READER'S EVALUATION SHEET IN POLITY

I. EVALUATIONS OF THIS EXAMINATION. The examination consists of three sections, each designed to be completed in one hour. All three sections must be answered. Section III has two options, from which the candidate is instructed to select one. Each section must be evaluated as either “Satisfactory” (S) or “Unsatisfactory” (U). The reader must also assign an overall evaluation for this examination. If any section is omitted it will receive an evaluation of “O”; the examination must then receive an overall evaluation of “Unsatisfactory.” The examination must receive an “S” on at least two out of the three sections to receive an overall evaluation of “Satisfactory.”

Each examination will be evaluated independently by two readers. If both overall evaluations are “S,” the conveners will record a final evaluation of “Satisfactory.” If both readers evaluate the exam overall as “U,” the exam receives a final evaluation of “Unsatisfactory.” If the two readers disagree in their overall evaluations, the exam will be given to a third reader. The conveners will record the final evaluation based on the two concurring overall evaluations.

II. THIS EVALUATION SHEET GOES TO THE CANDIDATE. Each reader’s comments should represent his or her considered appraisal of the paper. These comments are read by the candidate and the candidate’s Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Use the back of this sheet OR attach a separate page for comments explaining the evaluations assigned to each section of this examination.

III. EVALUATIONS: S, U or O

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>(Required)</th>
<th>Church Ecumenical</th>
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<td>Nested Congregation</td>
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<td>Section III</td>
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<td>B</td>
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IV. OVERALL EVALUATION

S

NOTE: COMMENTS INCLUDE A MESSAGE FOR COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY. (Please check if applicable.)

[Signatures]

Reader’s name printed

Reader’s Signature
Section I: Church Ecumenical

The required responses for citing and discussing the Book of Order references were all good and included appropriate references.

For the session, starting with G-3.0401 is a good starting point. The elaboration of Why, What and How were very clarifying for the session. The How Do We Start and Next step admonitions were good. The Remember point was most cogent to the issue of reformation of the church ecumenical through the local church.

Well done!

Section II: Nested Congregation

1. The three issues raised were exactly right regarding the congregations approval, approval by the presbytery; property held in trust for the PC(USA).

2. The possible course of action suggested is commendable, but might be difficult to accomplish. Would need much more conversation by the Commission with Memorial and the NCD.

Section III: The Bells

1. The paper identified the key issues with appropriate Book of Orders references, in particular session's responsibilities for budget and purchases of items as well as the worship responsibility of session pertaining to adding a significant new music ministry, i.e. bells. Other good point was the lack of involvement by the worship/music committee, session and pastor.

2. Excellent, mature response to the music director involving raising the issue with the music director while assuring the director's value. The polity issue is better raised after the positive reinforcement of the director. "Avoid the blame game" says it all.... and using this as a teachable moment for staff."

Comments to CPM:
READER'S EVALUATION SHEET IN POLITY

I. EVALUATIONS OF THIS EXAMINATION. The examination consists of three sections, each designed to be completed in one hour. All three sections must be answered. Section III has two options, from which the candidate is instructed to select one. Each section must be evaluated as either "Satisfactory" (S) or "Unsatisfactory" (U). The reader must also assign an overall evaluation for this examination. If any section is omitted it will receive an evaluation of "O"; the examination must then receive an overall evaluation of "Unsatisfactory." The examination must receive an "S" on at least two out of the three sections to receive an overall evaluation of "Satisfactory."

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III. EVALUATIONS: S, U or O

Section I (Required)    Church Ecumenical  S
Section II (Required)    Nested Congregation  S
Section III (Required)

A    Church Offerings
    -OR-
B    The Bells  S

IV. OVERALL EVALUATION  S

NOTE: COMMENTS INCLUDE A MESSAGE FOR COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY. (Please check if applicable.)

Shelly Core
Reader's name printed

Shelly Core
Reader's Signature
Section I Church Ecumenical
Although many of the citations were not directly on point, the paper did contain at least three that were relevant to the exam question.

A stronger paper would have spent more time developing the best citations.

