

2019 REMITS ADOPTED

REMIT A, 2019 BOOK OF FORMS 108–108.3 RE LENGTH OF TERM SERVICE FOR ELDERS

Book of Forms 108–108.3 was amended to read as follows: (A&P 2021, p. 583, 320)

108. Elders, once lawfully called to the office, and having gifts of God to exercise the same, are ordained for life. They may serve in the office for life unless deposed or suspended in process of discipline. They may, however, at the call of a congregation in which the session has instituted term service for elders, fulfill the duties of the eldership on the session normally for periods of six years but may stand for re-election at the end of each term.

108.1 Any session desiring to opt for term service for elders should consult with the congregation and must notify the presbytery of its intention and receive that court's permission.

108.2 In congregations that have instituted term service for elders, normally one third of the session shall be elected every two years. Sessions opting for an alternative term shall establish a consistent term of service and frequency of election, which shall be subject to approval by the presbytery.

108.3 Elders may resign the active exercise of the office at any time during their term of service. (Declaratory Act 1985, p. 261, 52)

REMIT B, 2019 RE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE

The following was approved under the Barrier Act process. (A&P 2021, p. 583–84)

The Presbyterian Church in Canada holds two parallel definitions of marriage and recognizes that faithful, Holy Spirit filled, Christ centred, God honouring people can understand marriage as a covenant relationship between a man and a woman or as a covenant relationship between two adult persons.

That congregations, sessions, ruling and teaching elders be granted liberty of conscience and action on marriage.

REMIT C, 2019 RE ORDINATION OF LGBTQI PERSONS (MARRIED OR SINGLE)

The following was approved under the Barrier Act process. (A&P 2021, p. 584)

That congregations and presbyteries may call and ordain as ministers and elect and ordain as ruling elders LGBTQI persons (married or single) with the provision that liberty of conscience and action regarding participation in ordinations, inductions and installations be granted to ministers and ruling elders.

APPENDIX L

The following new Appendix L was therefore added to the Book of Forms:

Recommendation No. CLK-005 (A&P 2021, p. 309–10, 54)

That Appendix L, Policy Regarding Same-Sex Marriage and the Ordination of LGBTQI Persons, be added to the Book of Forms as follows:

APPENDIX L – POLICY REGARDING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND THE ORDINATION OF LGBTQI PERSONS

The 2021 General Assembly approved the following remits under the Barrier Act:

Remit B, 2019 – Definition of Marriage

The Presbyterian Church in Canada holds two parallel definitions of marriage and recognizes that faithful, Holy Spirit filled, Christ centered, God honouring people can understand marriage as a covenant relationship between a man and a woman or as a covenant relationship between two adult persons.

That congregations, sessions, ruling and teaching elders be granted liberty of conscience and action on marriage.

Remit C, 2019 – Ordination of LGBTQI persons

That congregations and presbyteries may call and ordain as ministers and elect and ordain as ruling elders LGBTQI persons (married or single) with the provision that liberty of conscience and action regarding participation in ordinations, inductions and installations be granted to ministers and ruling elders.