

THE SESSION

The session of a particular church consists of the pastor of co-pastors, the associate pastors, and the elders in active service. All members of the session, including the pastor, co-pastors, and associate pastors, are entitled to vote. (G-10.0101)

Note: If the moderator of session serves as a designated pastor, stated supply, temporary supply commissioned lay pastor or other position not mentioned in G-10.0101, he or she is not a member of the session and, therefore, is not entitled to vote.

The session is responsible for the mission and government of the particular church. (G-10.0102) The specific responsibilities, duties and authority are listed in Chapter X in the "Form of Government." These should be studied on a regular basis by all active elders. Although most sessions hold monthly meetings, the "session shall hold stated meetings at least quarterly." (G-10.0201)

Open or Closed Meetings

The session may invite members of the congregation to attend and observe its meetings if it so desires, without restricting its right to meet in executive session whenever the circumstances indicate the wisdom of doing so. (G-10.0201)

This statement is interpreted to mean that session meetings are closed except to active elders, the clerk and the moderator. Others may be invited into a particular meeting or portion of a meeting. "Executive session" is described in Robert's Rules of Order.

E-mail Voting

In 2004 the General Assembly determined that E-mail voting is permitted by the Book of Order and Robert's Rules of Order **if there has been provision for deliberation (simultaneous communication) and such vote is provided for in standing rules.**

Electronic forms of simultaneous communication include teleconferencing (conference calls), video conferencing, and Internet chat rooms. Ordinary E-mail does not allow simultaneous communication to occur. You can use SKYPE to enhance two-way communication and this can include voice and video or just voice.