Narrative rather than outline would have better satisfied the "presentation" requirement.

Part 2 adequately builds on part 1 although much of it is not in direct response to the question.

Section II Nested Congregation
Better to use paragraph citations rather than titles (G-8.0301 rather than G-8.0300).

Good grasp of the many issues this situation raises.

Narrative rather than outline would have better satisfied the "presentation" requirement.

Involving COM – Good!

Section III Handbells
Good identification of issues and relevant citations.

Wise to meet separately with music director and clerk of session.

Staff meeting – issue not adequately identified and correct process discussed. This might happen again soon. A stronger paper would have been more forthcoming, without playing the blame game.
AUGUST 2010
EXAMINATION IN CHURCH POLITY

OPEN BOOK

MAXIMUM TIME: 3 HOURS

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This examination is intended to "assess the candidate's working knowledge of the constitutional structure of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the method by which differences are properly resolved and programs to fulfill the mission of the church are determined."

The intent of this examination is to test readiness for ministry, which includes using the Book of Order effectively. Candidates shall utilize a clean, unmarked, printed copy of the 2009-2011 Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in responding to the questions. No additional books, notes, outlines or other resources may be used. Questions will be from the Form of Government, the Directory for Worship, and the Rules of Discipline.

ESSAY QUESTIONS  THREE HOURS  OPEN BOOK

The examination consists of three Sections. All three sections are required. Section III has two options. Select one option. Each Section is designed to be completed in one hour. In order to receive a Final Evaluation of “Satisfactory” on this exam, two of the three sections must receive a “Satisfactory.”

The readers, in evaluating the examination, will use the following criteria to assess readiness for ministry:

- Recognition and knowledge of the polity issues applicable to the question, and ability to cite relevant sections of the Book of Order;

- Ability to relate the polity issue to the situation, considering both the letter and the spirit of the constitution;

- Ability to express concern for the individual(s) involved in the situation and for the welfare of the church as a whole;

- Knowledge of the process by which programs to fulfill the mission of the church are determined; and

- Ability to be coherent in expressing thoughts.
EXAMINATION IN CHURCH POLITY

Page 2 of 6

You may write your answers in ink in your own handwriting, type them, or use a computer. Do not use a pencil to write your responses; papers written in pencil will be returned without being evaluated. If you handwrite your examination, do not skip lines in the examination book. You may make corrections, deletions, or additions without rewriting or erasing. Identify every answer by the number and letter assigned to it (e.g., III. B). Illegible papers shall be returned without being evaluated.

You are encouraged to use a computer. You may bring your own equipment or, at some exam sites, you may use equipment provided by the proctor. You must confirm with the proctor in advance of the testing date what equipment (power strips, computers, printers, etc.) is available at the testing site.

If you use a computer:
- You may not consult or copy from personal notes or any other resource on the computer or a network during the exam.
- A printed copy of the exam must be turned in before you leave the test site. Not turning in a printed copy will result in failure. You are strongly urged to make sure that all the necessary equipment and software are properly working and coordinated.
- Number the pages.
- Include your candidate number on each page of the exam, but not your name.
- Print responses using double spacing and 12-point font size.
- When finished, staple the printed copy to the first few pages of the exam book.

Syntax or grammar will not be evaluated. However, the evaluation of papers may be affected if they cannot be understood because of poor syntax or grammar.

Maintaining the candidate’s anonymity is of fundamental importance to assure fair evaluation of examination papers. Failure to comply with any of the following instructions will result in the paper being found as unsatisfactory:
- Do not include your name
- Do not include the name of your congregation or presbytery
- Do not identify the seminary you attend or have attended
- Do not identify professors with whom you have studied
- Do not indicate whether you have taken this or other senior ordination exams before

- All three sections must be answered. The paper must receive a “Satisfactory” evaluation on at least two of the three sections to be considered “Satisfactory.”

