REMIT B, 2018

Clerks of Assembly Recommendation No. 10. A&P 2018, p. 262-60, 36
Re: Book of Forms section 252 – deposition of ministers

You are asked to approve or disapprove this change.

Recommendation No. 10 (adopted, p. 36)
That Book of Forms section 252 be amended as follows and remitted to presbyteries under the Barrier Act.

252. It belongs to the presbytery to depose ministers of Word and Sacraments from the ministry. (sections 345–380, 441, Appendices A–64 and A–65, and the 2 Bk. of Dis. VII, 16)

The section of the report relating to this proposal follows:

A special commission reported to the 2016 General Assembly on an appeal it had been assigned. (A&P 2016, p. 462–68) During its work, the commission noted an inconsistency between Book of Forms sections 252 and 373 regarding a censure called deposition. As part of its report, the commission suggested that the Clerks of Assembly examine these sections with a view to obtaining consistency. The Clerks of Assembly, grateful to the commission for raising this matter, studied both sections and their relationship to each other. The Clerks concluded that section 252, situated in the Presbytery portion of the Book of Forms, should only record the principle that it is the presbytery that has the right and responsibility to depose ministers from ministry. It should not, as it had, describe grounds for imposing the censure. The Clerks also concluded that the definition of deposition, and the grounds for imposing it, should only be situated in section 373 of the Judicial Process portion of the Book of Forms.