be restricted.

Article 172: Disposal of Fundamental Property

Resolutions to acquire, sell, donate, exchange, or change the use of fundamental property shall follow these principles:

1. Individual churches require a two-thirds majority vote in the Session and the congregational meeting.
2. Presbyteries and the General Assembly require a two-thirds majority vote.

Article 173: Property Management of Unorganized Churches

In unorganized churches, the Officers Meeting shall manage the property entrusted to the Maintenance Foundation and the fundamental property until a Session is organized.

Article 174: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for individual churches, Presbyteries, and the General Assembly shall be as follows:

1. **Particular Churches:** From January 1 to December 31 each year, unless changed due to the circumstances of the church.
2. **Presbytery:** From the day after the regular Presbytery meeting in which officers are appointed until the next regular meeting.
3. **General Assembly:** From the day after the General Assembly meeting until the next General Assembly meeting.

Article 175: Management of Operating Expenses

1. **Supplementary Budget:** The operating expenses of individual churches shall be executed within the budget passed by the congregational meeting. If the budget needs to be amended, it shall go through a process similar to the church's budget formulation process and be executed with the approval of the officers meeting.
2. **Expenditure Outside the Budget Items:** Any expenditure not included in the budget items passed by the congregational meeting may be made upon the Session's proposal and resolution of the officers meeting.

3. **Cash Management and Receipts:** Cash shall be deposited in a financial institution, and receipts shall be kept for all expenditures. However, if the officers meeting of an individual church sets a cash retention limit, the treasurer must manage it faithfully.
4. **Reserve Fund:** The expenditure budget must include a reserve fund of at least 1% of the total budget.
5. **Accounting Report:** The treasurer of the individual church must submit an accounting report to the regular meeting of the officers meeting.
6. **Surplus Funds:** Any surplus funds at the end of each fiscal year, except for the repayment of borrowed funds and amounts carried over to the following year, must be accumulated and shall be considered as fundamental property of the relevant governing body or the individual church.

Article 176: Audit

Individual churches, Presbyteries, and the General Assembly must audit their property status and accounts at least once a year. For this purpose, those responsible for accounting must faithfully present all financial documents.

Church Discipline

Chapter 1: General Provisions

Article 1: Definition of Discipline

Discipline is exercising of the authority given to the church by Jesus Christ. It involves implementing the laws and regulations established by Christ for His church to guide members, officers, and various governing bodies in the right direction.

Article 2: Purpose of Discipline

The purpose of discipline is to protect the truth, uphold Christ's authority and glory, remove evil deeds, maintain the Church's purity and virtue, and promote the offender's spiritual benefit.

1. To achieve these purposes, discipline should be conducted wisely and cautiously.
2. Each governing body should consider the relationship and the gravity of the circumstances when applying discipline, acknowledging that similar incidents may require different handling due to differing circumstances.

Article 3: Nature of Discipline

Discipline along with the Word and the Sacraments is a mark of the Reformed Church. It involves judging and punishing unlawful acts of individuals (members and officers) and governing bodies through judicial proceedings.

Article 4: Subjects of Discipline

The subjects of discipline are as follows:

1. Baptized and communicant members registered in the church
2. Church officers
3. All governing bodies except the General Assembly

Article 5: Scope of Discipline

When members, officers, or governing bodies commit one or more of the following offenses, they shall be disciplined through judicial proceedings:

1. Holding or spreading beliefs contrary to the Bible
2. Causing harm or defamation to individuals, groups, or the church through words or actions contrary to the Bible
3. Failing to follow or violating the doctrines, governance standards, or resolutions established by the church based on the Bible
4. Disrupting worship services or other public meetings of the church
5. Committing criminal acts that result in imprisonment or a more severe sentence, not based on matters of faith and conscience

Article 6: Disciplinary Procedures

Disciplinary procedures consist of two types of trials: disciplinary trials and administrative trials.

1. **Disciplinary Trial:** Lawsuits related to criminal acts committed by members and officers.
2. **Administrative Trial:** Lawsuits concerning illegal administrative acts by governing bodies or disputes between equivalent governing bodies regarding their authority or its exercise.

Chapter 2: Judicial Rules

Section 1: General Provisions

Article 7: Establishment of Judicial Committees and Jurisdiction

1. When necessary, a Judicial Committee shall be established within the Session, while Judicial Committees within the Presbytery and General Assembly shall be permanent.
2. The jurisdiction of lawsuits involving all officers and members, except pastors, belongs to the Session's Judicial Committee, with appeals allowed to the Presbytery and General Assembly in that order.
3. The jurisdiction of lawsuits involving pastors and actions of elders as members of the Presbytery or General Assembly belongs to the Presbytery's Judicial Committee, with appeals allowed to the General Assembly's Judicial Committee.
4. If a lower governing body disobeys or fails to comply with the instructions of a higher governing body, the higher governing body may directly impose discipline.

5. Disciplinary trials pending in closed churches shall be handled by the overseeing Presbytery, and trials pending in dissolved Presbyteries shall be handled by the merged Presbytery.

Article 8: Prepayment of Judicial Costs

1. Complainants, appellants, petitioners, applicants for retrial, applicants for General Assembly-requested judgments, or governing bodies must prepay judicial costs. However, the Session's Judicial Committee is an exception.
2. Judicial costs must be prepaid to the governing body handling the trial, and a receipt copy must be attached.
3. The prepayment amounts for judicial costs are as follows:
 - 1) Complaints (Accusations), Appeals, Lawsuits: Presbytery: \$1,000.00, General Assembly: \$1,500.00
 - 2) Final Appeals: \$1,500.00
 - 3) Objections, Retrial Requests, Appeals, Reappeals, Requests for Entrusted Judgments: Presbytery: \$1,000.00, General Assembly: \$1,500.00
4. The prepaid judicial costs, regardless of the trial's outcome, are non-refundable and are retained by the governing body.
5. Judicial costs may be waived in the following cases:
 - 1) When the moderator and officers of a governing body file a complaint
 - 2) When the moderator initiates a prosecution by authority
 - 3) When the prosecution committee chair requests a retrial

Article 9: Disqualification, Challenge, and Recusal of Judicial Committee Members

1. Judicial Committee members shall be disqualified from their duties in the following cases:
 - 1) When a member is a party to the trial (defendant, plaintiff, or participant) or is or was the spouse of a party.
 - 2) When a member has or had a familial relationship with the party (up to the eighth degree of consanguinity, fourth degree of affinity)
 - 3) When a member has served as a witness or expert in the case

- 4) In such cases, the Judicial Committee shall decide on disqualification either by its authority or at the request of a party.
2. If there are circumstances where it is difficult to expect a fair judgment from a Judicial Committee member, a party to the trial may request the recusal of that member.
 - 1) The Judicial Committee may reject the recusal request if the reasons are found to be unjustified and continue the trial. If justified, the member in question shall be excluded from the hearing and judgment of the case.
 - 2) If the recusal request is denied, the applicant must submit an objection to the higher Judicial Committee within 10 days of receiving the decision. The higher Judicial Committee shall determine the validity of the recusal within 20 days and notify both the applicant and the relevant Judicial Committee of the decision.
 - 3) A party may not request the recusal of more than one-third of the total Judicial Committee members in the same case, nor may they request recusal after participating in the trial and making statements regarding the case's merits.
3. Judicial Committee members may recuse themselves with the Judicial Committee Chair's approval if the conditions of above Paragraph 1 or 2 apply.
4. If disqualification or recusal is confirmed, and the Judicial Committee lacks a quorum, the governing body (or its officers if out of session) shall immediately appoint replacements upon request from the Judicial Committee. However, the newly appointed members shall only participate in the judgment of that specific case, and the disqualified or recused members shall not participate in the trial's proceedings or decisions.

Section 2: Session Judicial Committee

Article 10: Composition

The Session Judicial Committee shall consist of at least two members (including the Session moderator) appointed by the Session. The entire Session membership, excluding the prosecution committee, may serve as the Judicial Committee if necessary. If the minimum number of members required to form the Judicial Committee is not met, the Session may request assistance from the Presbytery to form the committee or request an entrusted judgment from a higher governing body.

Article 11: Election of Officers and Their Duties

1. The Judicial Committee shall have officers, including a chairperson and a secretary, elected from among its members. The chairperson being the Session moderator and the secretary being elected from among the elders.

2. The Judicial Committee chairperson presides over the trial and directs and supervises the judicial affairs of the committee. The secretary documents and preserves the proceedings as meeting minutes and oversees the committee's judicial affairs.

Article 12: Decision-Making Process

1. The Judicial Committee meeting shall be convened with the attendance of at least two-thirds of the committee members, and decisions shall be made by a majority vote.
2. If determining the type of punishment is difficult due to divided opinions, a final decision shall be made by a simple majority of those present rather than by a majority vote.

Article 13: Jurisdiction of Trials

The Session Judicial Committee shall adjudicate lawsuits involving all officers and members, except pastors.

Section 3: Presbytery Judicial Committee

Article 14: Composition

1. The Presbytery Judicial Committee shall consist of three members (two pastors and one elder) appointed by the Presbytery. However, more than one member may not be appointed from the delegates sent by the same church.
2. Judicial Committee members shall be selected from among Presbytery members with significant knowledge of church law, with pastors serving for at least ten years and elders for at least seven years.

Article 15: Term of Office and Replacement of Members

1. The term of office for Judicial Committee members shall be three years, with one-third of the members being replaced annually by the Presbytery.
2. If a vacancy occurs among the Judicial Committee members, the Presbytery Nomination Committee shall appoint a replacement. The replacement member's term shall be the remainder of the predecessor's term.

Article 16: Election of Officers and Their Duties

1. The Judicial Committee shall have officers, including a chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer, elected annually from among its members.
2. The chairperson presides over the trial and directs and supervises the committee's judicial affairs. The secretary documents and preserves the proceedings as meeting minutes

oversees the committee's judicial affairs, and the treasurer oversees the committee's financial affairs.