***************
IMPORTANT: READ THE ENTIRE QUESTION BEFORE BEGINNING TO WRITE YOUR ANSWER.
SECTION I. CONSTITUTIONAL HERITAGE

ONE HOUR OPEN BOOK REQUIRED

In G-3.0401 we are told that

The Church is called:
   d. to a new openness to God's continuing reformation of the Church ecumenical, that it
      might be a more effective instrument of mission in the world.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

1. Cite & briefly discuss at least three (3) Book of Order references (e.g., X-0.0000) that
   illustrate how the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seeks to respond to this call. Include at
   least one citation each from the Form of Government and the Directory for Worship.

2. Informed by your answer to Required Response 1, write a presentation for your session
   that explains how “God’s continuing reformation of the Church ecumenical” enables
   your congregation to be “a more effective instrument of mission in the world.”
SECTION II CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER FOR THE PARTICULAR CHURCH

ONE HOUR OPEN BOOK REQUIRED

You are a member of the presbytery's administrative commission overseeing a growing Korean Presbyterian New Church Development (NCD). The organizing pastor calls and asks to talk to you. When you get together, he says, "As you know we are nesting in Memorial Presbyterian Church. This last week, the Memorial session informed me that, because they are down to fifteen active members, they are going to sell their building to a Montessori school. They said we have one month to find a new place to worship. We have been there for over four years and are committed to continuing the mission of the PCUSA in this neighborhood. We don't want to leave this building, but we can't afford to buy it. Is there anything we can do about this?"

REQUIRED RESPONSES

1. Identify at least three (3) issues raised in this scenario. Cite and briefly discuss at least one (1) relevant Book of Order references (e.g., X-0.0000) for each issue identified.

2. Based on your work in Required Response 1, prepare a presentation for your presbytery administrative commission identifying a course of action and the implications for both Memorial Presbyterian Church and the NCD.
AUGUST 2010
EXAMINATION IN CHURCH POLITY

Page 5 of 6

SECTION III. CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AS A TOOL FOR MINISTRY

ONE HOUR OPEN BOOK REQUIRED

(CHOSE ONE: A or B)

A.

You, as pastor, are leading a confirmation class and a question is asked about what happens to all of the money that the church receives in the offering each week. Before you answer the question, you ask what they think.

Lucia: I heard that all of the money goes to the Presbytery Office and they give each church what they need.

Nicole: I thought that the pastor took all of the money, paid the bills, and got to keep what was left over.

Tim: Aren’t the Elders somehow involved in what happens to the money?

Kim: I thought it all went to feed the hungry.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

1. Identify at least one (1) issue raised by each person above, a different issue for each person. Cite at least one (1) Book of Order reference (e.g., X-0.0000) for each issue identified.

2. Informed by your answer to Required Response 1, respond to each young person.

OR
SECTION III  CONSTITUTIONAL ORDER AS A TOOL FOR MINISTRY

CHOOSE ONE: A or B

ONE HOUR  OPEN BOOK  REQUIRED

B.

During a staff meeting, the music director of the congregation you pastor announces proudly, “I’ve just ordered the set of bells that I’ve been wanting so we could start a hand bell choir. I got tired of waiting for approval, so when the bell company’s annual sale came around, I just ordered them! They were a real good buy!”

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Identify at least three (3) issues raised by this situation; cite and briefly discuss at least one (1) reference (e.g., X-0.0000) from the Book of Order for each issue identified.

2. Informed by your answer to Required Response 1, address the staff, responding to the situation created by the music director’s action.
Section I. Constitutional Heritage

Required Response 1

The PC(USA) lives out its stated commitment to God’s call for “new openness to God’s continuing reformation of the Church ecumenical, that it might be a more effective instrument of mission to the world” [G-3.0401] in ways related both to governance and to worship. According to the Book of Order, PC(USA) recognizes that Christ is the head of the Church [G-1.0100] and that under Christ’s Lordship the Church Universal is one [G-4.0201]. Thus we look for ways to “manifest more visible the unity of the church of Jesus Christ and will be open opportunities for conversation, cooperation, and action with other ecclesiastical bodies and secular groups” [G15.0101]. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we work toward the Great Ends of the Church, seeking to proclaim the gospel, caring for all God’s children, preserving truth, and working for social righteousness [G-1.0200].

