

PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA
REPORT OF BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE

March 12, 2011

The committee met on Saturday, February 11, 2011 at Christ Presbyterian Church

The committee's business was to discuss and vote on General Assembly Part 1: new Form of Government. The vote was 5 (yes) to 1 (no) to recommend to the Presbytery to approve the new Form of Government.

Reasons to support nFOG include:

- The value of separating the Foundations from the Form of Government, making the chapters of theological foundations more evident.
- It is easier to navigate than the current Form of Government
- It is an opportunity to get people engaged with both the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order
- It is asking people on councils* to work together in developing the manuals of operations
- It requires councils* to address the responsibilities of how we conduct our business and work together
- It is important for Presbytery to be more intentional in its connections with sessions.
- Today, some rural presbyteries are not able to fulfill all of the manual procedures in our current *Book of Order*. The proposed nFog maintains the standards of our current *Book of Order*, but allows councils* flexibility in forming procedures to meet those standards.

Concerns if nFOG is approved include:

- There is potential for difficulty in councils working together, e.g., presbytery to presbytery (ordination requirements/transferring of teaching elders*)
- Councils may find that much time and energy will be required to identify and define processes for a Manual of Operations, especially in the beginning.

**Note: new language in nFOG*

- "Minister of Word and Sacrament" will be "Teaching Elder"
- "Governing Bodies" becomes "Councils"