Article 17: Decision-Making Process

1. The Judicial Committee meeting shall be convened with the attendance of at least two-thirds of the committee members, and decisions shall be made by a majority vote.
2. The secretary shall detail the entire proceedings and the trial's verdict, and both the chairperson and secretary shall sign the record to certify its accuracy. A copy of the signed record must be submitted to the clerk of the Presbytery, and copies of the verdict must be provided to both the plaintiff and the defendant.
3. The Judicial Committee must report its verdict directly to the clerk of the Presbytery, who shall ensure the higher governing body reviews both the record and the meeting minutes.
4. If the Judicial Committee reaches a verdict on a matter entrusted to it during the Presbytery's session, it must immediately report the verdict. If the Presbytery adopts the report, the verdict shall be recognized as the Presbytery's decision.
5. During the Presbytery's session, the Presbytery may adopt or cancel the Judicial Committee's report. If the report is canceled, the Presbytery may directly investigate and resolve the matter according to judicial rules.
6. After the Presbytery has adjourned, any verdict reached by the Judicial Committee shall take effect as the Presbytery's decision from the time of the ruling. It shall become finalized as the Presbytery's decision once it is reported and adopted by the Presbytery.

Article 18: Jurisdiction of Trials

The Presbytery Judicial Committee shall adjudicate the following cases:

1. Lawsuits involving pastors and actions of elders as members of the Presbytery or General Assembly
2. Appeals against decisions of the Session Judicial Committee
3. Administrative lawsuits concerning the administrative decisions of the Session
4. Appeals against the non-prosecution decisions of the Session's Prosecution Committee
5. Entrusted judgment cases requested by the Session moderator

6. Cases entrusted by the Presbytery. However, in urgent cases that arise after the Presbytery has adjourned, the Presbytery Executive Committee may decide to entrust the case to the Judicial Committee.
7. Cases directed by the General Assembly Judicial Committee

Section 4: General Assembly Judicial Committee

Article 19: Composition

1. The General Assembly Judicial Committee shall comprise seven members selected from the General Assembly delegates, including five pastors and two elders. However, no more than two members may be chosen from the delegates sent by the same Presbytery.
2. Judicial Committee members shall be chosen from those with significant knowledge of church law, with pastors having served for at least 15 years and elders for at least 7 years.

Article 20: Term of Office and Replacement of Members

1. The term of office for Judicial Committee members shall be three years, with one-third of the members being replaced annually by the General Assembly.
2. If a vacancy occurs during the General Assembly session, the General Assembly Nominating Committee shall appoint a replacement. If a vacancy occurs after the Assembly has adjourned, the General Assembly Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement. The term of the replacement member shall be the remainder of the predecessor's term.
3. Members whose terms have expired may not serve consecutive terms but they may serve again after a break.

Article 21: Election of Officers and Their Duties

1. The Judicial Committee shall elect officers from among its members annually, including a chairperson, a secretary, and a treasurer.
2. The chairperson shall preside over the trial and direct and supervise the committee's judicial affairs. The secretary shall document and preserve the proceedings as meeting minutes and oversee the committee's judicial affairs. The treasurer shall manage the committee's financial affairs.

Article 22: Decision-Making Process

1. The Judicial Committee meeting shall be convened with the attendance of at least two-thirds of the committee members, and decisions shall be made by a majority vote.

2. The secretary of the General Assembly Judicial Committee shall record the entire process and verdict of the trial, and both the chairperson and secretary shall sign the record. A copy of the signed record must be provided to the clerk of the General Assembly and the plaintiff and defendant.
3. The clerk of the General Assembly shall keep a copy of the received record identical to the General Assembly minutes.
4. Any case adjudicated by the General Assembly Judicial Committee shall take effect as the decision of the General Assembly from the time of the ruling and shall be finalized as the decision of the Assembly once it is reported to and adopted by the General Assembly.

Article 23: Jurisdiction of Trials

The General Assembly Judicial Committee shall adjudicate the following cases and report them to the General Assembly:

1. Appeals against the decisions of the Presbytery Judicial Committee.
2. Reappeals against the non-prosecution decisions of the Presbytery's Prosecution Committee.
3. Entrusted judgment cases requested by the Presbytery Judicial Committee Chairperson.
4. Cases entrusted by the General Assembly. However, in urgent cases that arise after the Assembly has adjourned, the General Assembly Executive Committee may decide to entrust the case to the Judicial Committee.
5. Administrative cases as defined by the BCO.

Chapter 3: Disciplinary Trials

Section 1: General Provisions

A disciplinary trial refers to determining the guilt or innocence of an accused person. If found guilty, the individual is punished according to the law.

Article 24: Cases Requiring a Disciplinary Trial

1. When there is a formal complaint or accusation of a definite crime
2. When there is an appeal or final appeal against a lower Judicial Committee's decision (unconfirmed verdict)

3. When there is an appeal or final appeal against an order or decision of a lower Judicial Committee
4. When there is an appeal or final appeal against a non-prosecution decision made by the Prosecution Committee

Article 25: Parties to the Lawsuit

1. The parties to a lawsuit refer to those who can be the main actors, including the plaintiff, defendant, and participants.
2. An individual, any governing body within the Korean Presbyterian Church in America (Kosin), or any third party legally authorized to file a lawsuit becomes the plaintiff upon filing the lawsuit.
3. A person becomes a defendant when the Prosecution Committee formally charges them after a complainant or an accuser alleges that he/she have committed a crime.
4. A participant is a third party who becomes involved in an already ongoing lawsuit and engages in the proceedings alongside the original parties.

Article 26: Warning to the Complainant/Accuser

If the complainant/accuser is an individual person, the governing body must warn him/her before trial begins that if the lawsuit is found to be baseless, malicious, or reckless, he/she will be punished.

Article 27: Lawsuits to Be Avoided

When accepting lawsuit documents, the following cases must be handled with caution:

1. A lawsuit filed by someone with negative emotions towards the defendant
2. A lawsuit filed by a person of poor character
3. A lawsuit filed by a person under disciplinary action or whose trial is still pending
4. A lawsuit filed by someone who stands to benefit from the punishment of the defendant
5. A lawsuit filed by a legally incapacitated person (minors, persons under limited guardianship, persons under adult guardianship)

Article 28: Argument

1. Parties shall present their arguments before the Judicial Committee.

2. Parties may appoint a legal representative to argue on their behalf.
3. If a legal representative is appointed, the client must submit a notice of appointment to the Judicial Committee for each trial level.

Article 29: Appointment of a Legal Representative

1. The legal representative must be selected from active pastors or elders of this denomination who know civil and church law.
2. The legal representative may not participate in the decision-making process of drafting the verdict.
3. When a governing body becomes the plaintiff (by appointing a prosecution committee), and the case is appealed, the Prosecution Committee or a representative selected by the higher governing body becomes the legal representative of the governing body.
4. The legal representative may only receive travel expenses (actual costs) and cannot receive any additional attorney fees.

Article 30: Non-Attendance of Either Party

If the Prosecution Committee chairperson or the defendant fails to attend the trial more than twice or does not present an argument even when present, the Judicial Committee may consider the statements made in the submitted indictment, response, or other preparatory documents as their argument and may proceed to hear the argument of the attending party.

Article 31: Timeframe for Delivering a Verdict

1. The verdict must be delivered within 30 days from the date the indictment is filed for the Session Judicial Committee, and within 60 days for the Presbytery Judicial Committee.
2. In the case of appeals or final appeals, the verdict must be delivered within 90 days of receiving the records.
3. If necessary, the period for delivering any verdict may be extended by 30 days.

Article 32: Contents of the Written Judgment

1. The written judgment must include the name, gender, age, church affiliation, position, and address of the person being judged.
2. The written judgment must include the names of the Prosecution Committee chairperson or members and the legal representative.
3. The Judicial Committee members must sign the written judgment.

Article 33: Finalization and Execution of the Judgment

1. The verdict of the Session or Presbytery Judicial Committee becomes final if the appeal period has passed without an appeal being filed.
2. The verdict of the General Assembly Judicial Committee takes effect from the date of its pronouncement and becomes final once it is reported to and adopted by the General Assembly.
3. The execution of the judgment must be carried out according to the finalized judgment.
4. The judgment must be executed in writing, with a certified copy attached.
5. The verdict of the General Assembly Judicial Committee must be reported to the General Assembly.

Article 34: Manner of Pronouncing and Notifying the Judgment

1. The judgment must be pronounced or notified in court through the written judgment or, in other cases, by delivering a certified copy of the judgment.
2. The Judicial Committee chairperson pronounces or notifies the judgment. When pronouncing the judgment, the chairperson shall read the order and summarize the reasons for the decision.

Article 35: Timeframe for Delivery of Judgment

A certified copy of the judgment must be delivered to the parties within 10 days of the pronouncement.

Article 36: Correction of Judgment

1. If there is an obvious error, mistake, or other inaccuracies in the content of the judgment, the Judicial Committee may correct it either by its authority or at the request of a party.
2. The request for correction must be made in writing, stating the reasons for the request.
3. If the Judicial Committee deems the correction unnecessary, the request must be immediately dismissed.

Article 37: Request for a Certified Copy of the Judgment

The defendant or any other party involved in the lawsuit may request a certified copy of the judgment or the court record.

Article 38: Preparation of Court Records

1. The Judicial Committee must prepare court records.
2. The court records must include the following information:
 - 1) The date and time of the trial and the Judicial Committee involved
 - 2) The names of the Judicial Committee members, Prosecution Committee members, defendant, and legal representatives
 - 3) A statement of the charges
 - 4) The evidence documents and exhibits examined during the trial
 - 5) A summary of the arguments presented
 - 6) Confirmation that the defendant or legal representative was given an opportunity to make a final statement and a record of that statement
 - 7) The judgment and other decisions made during the trial
3. The court records must be signed by the Judicial Committee chairperson and secretary.
4. The court records must be organized within 20 days after the trial date.

Article 39: Stenography and Recording in Court

1. If deemed necessary, the Judicial Committee chairperson may, by authority or at the request of the defendant, legal representative, or Prosecution Committee chairperson, have a stenographer take notes or use a recording device to record all or part of the questioning of the defendant or witnesses.
2. If stenography or recording requires expenses due to a request, the defendant, legal representative, or Prosecution Committee chairperson must prepay the amount determined by the Judicial Committee.
3. If stenography or recording is done at the request of a party, as mentioned in Paragraph 1, the requesting party must bear the actual costs and may request a copy of the stenographic or recorded transcript.

Article 40: Principles of Service

Service shall be carried out by the authority of the Judicial Committee chairperson, and the recipient may be served via registered mail or email. In the latter case, confirmation of receipt must be obtained, and a certificate of proof must be submitted.