Worship is a vital component in becoming open to God’s continuing reformation, so it is no surprise that maintenance of worship is also one of the Great Ends of the Church [G-1.0200]. In worship, we recognize God’s sovereignty and acknowledge God’s presence and work in the world [W-1.1001]. Further, in worship, “believers are transformed and renewed...and offer themselves to God and are equipped for service in the world” [W-1.1001]. Through the Holy Spirit, God gives gifts “for building up the body of Christ and equipping it for the work of ministry...a Christian’s personal response to God is in community” [W-1.1005]. In addition, during worship we are strengthened through the Sacraments for faith and service [W-2.4007] and offer prayers of supplication and intercession [W-3.3506]. The PC(USA) also shows its commitment to openness by encouraging worshipping communities to be inclusive both in leadership and participation in worship [W-1.4003] and to include in worship forms that reflect
the cultural diversity of God’s human family [W-1.3040]. Finally, we are sent to into the world to use our own vocations creatively and faithfully in discipleship in the world [W-6.2003].

In the Reformed tradition, the PC(USA) considers itself “reformed and always reforming” [G-2.0200], through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, participating in Christ’s continuing ministry in the world. Though we recognize that this offering ourselves in a new openness to ecumenical initiatives may be uncomfortable and even risky [G-3.0400], we continue to follow Christ’s example of welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us (Rom. 14).

**Required Response 2**

In offering a presentation to my session, I would follow the outline below:

In the Book of Order [G-3.0401], we read

**The Church is called:**

- new openness to God’s continuing reformation of the Church ecumenical, that it might be a more effective instrument of mission to the world

Why are we called to be ecumenical?

- Christ is the head of the Church
- Under Christ’s Lordship the Church Universal is one

What does this mean for us?

- We look for ways to “manifest more visible the unity of the church of Jesus Christ and will be open opportunities for conversation, cooperation, and action with other ecclesiastical bodies and secular groups”
- Guided by the Holy Spirit, we work toward the Great Ends of the Church
  - seeking to proclaim the gospel,
  - caring for all God’s children,
o preserving truth,

o working for social righteousness

How do we start?

WE WORSHIP! (maintenance of worship is also one of the Great Ends of the Church!)

• We recognize God’s sovereignty
• We acknowledge God’s presence and work in the world
• We are transformed and renewed
• We offer ourselves to God
• We are equipped for service in the world
• We are open to elements of worship that reflect diversity
• We are strengthened through the Sacraments for faith and service
• We offer prayers of supplication and intercession
• We are sent to into the world to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ

But what’s the next step?

• to use our own vocations creatively and faithfully in discipleship in the world
• to discern the gifts that God has given us personally and as a church community to work ecumenically and missionally
• to pray for the guidance and strength of the Holy Spirit
• to look for ways to be in relationships with others outside out particular church

Remember:

• The church is “reformed and always reforming”
  o God isn’t finished with us yet!
  o God can teach us through others
Offering ourselves in a new openness to ecumenical initiatives may be uncomfortable but we must continue to follow Christ’s example of welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us (Rom. 14).

Section II. Constitutional Order for the Particular Church

Required Response 1

In this situation in which a New Church Development is possibly facing the loss of its nesting site, several issues are at stake. First, a session (in this case, of the session of Memorial Church), does not have the authority to sell the church building, the congregation must vote on the sale at a congregational meeting [G-7.0304a4]. Second, this congregational meeting must be called with public notice given on at least two successive Sundays [G-7.0304b] so that all members can properly participate. In addition, the session itself merely holds the property in trust for the PC(USA), therefore cannot act unilaterally to sell it [G-8.0201]. The sale of the property must be approved by the presbytery [G-8-8.0500]. Since this transfer would mean that the property would cease to be used as a church, the property should, in fact, be held by or transferred to the presbytery [G-8.0300]. Finally, any particular church involved the challenges that Memorial seems to be facing would benefit from the advice and guidance of the Committee on Ministry of the presbytery, who will be able to assist with the difficult issues facing the congregation [G-11.0502j].

