

WHAT IS THE *BOOK OF ORDER*?

The *Book of Order* is Part II of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is available in English, Korean, Spanish, and Braille editions. The English edition may be purchased from Presbyterian Distribution Center (call 1-800-524-2612) or Cokesbury Bookstore. It is also available on-line www.pcusa.org/constitution.htm in downloadable and searchable forms.

The *Annotated Book of Order* contains the complete text of the *Book of Order* plus additional information that includes references to authoritative interpretations of particular sections. The *Annotated Book of Order* is available in a number of formats from the Office of General Assembly (print, CD-Rom) and in searchable form on-line at www.pcusa.org/constitution.htm. If you would like more information, contact the Stated Clerk of the presbytery.

Because the *Book of Order* is available in so many forms, it does not have page numbers. Instead it has a reference number system: e.g., G-10.0200, W-7.5003. The letter indicates which division the citation is located.

G = Form of Government
W = Directory for Worship
D = Rules of Discipline

The numeral(s) left of the decimal point = chapter.

The numerals right of the decimal point = section and subsection.

The *Book of Order* contains some language with implicit meaning:

- (1) SHALL and IS TO BE/ARE TO BE signify practice that is mandated,
- (2) SHOULD signifies practice that is strongly recommended,
- (3) IS APPROPRIATE signifies practice that is commended as suitable,
- (4) MAY signifies practice that is permissible but not required.

The *Book of Order* is amended approximately one year after a General Assembly once amendments are voted upon by the presbyteries. Be sure to use the current edition!