Article 41: Calculation of Time Periods

1. For time periods calculated in hours, the calculation begins immediately; for periods calculated in days, months, or years, the start date (the day the event occurred) is not included.
2. If the last day of a period falls on a public holiday, it is not counted as part of the period.

Section 2: Accusation and Prosecution

Article 42: Accusation

1. An accusation occurs when a crime victim informs the relevant authority of the crime and requests its prosecution.
2. An accusation may be made by the victim of the crime or their legal representative.
3. If the victim is deceased or unable to make an accusation, the spouse, direct relatives, or siblings of the victim may do so.

Article 43: Prosecution

1. Prosecution refers to when a third party becomes aware of a crime, informs the relevant authority, and requests that the crime be prosecuted.
2. A governing body (moderator or officers) may initiate prosecution to exercise discipline when a clear crime has occurred within their jurisdiction, even if there is no accuser.

Article 44: Time Limits for Accusation and Prosecution

1. An accusation or prosecution cannot be made one year after the offense was discovered.
2. If unavoidable circumstances prevent an accusation or prosecution, the period from when the reason began until it ended is excluded from the overall period.
3. Reasons for not being able to file an accusation or prosecution must be submitted in writing to the Judicial Committee and are recognized only upon approval by the committee.

Article 45: Method of Filing Accusation and Prosecution

1. Accusations and prosecutions must be submitted in writing to the moderator of the governing body to which the parties belong.
2. The accusation or prosecution document must include the following information and be signed: the names, gender, age, church affiliation, position, and addresses of both the accuser/prosecutor and the accused.
3. The explanation of evidence must detail the content of the crime (such as the time, place, and circumstances of the offense), along with any evidence (documentary, physical), and witnesses.
4. Each crime must be documented separately, with a separate explanation of evidence for each criminal act.
5. If the accusation is made due to harm, a statement must be submitted that attempts have been made to follow the guidance of Matthew 18:15-17.
6. Multiple crimes committed by the same individual can be accused simultaneously.

Article 46: Submission and Receipt of Documents and Summoning of the Accused

1. All related documents necessary for the lawsuit must be submitted to the moderator of the governing body to which the parties belong or to the moderator of the higher governing body.
2. Any additional documents submitted after the trial has begun must be submitted in two copies for each case to the secretary of the Judicial Committee.
3. When summoning the accused, the Judicial Committee chairperson must serve the summons and relevant documents to the accused at least 10 days before the trial date.
4. The summons must include the name, gender, age, position, address of the accused, the name of the offense, the date and time of the appearance, and the location of the trial. It must be signed by the Judicial Committee chairperson.
5. The service of the summons must be documented with evidence of delivery (such as a registered mail receipt).

Article 47: Handling of Accusations and Prosecutions

1. When the moderator of the governing body receives an accusation or prosecution document, it must be referred to the Prosecution Committee within 10 days.

2. The moderator of the governing body that received the accusation or prosecution document must also serve it to the accused within 10 days in accordance with Article 46, Paragraph 5.
3. After the accusation or prosecution document has been referred to the Prosecution Committee, all related documents must be submitted to the Prosecution Committee's secretary.

Article 48: Withdrawal of Accusation

1. An accusation can be withdrawn at any time before the first judgment is pronounced.
2. Once withdrawn, the accusation cannot be refiled on the same grounds.

Article 49: Prosecution by the Governing Body

1. In cases of explicit criminal acts, even if there is no accuser or prosecutor, the governing body may appoint the necessary number of Prosecution Committee members from among its members to file charges.
2. In this case, the Prosecution Committee members act as plaintiffs and continue in this role until the judgment is finalized.

Section 3: Indictment

Article 50: Indictment

1. An indictment refers to the formal filing of a lawsuit by the Prosecution Committee regarding an accused case.
2. The indictment is initiated and carried out by the Prosecution Committee.

Article 51: Method of Indictment and Indictment Document

1. To file an indictment, the indictment document must be submitted to the relevant Judicial Committee.
2. The indictment document must include the following information: (1) The name, gender, age, church affiliation, position, and address of the defendant, (2) The name of the offense, (3) The facts of the indictment (details of the offense), and (4) The applicable regulations.
3. The Moderator of the governing body, upon resolution by the Session or the Presbytery's Executive Committee, may request the Prosecution Committee to file an indictment against someone believed to have committed an offense.

Article 52: Cancellation of Deferred or Suspended Indictment

1. Deferred or suspended indictments can be canceled at any time before the first judgment is pronounced.
2. The cancellation of a deferred or suspended indictment must be made in writing, stating the reasons.

Article 53: Re-Indictment

If an indictment is deferred or dismissed, the same case can only be re-indicted unless new significant evidence is discovered.

Article 54: Handling Cases Resulting from Accusation and Prosecution

When the Prosecution Committee investigates an offense resulting from an accusation or prosecution, it must complete the investigation and decide whether to file an indictment within 20 days from the date the accusation or prosecution document is received from the Moderator of the governing body. However, if necessary, this period may be extended by 30 days.

Article 55: Notification of Indictment Decision

1. When the Prosecution Committee decides to indict, not to indict, or to defer or suspend an indictment regarding an accused or prosecuted case, it must notify the accuser or prosecutor of the decision within 10 days.
2. If the Prosecution Committee decides not to indict, it must immediately notify the accused of the decision.

Article 56: Non-Indictment

1. If the Prosecution Committee determines that the offense does not constitute a crime or that there is insufficient evidence to prove it, it may decide not to indict the case.
2. If a non-indictment decision is made, the Prosecution Committee must notify the accuser or prosecutor of the reasons within 10 days.
3. The Prosecution Committee may issue the following types of non-indictment orders:
 - 1) **Deferred Indictment:** The offense is acknowledged, but prosecution is deemed unnecessary due to mitigating circumstances.
 - 2) **No Charges:**
 - ① **No Crime Recognized:** The offense does not constitute a crime or is not acknowledged.

- ② Insufficient Evidence: There is not enough evidence to prove the offense.
- 3) **Suspended Indictment:** The investigation cannot be substantially conducted, or conditions for trial cannot be met.
- 4) **No Jurisdiction:**
 - ① The accused is not under the jurisdiction of the court.
 - ② An indictment has already been filed for the same case.
 - ③ The accusation or prosecution is invalid or has been withdrawn.
 - ④ The victim has expressed a desire not to pursue punishment or has withdrawn such a desire.
 - ⑤ The accused is deceased.
- 4. When the Prosecution Committee issues a deferred indictment, it must severely admonish the accused and obtain a written pledge for repentance, except in minor cases.

Article 57: Appeals and Final Appeals

1. If the accuser or prosecutor disagrees with the Session Prosecution Committee's non-indictment decision, they may submit an appeal to the Presbytery Judicial Committee in writing within 15 days of receiving the notice as per Article 56. In this case, the Session Prosecution Committee may correct its decision if it finds the appeal justified; otherwise, it must forward the appeal to the Presbytery Judicial Committee within 10 days.
2. If the Prosecution Committee fails to notify the accuser or prosecutor as required by Article 56, the accuser or prosecutor may consider it a non-indictment and file an appeal under the provisions of the previous clause.
3. If the appeal is dismissed, the appellant may file a final appeal with the General Assembly Judicial Committee in writing within 20 days of receiving the notice of dismissal, following the same procedure through the Presbytery Prosecution Committee. If the Presbytery Prosecution Committee finds the final appeal justified, it may correct its decision; otherwise, it must forward the final appeal to the General Assembly Judicial Committee within 15 days.
4. If the Presbytery Judicial Committee is the court of first instance and there is dissatisfaction with the Presbytery Prosecution Committee's non-indictment or presumed non-indictment, an appeal may be made to the General Assembly Judicial Committee, and the above Paragraph 3 shall apply.

Article 58: Judicial Committee Decisions

1. The Presbytery or General Assembly Judicial Committee, after receiving the appeal or final appeal and related records, must decide within 60 days according to the following distinctions. The Judicial Committee may investigate evidence if necessary:

- 1) If the appeal or final appeal is found to be without merit, it is dismissed.
 - 2) If the appeal or final appeal is found to be justified, the Judicial Committee orders an indictment.
2. When the relevant Judicial Committee decides according to Paragraph 1, it must send a certified copy of the decision and a statement of reasons to the appellant or final appellant, the accused, and the Prosecution Committee.
 3. If the Presbytery Prosecution Committee or the Session Prosecution Committee does not execute the indictment order within 10 days of receiving the certified copy of the decision, the accuser or prosecutor may appeal again to the Presbytery or General Assembly Judicial Committee once. If the indictment order is still not executed, the Judicial Committee shall directly conduct the trial.

Article 59: Composition of the Session Prosecution Committee

1. The Session Prosecution Committee shall consist of one or two prosecution committee members appointed by the Session.
2. If there are two prosecution committee members, the committee shall elect a chairperson and a secretary from among its members.

Article 60: Composition of the Presbytery Prosecution Committee

1. When necessary, the Presbytery Nominating Committee shall nominate four prosecution committee members (two pastors, two elders), and the committee shall be constituted with the approval of the Presbytery. However, a pastor or elder from the same church as a Judicial Committee member cannot be appointed.
2. The Presbytery Prosecution Committee shall elect a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer from among its members.
3. If a new case is received while the Prosecution Committee is in operation, the Presbytery may entrust the case to the already constituted Prosecution Committee.
4. If a vacancy occurs in the Prosecution Committee, the Presbytery (or the Executive Committee, if out of session) shall appoint a replacement, whose term shall be the remainder of the predecessor's term.
5. The term of office and reappointment of Prosecution Committee members shall be determined autonomously by the rules of each Presbytery. If the Presbytery's rules do not specify, the term shall be one year, with the possibility of reappointment by the Presbytery's approval.

Article 61: Composition of the General Assembly Prosecution Committee

1. When necessary, the General Assembly Nominating Committee shall nominate five prosecution committee members (three pastors, two elders), and the committee shall be constituted with the approval of the General Assembly. However, a pastor or elder from the same Presbytery as a General Assembly Judicial Committee member cannot be appointed.
2. The General Assembly Prosecution Committee shall handle cases where the General Assembly Judicial Committee is the court of first instance and shall investigate and decide on the indictment based on the request of the General Assembly moderator.
3. The qualifications of the General Assembly Prosecution Committee members shall be equivalent to those of the General Assembly Judicial Committee members.
4. The General Assembly Prosecution Committee shall elect a chairperson, secretary, and treasurer from among its members.
5. The term of office for the General Assembly Prosecution Committee members shall be two years, with two or three members (including one elder) being replaced annually.
6. If a vacancy occurs in the Prosecution Committee, Article 20, Paragraph 2 shall apply.

