

**NO ACTION REQUIRED - FOR INFORMATION ONLY
DRAFT PRESENTED TO PRESBYTERY OCTOBER 2017
[DRAFT – FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY]**

Proposed Guidance to CT

Draft Rule on Public Statements or Comments

____. PROCEDURE FOR CT’S REVIEW OF PROPOSED PUBLIC COMMENT ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

- 1. Upon receipt of a proposed Public Comment (as defined in the Presbytery’s Standing Rules) from the Stated Clerk, the Chair of CT shall schedule a special or called meeting of CT to consider the appropriate handling and disposition of the proposed Public Comment.**
- 2. At the special or called meeting of CT, CT shall make the following decisions after full deliberations:**
 - a. CT shall prayerfully discern: (1) whether the subject of the proposed Public Comment is required, consistent and compliant with scriptural imperatives, confessional statements and historical denominational positions and stances; and, (2) that the proposed Public Comment should be made, released or published on behalf of the Presbytery or referred to other Presbytery committees, networks, task forces or teams for disposition.**
 - b. CT shall seek diverse opinions and reactions to the proposed Public Comment, either by inviting additional persons to voice their opinions before CT or by contacting additional persons for their opinions outside of a CT meeting, before voting on the proposed Public Comment.**
 - c. If the CT determines that the proposed Public Comment is the type of statement that should be made, released or published on behalf of the Presbytery, then the CT shall determine if the disposition of the proposed Public Comment should be:**
 - i. Referred to the next regular or a special or called meeting of Presbytery for consideration; OR,**

- ii. Determined by CT.
- d. If CT determines that the proposed Public Comment should be decided by CT, CT shall decide after full deliberations, one of the following actions:
 - i. Approve the proposed Public Comment as proposed;
 - ii. Approve the proposed Public Comment, as amended by CT; OR,
 - iii. Disapprove the proposed Public Comment as a statement of Presbytery only.
- e. CT shall only approve a proposed Public Comment:
 - i. After notifying all of the congregations of the Presbytery with the proposed Public Comment, as amended, and providing them with an opportunity to respond to the proposed Public Comment through their respective Sessions and otherwise receiving a diversity of opinions on the proposed Public Comment from other sources outside of CT, as appropriate; and,
 - ii. If the CT expressly finds that the stated position and content of the proposed Public Comment are consistent with actions or authoritative interpretation adopted by any General Assembly of the PCUSA.
- f. Approval of any proposed Public Comment shall be by two-thirds majority vote of the CT members attending the meeting.
- g. If a proposed Public Comment is approved by CT, the form and manner of releasing, publishing, disseminating or making of such Public Comment shall be made by CT.
- h. If a proposed Public Comment is approved by CT, either as proposed or as amended, CT shall orally report such action as part of its report at the next regular meeting of the Presbytery. [Fourth Draft – September 26, 2017]

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