Article 62: Decision-Making Process

The Prosecution Committee shall convene with the attendance of a majority of its members and decide whether to indict by a majority vote of those present.

Article 63: Investigation of the Accuser/Prosecutor and Interrogation of the Accused

1. The Prosecution Committee chairperson may summon the accuser/prosecutor first to investigate all matters related to the accusation/prosecution.
2. The Prosecution Committee chairperson must notify the accused at least 10 days in advance if they intend to summon and interrogate the accused.
3. The Prosecution Committee must interrogate the accused regarding the facts of the offense and mitigating circumstances and must provide the accused with an opportunity to present any exculpatory evidence.

Section 4: Judicial Rules

Article 64: Service of a Copy of the Indictment

When an indictment is filed, the Judicial Committee must immediately serve a copy of the indictment to the defendant and their legal representative at least 10 days before the first trial date.

Article 65: Designation and Change of Trial Date

1. The Judicial Committee chairperson shall set the trial date.
2. The defendant must be summoned for the trial date.
3. The trial date must be communicated to the Prosecution Committee chairperson and the legal representative.
4. The Judicial Committee chairperson may change the trial date by their authority or at the request of the Prosecution Committee chairperson, the defendant, or the legal representative.

Article 66: Postponement of the Trial

If the plaintiff or defendant does not attend the trial date or requests a postponement, the Judicial Committee shall handle it as follows:

1. Approve the postponement of the trial,
2. Set the date and place for the next session.
3. The Judicial Committee chairperson must notify the plaintiff, defendant, and other relevant parties, including witnesses, at least 10 days before the next session.
4. The summons must be sent via registered mail, with evidence of delivery.

Article 67: Submission of Documents for Non-Attendance

If someone summoned or notified of the trial date cannot attend due to illness or other reasons, they must submit a medical certificate or other relevant documents.

Article 68: Non-Attendance by the Defendant or Prosecution Committee

1. If the defendant or the Prosecution Committee chairperson (or the delegated Prosecution Committee member) does not attend the trial after receiving notification and fails to submit the necessary documents for non-attendance as per Article 67 on two or more occasions, the trial may proceed in their absence.
2. If the defendant cannot attend on the scheduled date due to unavoidable circumstances, they may appoint a representative to participate on their behalf.

3. If only the verdict or notification is being issued, the trial may proceed without the parties' presence.

Article 69: Submission of Evidence Before the Trial Date

The Prosecution Committee chairperson, the defendant, or the legal representative must submit any relevant documents or items as evidence to the Judicial Committee before the trial date.

Article 70: Presumption of Innocence for the Defendant

The defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty by a confirmed verdict.

Article 71: Trial Procedure

The procedure for the trial shall be as follows:

1. The Judicial Committee chairperson explains the reason for convening the trial and declares that the matter will be handled respectfully.
2. Identification: The Judicial Committee chairperson confirms the defendant's identity by asking for their name, gender, age, church affiliation, position, and address.
3. The Prosecution Committee chairperson presents the indictment summary. The Judicial Committee chairperson may allow the Prosecution Committee chairperson to state the summary of the indictment (accusation or prosecution).
4. The Judicial Committee chairperson must allow the defendant to state any facts in their favor.
5. Method of questioning the defendant:
 - 1) The Prosecution Committee chairperson, Prosecution Committee members, and the legal representative may directly question the defendant about the indictment and any mitigating circumstances.
 - 2) The Judicial Committee chairperson and members may question the defendant after the questioning in (1) is completed.
6. Right of the victim to testify:
 - 1) The Judicial Committee chairperson may summon the victim as a witness if the victim requests to testify about the offense.
 - 2) The application is considered withdrawn If the applicant (victim) does not attend without a valid reason after being summoned.

7. Investigation of evidence and examination of witnesses: If the plaintiff or defendant requests an investigation of evidence or witness examination, the Judicial Committee may adopt the evidence and have the witness testify under oath.
8. The Judicial Committee members shall meet privately to discuss and decide on each clause of the accusation (accusation or prosecution) and the explanation of the evidence. They may adjust the penalty considering the circumstances of the crime.
9. The Judicial Committee's decision shall be detailed in the minutes.
10. If there is an appeal, the reasons for the appeal shall also be clearly recorded in the minutes.
11. The minutes become official records of the trial once they are adopted and signed by the secretary.
12. If the matter is on appeal, the decision shall be communicated to the lower governing body after the verdict.

Article 72: Amendment of the Indictment

1. The Prosecution Committee chairperson may add, withdraw, or amend the facts or regulations listed in the indictment with the permission of the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee may grant permission as long as the identity of the indictment is not compromised.
2. If there is an addition, withdrawal, or amendment of the indictment or applicable regulations, the Judicial Committee must promptly notify the defendant or legal representative.

Article 73: Limitation of Unnecessary Arguments

The Judicial Committee chairperson may limit the testimony or questioning of involved parties if it is repetitive or irrelevant to the case, as long as it does not infringe on the parties' essential rights.

Article 74: Pronouncement of Penalties

The Judicial Committee must pronounce penalties by verdict if the offense in the indictment is proven.

Article 75: Stated Reasons for the Penalty Verdict

When pronouncing a penalty, the verdict must specify the facts recognized as a crime, a summary of the evidence, and the application of the constitution or regulations.

Article 76: Notification of Appeal Rights

When pronouncing a penalty, the Judicial Committee chairperson must inform the defendant of the appeal period and the Judicial Committee to which they may appeal.

Article 77: Verdict of Not Guilty

If the defendant's actions are not recognized as a crime or there is no proof of the offense, the Judicial Committee must pronounce a verdict of not guilty.

Article 78: Dismissal of Indictment by Verdict

The indictment may be dismissed by verdict in the following cases:

1. The Judicial Committee does not have jurisdiction over the defendant.
2. A new indictment is filed for a case already indicted.
3. The accusation or prosecution has been withdrawn.
4. The victim has expressed a desire not to pursue punishment or has withdrawn such a desire.

Article 79: Dismissal of Indictment by Decision

The indictment must be dismissed by decision in the following cases:

1. The indictment has been canceled.
2. The Moderator of the governing body has canceled the request for an indictment following a resolution by the Session or Executive Committee.
3. The defendant has died.

Article 80: Dismissal of Indictment Due to Procedural Violations

If the indictment procedure violates the BCO or regulations, the indictment may be dismissed by verdict.

1. When the accusation or prosecution has been dismissed without an indictment.
2. When the accusation or prosecution is made against one's direct ascendant or that of their spouse.
3. When the same accusation or prosecution has been withdrawn and refiled.

4. When the Prosecution Committee has issued a non-indictment decision for the same case. However, this does not apply if the accuser or prosecutor provides sufficient grounds, including new significant evidence.
5. When an unauthorized person (i.e., someone other than the victim, or in the event of the victim's death, the spouse, direct relatives, or siblings) files the accusation or when the accuser or prosecutor fails to appear after submitting the accusation/prosecution document, or cannot be located to testify regarding the accusation/prosecution.
6. When the same individual repeatedly files accusations or prosecutions for similar incidents.

Article 81: Submission of Objections by the Defendant

The defendant may submit an objection before the conclusion of the preliminary statement in the following cases:

1. The trial meeting is not a lawful assembly.
2. There are legal application errors in the accusation document or explanation of the evidence.
3. There are other legitimate objections.

Article 82: Handling of Defendant's Objections

If the defendant's objections are found to be legitimate, the following actions may be taken:

1. Postponement for the adjustment of a lawful trial
2. Dismissal of the lawsuit objections
3. Ordering the correction of the accusation document or the explanation of the evidence

Article 83: Disputes During the Trial Process

1. If disputes arise among members regarding rules or evidence during the trial process, the Judicial Committee chairperson shall listen to both sides and make a ruling by authority.
2. Members may challenge the chairperson's decision.
3. The chairperson shall immediately decide on any matter that reaches a final agreement.
4. The decision must be recorded in the minutes.

5. If a dissenting opinion different from the majority decision in the General Assembly Judicial Committee, it must be recorded in the Judicial Committee minutes.

Article 84: Voting Rights of Judicial Committee Members

1. The Judicial Committee shall call the roll and record the names of absent members in the minutes at each session, regardless of adjournment or recess.
2. Members who do not attend the entire trial process do not have voting rights, except in cases where the Judicial Committee membership changes due to changes in the General Assembly session.
3. In lawsuits between governing bodies, the higher governing body may suspend the voting or speaking rights of the plaintiff and defendant by resolution during trial process.
4. Judicial Committee members cannot participate in trials involving lawsuits from the governing body to which they belong.

Article 85: Defendants

The governing body may suspend a defendant from office or communion until the trial concludes for the church's reputation, but the case must be resolved quickly.

Article 86: Closed Meetings

Depending on the situation, the Judicial Committee may hold a closed meeting with a resolution passed by at least one-third of its members.

Article 87: Encouragement of Reconciliation

The Judicial Committee chairperson may encourage the parties involved to reconcile before the verdict is pronounced.

Section 5: Trials Concerning Church Officers

Article 88: Trials Concerning Pastors

1. The honor and progress of the gospel are closely related to the reputation of pastors; therefore, the Presbytery must carefully examine the pastors' personal conduct and official actions.
2. Pastors should not be given preferential treatment or have their offenses treated lightly; they must be judged fairly.
3. The Presbytery should not hastily accept lawsuits against pastors for trivial matters.

4. If a pastor commits an offense in another regional Presbytery, that Presbytery must report the offense to the pastor's home Presbytery for disciplinary action.
5. The discipline of a pastor is primarily the responsibility of their home Presbytery, but depending on the circumstances, it can be delegated to the regional Presbytery where the pastor resides.
6. If a deposed pastor is to be reinstated, the former Presbytery must follow the procedures of church discipline, but the reinstatement service does not include reordination.
7. When a pastor under call is suspended, their pastoral duties may be revoked, but if an appeal is filed, the decision is suspended until the final verdict is reached.

Article 89: Trials Concerning Elders, Deacons, and Other Officers

The rules governing trials of ministers shall apply to elders, deacons, and other officers.

Section 6: Examination of Evidence

Article 90: Qualifications of Witnesses

Witnesses must meet the following qualifications:

1. Have a firm belief in the existence of God
2. Have confidence in God's just judgment
3. Understand the responsibility of taking an oath
4. Be accepted by the plaintiff and defendant
5. Be selected as a witness by the governing body

Article 91: Disqualifications of Witnesses

Witnesses are disqualified if:

1. They are relatives of the plaintiff or defendant.
2. They have a direct interest in the outcome of the lawsuit.
3. They are under discipline.

Article 92: Obligations of Witnesses

1. The Judicial Committee chairperson may examine any person involved in the case as a witness.
2. Those summoned as witnesses by the Judicial Committee chairperson must appear and testify.
3. The summons for witnesses must be served at least 10 days before the trial date, but witnesses present in court may be examined without a summons.
4. Witnesses who refuse to comply with the summons may be penalized.
5. Witnesses who refuse to testify after appearing in court may be penalized.

Article 93: Limitation of Witness Obligations

1. If an officer or former officer of the governing body reports that the information they possess is confidential to their duties, they cannot be examined as a witness without the governing body's consent. However, exceptions may be made if the Judicial Committee determines that it is in the public interest.
2. Church officers or those in professional positions in society, past or present, may refuse to testify about information concerning others' secrets learned through their duties. Exceptions may be made if the individual consents or the Judicial Committee determines that it is in the public interest.
3. Those who refuse to testify must clearly explain their refusal.

Article 94: Methods of Submitting Evidence

Evidence may be submitted in the following ways:

1. Verbally, directly presented
2. In writing or printed documents
3. Through audio recordings or photographs
4. Submitted through a third party
5. Other credible evidence materials may be submitted

Article 95: Method of Witness Examination

The process of witness examination is as follows:

1. The Judicial Committee chairperson shall have the witness take the following oath:

"I solemnly swear before God, who knows all things and searches the hearts of people, that I will speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, as if answering before God, who will judge the living and the dead."
2. The Judicial Committee chairperson shall have the witness sign the oath.
3. If the witness does not understand the nature of the oath, they may be examined without taking the oath.
4. If the witness testifies falsely, they may be disciplined according to the proper procedures.
5. The sequence of witness examination is as follows:
 - 1) The Judicial Committee chairperson verifies the identity of the witness by asking their name, age, position, occupation, and address.
 - 2) The Prosecution Committee chairperson, the defendant, or the legal representative examines the witness first.
 - 3) The party that presented the witness examines them.
 - 4) The Judicial Committee chairperson may examine the witness at any time if necessary and may change the examination order in Clause 2 above.
 - 5) The members of the Judicial Committee examine the witness.
6. Each witness may be examined individually, but witnesses may be confronted with each other or with the defendant if necessary.
7. Precautions during examination:
 - 1) Irrelevant remarks or jokes are prohibited.
 - 2) The party presenting the witness may not lead the witness to testify favorably towards themselves.

Article 96: Examination of Witnesses Outside of Court

The Judicial Committee chairperson may summon a witness outside of court or examine them at a third location, considering the witness's age, occupation, health, or other circumstances, after consulting with the Prosecution Committee chairperson, the defendant, or the legal representative.

Article 97: Order for Submission of Written Examination Questions

If necessary, the Judicial Committee chairperson may order the party requesting the examination of a witness to submit a written list of questions.

Article 98: Withdrawal of Witnesses

Witnesses who have not yet been examined must leave the courtroom when ordered.

Article 99: Management of Evidence

1. The content of the witness examination shall be recorded or carefully documented, and the witness must confirm and sign the record.
2. This record may be used as evidence by higher or other governing bodies.

Article 100: Evidence Investigation Committee

If both the plaintiff and defendant request an Evidence Investigation Committee, the Judicial Committee shall appoint a few ministers and elders as members of the committee, as follows:

1. The Evidence Investigation Committee must consist of active ministers and elders within the denomination.
2. The Evidence Investigation Committee shall summon the parties involved (plaintiff, defendant, witnesses) to a designated place and time, conduct a thorough investigation using various methods, prepare a report, and submit it to the Secretary of the Judicial Committee after having the members sign it.
3. The Judicial Committee shall review the report of the Evidence Investigation Committee and decide whether to adopt it.

Article 101: Evidence-Based Judgment

The recognition of facts must be based on evidence.

Article 102: Principle of Free Evaluation of Evidence

The probative value of evidence is determined by the free judgment of the members of the Judicial Committee.

Article 103: Documents with Evidentiary Value

The following documents may be admitted as evidence:

1. Identification issued by the government, notarized documents, and other documents prepared by public or foreign public officials within the scope of their official duties.
2. Documents prepared by government agencies or documents prepared during official business.
3. Other documents prepared under credible circumstances.

Article 104: Methods of Evidence Examination

1. The Judicial Committee chairperson shall present the evidence to the Prosecution Committee chairperson, the defendant, or the legal representative and summarize the content if the evidence is a document.
2. The Prosecution Committee chairperson, the defendant, or the legal representative may submit documents or items as evidence and request the examination of witnesses, experts, etc.
3. The Judicial Committee shall decide on the requests for evidence examination mentioned in the previous clause or may initiate the examination of evidence on its authority.

Article 105: Statement of Opinions by the Prosecution Committee Chairperson and the Defendant After Evidence Examination

1. After the examination of the defendant and the evidence is completed, the Prosecution Committee chairperson shall state their opinion on the facts and the application of regulations. If the Prosecution Committee chairperson does not attend the trial date, their opinion shall be considered as stated based on the indictment's contents.
2. After hearing the opinion of the Prosecution Committee chairperson, the Judicial Committee chairperson must allow the defendant and the legal representative to make their final statements.

Chapter 4: Administrative Trials

Section 1: General Provisions

Article 106: Definition of Administrative Trials

An administrative trial refers to the legal process of seeking the modification, nullification, or cancellation of unlawful administrative actions taken by a governing body or resolving disputes regarding the existence or exercise of authority between equal governing bodies.

Article 107: Types of Administrative Lawsuits

1. **Lawsuits for the Modification and Cancellation of Resolutions:** Lawsuits seeking the cancellation, correction, or modification of administrative actions taken by a governing body.
2. **Lawsuits for the Confirmation of Invalidity, etc.:** Lawsuits seeking to confirm the validity or existence of administrative actions taken by a governing body.
3. **Lawsuits Between Equal Governing Bodies:** Lawsuits filed when there is a dispute over the existence or exercise of authority between equal governing bodies.

Article 108: Jurisdiction of Trials

1. The jurisdiction over administrative lawsuits lies with the Judicial Committee of the next higher governing body to which the defendant's governing body belongs.
2. Resolutions of the Presbytery or judgments of the Presbytery Judicial Committee can be appealed to the General Assembly Judicial Committee. However, administrative lawsuits against actions taken by the General Assembly fall under the jurisdiction of the General Assembly Judicial Committee.

Article 109: Standing of the Plaintiff

A person who has received an administrative disposition or decision from their governing body can file an administrative lawsuit as a plaintiff. However, a person under discipline cannot file a lawsuit.

Article 110: Standing and Correction of the Defendant

1. The defendant in an administrative lawsuit is the moderator of the governing body that carried out the administrative action. However, if the authority related to the administrative action has been transferred to another moderator after the action, the new moderator becomes the defendant.
2. If the plaintiff incorrectly designates the defendant, the Judicial Committee can correct the defendant by a decision made either at the plaintiff's request or by its own authority.
3. When the Judicial Committee corrects the defendant as per the above clause, the original decision must be served to the new defendant.
4. When a correction is made under Paragraph 2, the lawsuit against the new defendant is considered to have been filed when the original lawsuit was filed.

Article 111: Intervention by Third Parties

If a third party's rights or interest may be affected by the lawsuit's outcome, the Judicial Committee may, at parties' request or by its own authority, decide to allow that third party to participate in the lawsuit.

Article 112: Filing of a Lawsuit and Time Limit

1. A lawsuit is filed by submitting a complaint to the moderator of the next higher governing body.
2. A lawsuit to cancel a resolution must be filed within 15 days from the day the administrative action was known, or within 120 days from the date of the administrative action.
3. A lawsuit for the confirmation of invalidity, etc., must be filed within 15 days from the day the administrative action was known or within one year from the date of the administrative action.
4. Lawsuits between equal governing bodies may be filed at any time if necessary.

Article 113: Handling of Lawsuits

1. The Judicial Committee that receives the complaint shall hear the statements of both parties and render a judgment.
2. If the Judicial Committee finds the plaintiff's claims valid, it may cancel or modify part or all of the resolution and instruct the lower governing body on how to proceed.
3. The plaintiff and the defendant may appeal the judgment of the Judicial Committee to the higher governing body (Judicial Committee).
4. The lower governing body, that is, the defendant, must submit all related documents and records to the higher governing body (Judicial Committee) within 15 days of receiving the appeal.

Article 114: Contents of the Complaint

1. The complaint must include the following information:
 - 1) The plaintiff's name, gender, age, church affiliation, position, and address
 - 2) The name of the defendant governing body and its moderator
 - 3) The content of the administrative action that is the subject of the lawsuit
 - 4) The date the administrative action was known

- 5) The purpose and reason for the claim
2. The complaint must be signed by the plaintiff (or their representative, if applicable).

Article 115: Amendment of the Claim

1. The plaintiff may amend the purpose or reason for the claim up until the conclusion of the argument as long as there is no change to the basis of the claim.
2. The amendment to the purpose of the claim must be requested in writing.
3. The written request must be served to the other party.
4. The Judicial Committee may reject the amendment if it deems it unreasonable or if it is intended to delay the proceedings, either by its own authority or at other party's request.

Article 116: Withdrawal of the Lawsuit

The lawsuit may be withdrawn in whole or in part in writing before the judgment is finalized.

Article 117: Investigation by the Court's Own Authority

If deemed necessary in connection with the lawsuit, the Judicial Committee may investigate evidence by its own authority and make judgments on facts not asserted by the parties.

Section 2: Lawsuits for the Modification and Cancellation of Resolutions

Article 118: Filing a Lawsuit

If the procedures for convening a governing body, the method of resolution, or the content of the resolution is believed to violate the constitution or regulations, a member of the governing body may file a lawsuit for correction, modification, cancellation, or confirmation of invalidity against the moderator within 15 days of the resolution through the next higher Judicial Committee of the governing body.

Article 119: Handling of the Lawsuit

The higher governing body (Judicial Committee) that receives the complaint shall investigate the case. If the reason for the lawsuit is found valid, it may cancel or modify part or all of the resolution and instruct the defendant governing body on how to proceed. The plaintiff and the defendant may appeal the judgment to the higher governing body (Judicial Committee) if they have objections or do not accept the decision.

Section 3: Lawsuits for the Confirmation of Invalidity, etc.

Article 120: Lawsuits for the Invalidity of Elections

If the election of the Presbytery moderator, vice moderator, or other officers, or the election of the General Assembly moderator, vice moderator, or other officers, is believed to have been thoughtfully and clearly in violation of the BCO or regulations (election ordinances and rules of procedure), an elector or candidate may file a lawsuit for the invalidity of the election against the presiding election committee chairperson (responsible person) within 20 days of the election.

Article 121: Lawsuits for the Invalidity of Election Results

If the election of the Presbytery moderator, vice moderator, or other officers, or the election of the General Assembly moderator, vice moderator, or other officers, is believed to have been seriously and clearly in violation of the constitution or regulations (election ordinances and rules of procedure), an elector or candidate may file a lawsuit for the invalidity of the election results against the presiding election committee chairperson (responsible person) within 20 days of the announcement of the election results.

Article 122: Judgment on the Invalidity of Elections and Election Results

The General Assembly Judicial Committee that receives a lawsuit for the invalidity of elections or election results may render a judgment of invalidity if there is conclusive evidence that the constitution or regulations (election ordinances and rules of procedure) were seriously and clearly violated and affected the outcome of the election.

Article 123: Handling of the Lawsuit

Lawsuits for the invalidity of elections and election results shall be given priority and decided promptly. The General Assembly Judicial Committee must decide within 30 days of the filing of the lawsuit. However, if necessary, this period may be extended by 30 days.

Article 124: Preservation of Evidence

1. The plaintiff may apply to the General Assembly Judicial Committee for the preservation of evidence, such as ballot boxes, ballots, and voting records after the counting is completed when filing a lawsuit for the invalidity of elections or election results.
2. The Judicial Committee that receives the application must visit the site, prepare a record, and take appropriate measures to preserve evidence.

Section 4: Lawsuits Between Equal Governing Bodies

Article 125: Filing a Lawsuit

If there is a dispute between governing bodies regarding the existence or exercise of authority, the moderator of the governing body involved may file a lawsuit with the next higher Judicial Committee.

Article 126: Handling of the Lawsuit

The higher governing body (Judicial Committee) that receives the complaint shall investigate the case. If the reason for the lawsuit is found valid, it may cancel or modify part or all of the decision of the defendant governing body and instruct the defendant on how to proceed. The plaintiff and the defendant may appeal the judgment to the higher governing body (Judicial Committee) if they have objections or do not accept the decision.

Article 127: Application of General Rules

The general rules regarding lawsuits in disciplinary trials in Chapter 3 shall also apply to lawsuits in administrative trials.

Chapter 5: Rules for Handling Cases Processed by Lower Governing Bodies

Section 1: General Provisions

Article 128: Appeal

1. An appeal is a request to the higher Judicial Committee to cancel or modify a decision made by a lower Judicial Committee.
2. Whether the party appealing is the plaintiff or defendant, the appellant is called the appellant, and the party against whom the appeal is made is the appellee. In disciplinary trials, the appellant is either the prosecuting officer or the defendant.
3. Upon appeal, the appellee, a member of the lower governing body, may submit a statement of protest or opinion to the higher governing body.
4. When the higher governing body reads the statement of protest or opinion regarding the appellant, both the appellant and the appellee will have their membership rights suspended within the higher governing body concerning the deliberation and judgment of the case.
5. Decisions made by the Presbytery Judicial Committee or General Assembly Judicial Committee take immediate effect and must be reported to the governing body. However, an appeal must be filed within 15 days of the notification of the judgment.
6. Calculation of the appeal period mentioned in above Paragraph 5:

- 1) If the governing body delivers the sentence directly to the parties involved, the period is calculated from the date of the sentence.
- 2) If the governing body sends the sentence notification by mail, the period is calculated from the postmark date.
7. The appellate court (the General Assembly for ministers, and the Presbytery for others) may investigate evidence, but the court of final appeal (the General Assembly) generally does not, except in unavoidable cases.
8. If a decision made by the Presbytery Judicial Committee is appealed, members of the Presbytery Judicial Committee are excluded from participating in the General Assembly Judicial Committee.

Article 129: Partial Appeal

1. An appeal may be filed regarding only part of a judgment.
2. A partial appeal affects the part directly appealed and any inseparable related parts.

Article 130: Withdrawal of Appeal

1. The prosecuting officer or the defendant may withdraw the appeal.
2. The withdrawal of the appeal must be in writing.
3. The withdrawal of the appeal must be filed with the appellate court. However, if the case records have not yet been transferred to the appellate court, the withdrawal can be filed with the original court.
4. Upon receiving a withdrawal request, the Judicial Committee chairperson must promptly notify the opposing party of the reason.
5. If the appellant fails to appear more than twice without excuse during the appellate trial, the appeal will be considered withdrawn, and the lower court's judgment will be confirmed.

Article 131: Types of Appeals

1. Appeal
2. Final appeal
3. Delegated judgment
4. Protest and further protest

Section 2: Appeal

An appeal is a request for a retrial made by the plaintiff, defendant, or legal representative to the appellate court in response to a first-instance judgment.

Article 132: Procedure and Time Limit for Filing an Appeal

1. To file an appeal, the appellant must submit an appeal document to the original Judicial Committee.
2. The appeal must be filed within 15 days of the notification of the lower court's judgment.

Article 133: Submission of Case Records and Evidence

The original Judicial Committee must transfer the case records and evidence to the appellate court secretary within 10 days of receiving the appeal document.

Article 134: Receipt and Notification of Case Records

Upon receiving the case records, the appellate court must immediately notify the appellant, the opposing party, or their legal representative of the receipt.

Article 135: Appeal Brief and Response Brief

1. The appellant or their legal representative must submit an appeal brief and explanatory statement to the appellate court within 15 days of receiving the notification under Article 134.
2. The appellate court must promptly send a copy of the appeal brief to the opposing party.
3. The opposing party must submit a response brief to the appellate court within 15 days of receiving the appeal brief.
4. Upon receiving the response brief, the appellate court must promptly send a copy to the appellant or their legal representative.

Article 136: Dismissal of Appeal

The appeal must be dismissed if the appellant or their legal representative fails to submit the appeal brief and explanatory statement within the specified period. However, if the appeal document includes reasons for the appeal, this may be an exception.

Article 137: Grounds for Appeal

An appeal may be filed against the original judgment for the following reasons:

1. Violation of the BCO or regulations that affected the judgment
2. Improper composition of the Judicial Committee, contrary to the constitution or regulations
3. Participation in the judgment by a Judicial Committee member who should have been excluded under the constitution or regulations
4. Lack of reasoning in the judgment or contradictions in the reasoning
5. Misinterpretation of facts that affected the judgment
6. Undue harshness or bias in questioning by the lower court
7. Acceptance of unjust or false evidence
8. Rejection of valid and essential evidence
9. A hasty judgment without sufficient investigation of evidence
10. Prejudice observed in the handling of the case
11. Errors or unfair decisions made during the judgment
12. Unjust severity in the punishment
13. Participation in the judgment by a member without voting rights under Article 84, Paragraph 2.

Article 138: Judgment by the Appellate Court

The appellate court must handle the appealed case in accordance with the prescribed procedures and shall proceed as follows:

1. The appellate court shall judge only the grounds for appeal stated in the appeal brief.
2. Evidence that was admissible in the first-instance court may also be considered by the appellate court.
3. If the appeal does not meet the legal requirements (e.g., exceeded the filing period), it shall be dismissed by resolution.
4. If the appeal lacks valid grounds, it shall be dismissed by judgment.

5. If the lack of grounds for appeal is evident, the appeal may be dismissed by judgment without oral arguments based solely on the appeal document, appeal brief, and other case records.
6. If valid grounds for appeal are found, the original judgment shall be overturned, and the case shall be rejudged or referred back to the original court for revision, reconsideration, or cancellation.

Article 139: Prohibition of Disadvantageous Changes

When the defendant files an appeal, a harsher punishment than that given in the original judgment cannot be imposed.

Article 140: Content of the Judgment

The appellate court's judgment must include the reasoning for the decision regarding the grounds for appeal and may reference the facts and evidence cited in the original judgment.

Section 3: Final Appeal

Article 141: Final Appeal

A final appeal is a request for a retrial by the plaintiff, defendant, or legal representative to the third-instance court in response to a second-instance judgment.

Article 142: General Rules for Final Appeals

Unless specifically provided otherwise, the general rules for appeals in Section 2 of Chapter 5 apply to final appeals, including:

1. The procedure and time limit for filing a final appeal
2. Submission of case records and evidence
3. Receipt and notification of case records
4. Final appeal brief and response brief
5. Dismissal of the final appeal
6. Grounds for the final appeal

Article 143: Judgment by the Final Appeal Court

1. The final appeal court shall judge the grounds for the final appeal as stated in the final appeal brief and response brief.
2. If the final appeal lacks valid grounds, it shall be dismissed by judgment.
3. If the final appeal does not meet the legal requirements (e.g., exceeded the filing period), it shall be dismissed by judgment.
4. The court may summon the parties, witnesses, and others for examination if deemed necessary.

Article 144: Overturning and Referral

1. If valid grounds for the final appeal are found, the appellate court's judgment shall be overturned, and the case shall be referred back to the original court or transferred to another equal court for reconsideration.
2. If there was an error in recognizing jurisdiction, the case shall be transferred to the appropriate court.

Article 145: Direct Judgment After Overturning

If the final appeal court overturns the original judgment and determines that the case can be sufficiently judged based on the existing case records and evidence, it may render a direct judgment on the case.

Article 146: Final Judgment and Enforcement

1. Enforcement of the judgment must be based on the final confirmed judgment.
2. The enforcement of the judgment must be carried out by the moderator of the governing body to which the court belongs within 30 days after the judgment is confirmed.
3. The enforcement of the judgment must be done in writing, accompanied by the official judgment document.
4. If the Moderator of the Session fails to enforce the judgment, the Presbytery moderator must enforce it, and if the Presbytery moderator fails to do so, the General Assembly moderator must enforce it.

Section 4: Delegated Judgment

Article 147: Request for Delegated Judgment

1. A lower governing body (Presbytery) may request a delegated judgment from its immediate higher governing body (General Assembly) in writing (with accompanying case documents) in the following cases:
 - 1) A significant case with no precedent in the lower governing body
 - 2) A case that is difficult for the lower governing body to adjudicate
 - 3) A case that the lower governing body is unable to handle due to circumstances
 - 4) A case that may set an important precedent or serve as a significant example
 - 5) A case in which there is disagreement among members of the lower governing body
 - 6) A case deemed appropriate for the higher governing body to adjudicate
2. The scope of the request for delegated judgment includes:
 - 1) Cases in which the lower governing body seeks guidance from the higher governing body before adjudicating
 - 2) Cases in which the lower governing body delegates the entire examination and judgment of the case to the higher governing body. In this case, the higher governing body will receive all related documents from the lower governing body and will also hear statements from the prosecutor (plaintiff) and the defendant.
3. The lower governing body cannot request a delegated judgment without first examining the case. However, an exception is made when the lower governing body is unable to conduct the examination itself.

Article 148: Discretion in Delegated Judgment

The higher governing body that receives a request for delegated judgment from the lower governing body may either issue directives on how to handle the case or return the case to the lower governing body for resolution, at the discretion of the higher governing body.

Article 149: Handling of Requests for Delegated Judgment

1. Requests for delegated judgment must be made to the moderator of the immediate higher governing body.
2. The moderator who receives the request for delegated judgment must forward the case documents to the relevant prosecution committee within 20 days of receiving them.

3. Upon receiving the case documents from the moderator, the prosecution committee must complete its investigation of the case and determine whether to proceed with prosecution within 20 days.
4. For requests for delegated judgment submitted to the General Assembly Judicial Committee after adjourning, the procedures outlined in Paragraphs 2 and 3 may be omitted.

Article 150: Request for Delegated Judgment by the Moderator

1. When a governing body (Presbytery) is unable to convene due to internal disputes, the moderator may, at their discretion, request a delegated judgment from the higher governing body.
2. In the case of an unorganized church or a dissolved session where forming a Judicial Committee is impossible, the moderator may, at their discretion, request a delegated judgment from the Presbytery.

Section 5: Appeal and Further Appeal

The provisions prescribed in Chapter 3 Article 57 of the disciplinary trial regulations apply here.

Chapter 6: Petition for Retrial

Article 151: Grounds for Retrial

A petition for retrial may be submitted for the benefit of the person who received the final disciplinary judgment if one or more of the following grounds are present:

1. It is proven that documents or evidence used in the original judgment were forged or altered.
2. It is proven that testimonies, assessments, or other evidence used in the original judgment were false.
3. The person was sentenced based on false accusations, and a final judgment confirmed the falsity of these accusations.
4. It is proven that a member of the judicial commission involved in the case committed malpractice, such as abuse of power or bribery, concerning the case.
5. It is proven that a prosecutor involved in the investigation or indictment that formed the basis of the case committed malpractice, such as abuse of power or bribery.

6. A legal interpretation by the Legal Committee that could influence the judgment has been issued.
7. Even after the appeal period has expired, new evidence has emerged that could prove the defendant's innocence in a case where a guilty verdict was reached.
8. The term "proven" in the above points refers to proof provided by public institutions or confirmed by a final judgment from a state court.

Article 152: Jurisdiction for Retrial

The original judicial commission has jurisdiction over the retrial, and subsequent appeals can be made sequentially.

Article 153: Procedure for Petitioning for a Retrial

1. A retrial begins when the petitioner submits a petition for retrial, detailing the purpose and grounds for the retrial, along with a copy of the original judgment, evidence, and certificates, to the governing body of the original judgment.
2. The governing body that receives the petition must forward it to the relevant judicial commission within 10 days of receipt.
3. The procedure for petitioning for a retrial follows the general litigation procedures prescribed for each level of trial.

Article 154: Timeframe for Petitioning for a Retrial

A petition for retrial must be submitted within 20 days from the date the petitioner became aware of the grounds for retrial after the final judgment. However, if the judicial commission acknowledges that there were special circumstances preventing the petitioner from filing within this period, the specified period may be exempted.

Article 155: Eligibility to Petition for a Retrial

The following individuals may petition for a retrial:

1. The prosecutor and the complainant (or informant)
2. The person who received the disciplinary sentence and their legal representative
3. If the person who received the disciplinary sentence has died, their spouse, direct relatives, or siblings may petition.

Article 156: Handling of Retrial Petitions

1. In deciding on a retrial petition, the opinions of the petitioner and the opposing party must be heard.
2. If the retrial petition clearly violates BCO or regulatory procedures or if it is filed after the expiration of the petitioner's right, it must be dismissed.
3. If the petition for retrial is deemed without merit, it must be dismissed by decision.
4. If a decision to dismiss the retrial petition is made, no one may petition for a retrial on the same grounds.
5. If the petition for retrial is deemed justified, a decision to initiate the retrial must be made.
6. Once a guilty verdict has been issued by any governing body, it cannot be overturned by a retrial or appeal unless a not-guilty verdict is reached.
7. If new significant evidence emerges during the appeal process:
 - 1) The case may be remanded to the lower court for a retrial.
 - 2) If the plaintiff and defendant request, the higher court may review the evidence and issue a ruling.

Article 157: Judgment in Retrial

1. Once a decision to initiate a retrial is finalized, the Judicial Committee must conduct the retrial according to the procedures for each level of trial.
2. If the retrial is initiated, the judicial commission may, by decision, suspend the enforcement of the original judgment.
3. Once the retrial court receives a petition for retrial, the members of the original judicial commission that issued the original judgment cannot serve as retrial judges. The General Assembly Judicial Commission is an exception to this rule.
4. If the retrial commission is the sessional court, the retrial panel must consist of other session members, excluding the session moderator. If there are not enough session members to form the retrial panel, the case must be referred to the Presbytery Judicial Commission.
5. If a not-guilty verdict is reached in the retrial, the judgment must be published on the General Assembly's website.

Article 158: Applicable Provisions

The general provisions of litigation as outlined in the BCO may be applied to the petitioning and trial procedures for a retrial.

Chapter 7: Discipline, Restoration and Disposition

Section 1: Discipline

Article 159: Spirit of Discipline

Disciplinary actions following a trial should be grounded in the following principles:

1. The disciplinary body should not act out of malice or hatred toward the offender.
2. Discipline should be administered with love, mercy, gentleness, and humility.
3. Members of the disciplinary body should be vigilant and guard against being tempted or influenced.

Article 160: Principles of Discipline

Punishment for those who have committed offenses must be done through a formal trial process.

1. Every member (including officers) has the right to a trial to defend themselves.
2. No one shall be disciplined without a trial except in cases of flagrante delicto (caught in the act) during the trial, where the disciplinary body (judicial commission) may immediately impose aggravated punishment.
3. The secretary must clearly record all proceedings in the minutes.
4. Trials are conducted in three instances: the first trial is held by the Session Judicial Commission, the second by the Presbytery Judicial Commission, and the third by the General Assembly Judicial Commission.
5. The trial must be completed within six months of the indictment being filed with the judicial commission.
6. Trials must be conducted fairly, based on the Bible, the Constitution, or rules established by the General Assembly.

Article 161: Voluntary Confession

1. If an individual voluntarily confesses their offense to the governing body, the body may immediately take action after hearing and confirming the confession.

2. If someone confesses that they are unworthy to participate in the Lord's Supper, and it is confirmed that this is not due to misunderstanding a moral issue, they may be temporarily excused. This fact must be recorded in the minutes.

Article 162: Handling of Departing Officers and Members

1. Even if no offense has been committed, if an officer or member voluntarily renounces their jurisdiction, establishes a separate church, or joins another denomination without a transfer letter, the governing body should admonish them two or three times. If they do not comply, their name will be removed from the church register.
2. Legal proceedings may be initiated against such officers or members if necessary.
3. If an officer or member joins a denomination recognized as heretical by the General Assembly or adheres to its doctrines, they must be suspended, deposed, or excommunicated, depending on the circumstances.

Article 163: Withdrawal from the Denomination During Legal Proceedings

If a person (or church/organization) under trial withdraws from the General Assembly or Presbytery, officers who are permanently appointed will be subject to the disciplinary action of dismissal under Article 164, Paragraph 1, Clause 5, while those who are not under trial will be considered as having voluntarily resigned.

Article 164: Types and Content of Discipline

1. Types of discipline are as follows:
 - 1) **Admonition:** A severe reprimand, urging repentance and self-correction
 - 2) **Probation:** A period of 2 to 6 months during which the individual reflects on their wrongdoing (submission of a reflection paper) and refrains from certain speech or behavior
 - 3) **Suspension from Duty:** Suspension of all duties for a period of 3 to 12 months, except for the right to preach
 - 4) **Suspension:** The suspension of office, taking into account the severity, motivation, and impact of the offense, for a period of 6 months to 2 years. The person retains their status as an officer but is not allowed to perform any duties during the suspension. Suspension may be combined with suspension from the Lord's Supper.
 - 5) **Dismissal:** The dismissal of office, which may also be combined with suspension from the Lord's Supper

- 6) **Suspension from the Lord's Supper:** Prohibition from participating in the Lord's Supper due to a serious offense that brings disgrace to the church and the Lord's name, with a suspension of at least 6 months
 - 7) **Excommunication:** Removal from the church membership register and prohibition from attending church, applied to those who commit grave offenses or join heretical groups without repenting
2. Discipline for specific cases is as follows:
- 1) **For baptized members who commit offenses:** Admonition, Probation, Suspension from the Lord's Supper, or Excommunication.
 - 2) **For officers (both permanent and temporary):** Admonition, Probation, Suspension from Duty, Suspension, Dismissal, Suspension from the Lord's Supper, or Excommunication. If there is no evidence of repentance within two years of suspension, the governing body may dismiss the individual from his/her office without further trial.
 - 3) Administrative actions following a judicial trial include:
 - ① Correcting the resolution of the governing body,
 - ② Annulment or cancellation of the resolution,
 - ③ Suspension of membership and delegate rights in the higher governing body.

Article 165: Disciplinary Governing Body

Once a judgment is finalized, the governing body to which the defendant belongs shall enforce the discipline.

Article 166: Methods of Discipline

The procedures for discipline are as follows:

1. Discipline should be proportionate, considering the motivation, nature, and circumstances of the offense.
2. For offenses limited to the individual and not severe, private admonition by 2 or 3 representatives may suffice.
3. Severe offenses should be publicly announced by the governing body (church or presbytery).
4. Even if the offense is not severe, if it has a negative influence on others, public discipline should be carried out and announced to the church.

5. If the offender avoids discipline and moves elsewhere, the decision should be made public and enforced.
6. The governing body leader must enforce the disciplinary action within 30 days of the final judgment and cannot refuse to enforce it.
7. The period of discipline begins from the date the judgment is finalized.
8. Grounds for dismissal of a pastor include:
 - 1) Advocating heresy.
 - 2) Illegally splitting the church.
 - 3) Causing significant spiritual harm to church members due to doctrinal or moral failures.
 - 4) Committing serious offenses that gravely dishonor God's commandments.
9. Excommunication, which is the most severe form of discipline, involves removing the offender from church membership and prohibiting them from attending church. It should be carried out with proper procedure and publicly announced.
10. Deposition and excommunication of pastors and elders should be publicly announced through the General Assembly and church media.

Article 167: Aggravated Discipline

If a person who has been disciplined shows no evidence of repentance and commits further offenses, the disciplinary body may impose aggravated discipline.

Article 168: Pronouncement of Discipline

Discipline shall be pronounced as follows:

"[Name] has committed the sin of [offense]. Therefore, the Session (or Presbytery, General Assembly) in the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ declares that, until evidence of full repentance and satisfaction is provided, [Name] is suspended from office (suspension or barred from the Lord's Supper) from [start date] to [end date]. Amen."

After pronouncement, appropriate exhortation is given, and prayer is offered for the church to be blessed by the holy and just God through this discipline.

Article 169: Pronouncement of Dismissal

Dismissal is pronounced as follows:

"[Name], elder (or deacon, pastor) of this church (or Presbytery), has committed the sin of [offense]. Therefore, the Session (or Presbytery) hereby removes [Name] from office and prohibits them from exercising their duties. Amen."

If the dismissal is accompanied by suspension from the Lord's Supper or excommunication, the moderator continues:

"The Session (or Presbytery) in the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ further declares that until [Name] provides satisfactory evidence of true repentance, they are prohibited from participating in the Lord's Supper and from attending church. Amen."

After pronouncement, prayer is offered as per the previous article.

Article 170: Procedure and Pronouncement of Excommunication

The procedure and pronouncement of excommunication are as follows:

1. The church is officially informed of the full account of the trial and judgment of the offender.
2. The reason the offender cannot remain in the church is explained based on Matthew 18:15-18.
3. The congregation is admonished to avoid fellowship with the excommunicated person.
4. The offender is then pronounced as follows:

"[Name], a member of this church (or Presbytery), has committed the sin of [offense]. Despite multiple admonitions and prayers, they have refused to listen and show no evidence of repentance. Therefore, in the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Session (or Presbytery) declares that they are prohibited from participating in the Lord's Supper and that fellowship with them is severed. Amen."

5. After the pronouncement, prayer is offered for the offender to realize their sin and repent.

Section 2: Restoration of Punishment

Article 171: Guidelines for Restoration

The guidelines for the restoration of discipline are as follows:

1. The governing body should regularly visit those who have been subjected to disciplinary measures, such as suspension from the Lord's Supper, and pray with them, offer encouragement, and pray for them.
2. When satisfactory evidence of repentance is evident, the governing body may, by resolution, lift the discipline, following the proper procedures.
3. When lifting the suspension from the Lord's Supper or the temporary deprivation of duties, the process should be explained, and the lifting of the discipline should be declared before the congregation.
4. When lifting the discipline of someone who has been deposed or excommunicated, the process should be explained before the congregation, and the person should be allowed to confess before the lifting of the discipline is declared.
5. Restoration of members who have transferred to another congregation:
 - 1) Restoration should ideally be carried out by the governing body that imposed the disciplinary action.
 - 2) If the person under disciplinary action wishes to transfer to another governing body's jurisdiction, the governing body may consider the person's repentance and, after lifting the discipline, send a letter of transfer to the desired governing body.
 - 3) The governing body may delegate the restoration process to the new governing body by sending copies of the disciplinary records and other necessary documents.

Article 172: Governing Body Responsible for Restoration

The restoration of discipline is executed by the governing body to which the Judicial Committee that issued the final judgment belongs, with approval from that governing body (or from the Judicial Committee if the governing body is in recess).

Article 173: Procedures for Restoration

The procedures for restoration are as follows:

1. For those under disciplinary measures without a specified period, if clear evidence of genuine repentance is shown and the person humbly confesses before the governing body, restoration may be granted with the approval of two-thirds of the attending members, provided that the meeting has a quorum.
2. When restoring someone who has been temporarily deprived of their duties or suspended from the Lord's Supper, the following declaration shall be made before the congregation (or presbytery):

“(Name), who has been under suspension (or temporary deprivation of duties) until now, has now shown satisfactory evidence of repentance, pleasing the church. Therefore, this Session (or Presbytery), in the name and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, declares you restored and reinstated (restoration of the rights of a communicant member). Amen.”

3. Restoration of someone who was dismissed from his/her office:

- 1) The person should confess before the congregation (or presbytery).
- 2) The following questions should be asked before the congregation (or Presbytery):
 - **Question:** Do you sincerely confess the sin of betraying and rebelling against God and harming the church, acknowledging that your dismissal was just? **Answer: Yes.**
 - **Question:** Do you now, with true repentance and a contrite heart, confess your sins and humbly seek forgiveness from God and His church? **Answer: Yes.**
 - **Question:** Will you, by God’s grace, strive to live humbly and circumspectly, reflecting the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, and lead a life worthy of the gospel? **Answer: Yes.**
- 3) After the questioning, the moderator provides appropriate counsel and makes the following declaration:

“Now that (Name) has shown satisfactory evidence of repentance, this session (or presbytery) lifts the previous declaration of dismissal and declares you restored. Amen.”

- 4) After the declaration of restoration, the moderator offers a prayer of thanksgiving.

4. Restoration of someone who was excommunicated:

- 1) Even after being restored from excommunication, the excommunicated person must remain under suspension from the Lord's Supper for two years, and a resolution from the governing body is required before the suspension is lifted.
- 2) The person should confess and undergo questioning, similar to the restoration procedure for someone who was dismissed.
- 3) Restoration of the right to fellowship with other believers and the rights of church (or presbytery) membership should be declared.

- 4) The moderator offers a prayer of thanksgiving.
5. Post-restoration process:
 - 1) If someone under disciplinary action shows clear evidence of genuine repentance, they may be restored after confessing before the governing body. However, if the governing body that imposed the disciplinary action differs from the person's current governing body, Article 172 shall apply.
 - 2) A person whose disciplinary period has expired is automatically considered restored without further restoration procedures.
 - 3) The governing body (session or presbytery) may grant permission for someone who was dismissed to partake in the Lord's Supper.
 - 4) For a dismissed elder, deacon, or KWONSA to be reinstated, three years must pass after restoration and be lawfully re-elected before they can be installed and serve again.
 - 5) An elder, deacon, or KWONSA who was only temporarily deprived of duties may have their office reinstated through restoration and may serve again. However, if they were also suspended from the Lord's Supper, they cannot serve without restoration from the session and a vote by the congregation.
 - 6) For pastors:
 - ① They may be granted temporary authority to preach.
 - ② They may only serve again after receiving a lawful call from a congregation.
 - ③ If a deposed pastor is reinstated, they do not require reordination

Supplementary Provisions

Article 1: Amendment of the Book of Church Order

1. Proposal for Amendment

An amendment of the BCO may be proposed by an initiative from a Presbytery under the General Assembly.

2. Establishment of a BCO Amendment Committee

- 1) Upon the proposal of an amendment, the General Assembly shall establish a BCO Amendment Committee of up to 9 members to study and review the proposed amendment.
- 2) The committee shall consist of 7 pastors and 2 elders, who are elected by a majority vote in the General Assembly. No more than two members from any single Presbytery may serve on the committee.

3. Procedure and Method for Amendment

- 1) The BCO Amendment Committee must draft the proposed amendment within six months from the date of the proposal and conduct appropriate promotional activities and explanatory sessions until the General Assembly meets.
- 2) The General Assembly must approve the amendment by a two-thirds majority of the members present, with at least half of the total members in attendance.
- 3) Once approved by the General Assembly, the proposed amendment is sent to all Presbyteries for ratification.

4. Criteria for BCO Amendment

1) Doctrinal Standards

If an amendment is proposed for the Confession of Faith, Larger Catechism, or Shorter Catechism, the General Assembly must submit the proposal for ratification by the Presbyteries. The amendment must receive approval from two-thirds of all Presbyteries and two-thirds of the votes within those Presbyteries before being adopted by the next General Assembly. The results must be reported in writing by each Presbytery clerk to the General Assembly clerk.

2) **Administrative Standards**

For amendments regarding Church Worship, Church Governance, or Church Discipline, the General Assembly must submit the proposal for ratification by the Presbyteries. Before it can be adopted, the amendment must receive approval from a majority of all Presbyteries and a majority of the votes within those Presbyteries before it can be adopted. The Presbytery clerks must report the results in writing to the General Assembly clerk, and the General Assembly moderator will then announce and implement the results.

Article 2: Implementation

This BCO shall be effective from the date of its proclamation.

Article 3: Legal Force of General Assembly Resolutions

Resolutions passed by the General Assembly shall have the same legal binding force as the BCO. Individuals or governing bodies that violate these resolutions may be subject to disciplinary action and penalties.

Article 4: Priority of the BCO Application

This BCO takes precedence over all bylaws and operational rules of any institution or governing body under this denomination. Any content that contradicts this BCO shall be rendered legally void.

Article 5: Official Document Templates

The political and disciplinary forms prescribed by this BCO shall use the standard documents approved by the General Assembly as the official template.