Required Response 2

In offering a presentation to the presbytery administrative commission, I would follow the outline below. Please note that, although I would usually begin the meeting with a prayer and Scriptural meditation, I have chosen to begin with prayer but move the meditation to after the
presentation of the issues at stake in order to reflect on the unity of the Church as the Body of Christ and to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Administrative Commission Meeting**

**August, 2010**

1. Opening prayer

2. Status of the Korean Presbyterian New Church Development
   a. nested at Memorial Church
   b. history of over 4 years at this site
   c. committed to mission of PC(USA)
   d. committed to continuing mission in the community
   e. growing, but limited financial resources at this time

3. Status of Memorial Church
   a. history of many years in the community
   b. welcomed the Korean NCD
   c. active membership declining (15 active members)
   d. serious financial difficulties – considering sale of building to Montessori school

4. Scriptural meditation and prayer for guidance and wisdom
   a. Colossians 1 (Christ is Lord of all)
   b. Acts 2 (the story of Pentecost)

5. Possible course of action to consider – merge the NCD and the Memorial Congregation

   *Under the guidance of COM and a new, redefined Administrative Commission (that incorporates and supersedes this commission), merge these two congregations to*
a. Does merger glorify God and is merger faithful to our witness to the Gospel?

b. Is this an option that Memorial could or would embrace?

c. How can Memorial’s past ministry be remembered and honored?

d. How can Memorial’s current ministries be continued?

e. How can the unique character of Memorial’s witness be merged with that of the NCD?

f. Change is always difficult – How can we help Memorial deal with issues/feelings of transition and loss?

g. How can we help Memorial be more at ease with diversity – a challenge for us all?!
8. Possible benefits
   a. A vital church that is a visible witness to our unity through Christ in the Church
   b. Two groups growing, learning, and living together in community
   c. New opportunities for witness and for service

9. First steps
   a. Ask COM to counsel the session of Memorial concerning their duties and responsibilities under the Book of Order (specifically concerning the sale of property)
   b. begin conversations with the sessions, congregations, and presbytery about the possibility of a merger

Section III. Constitutional Order as a Tool for Ministry (Option B)

Required Response 1

The purchase of the new handbells highlights issues of order and governance. First, the responsibility for budgeting lies with the session, not with the music director [G-10.0102i], so while the session might allow the music director discretion within his/her allotted music budget for small purchases (such as sheet music), large purchases should be made with the approval of session. Second, the overall music program itself is under the direction of the session [W-1.4004i], so that the addition of handbells to worship must be approved by the session. In addition, the minister is responsible for the choice of music and for the use of drama, dance, and other art forms [W-1.4005a4 & 5]. Finally, it appears from the scenario that the music director alone had the desire to purchase these bells; there is no indication of a deliberative process involving a worship and music committee, session, or the pastor. Since PC(USA) governs
according to Christ’s will [G-1.0100c, G-4.0301d] as guided by the Holy Spirit through prayerful
discernment through the vote of representatives of God’s people [G-4.0301d], the music director
has no authority to make such a purchase.

Required Response 2

Note: As pastor and moderator of session, I would meet with the clerk of session and the
music director before the staff meeting to discuss the specific polity issues involved in the
purchase of the handbells and about the standing of the order of the bells. My concern is to
assure the music director that the church values his/her expertise, insight, talent, and enthusiasm
but also to make sure that the director understands the appropriate channels for making decisions
concerning large purchases and for deliberation about such purchases. I want to learn if there are
any actions open to us at this point besides actually receiving and paying for the bells. I want to
make sure that the music director has the opportunity to act responsibly (within our polity) with
respect to the consequences of his/her decision and to save face with respect to the staff and
congregation. As I enter the staff meeting, I want to make sure that I avoid a “blame game” and
move forward proactively to deal with the situation, all the while (subtly) using this as a
teachable moment for the staff.

Staff Meeting

We’re all here – let’s get started with prayer.

“Almighty God, you are Lord of all – of all you have created, of us and all we have. We
thank you for the many gifts that you give so freely to use and the opportunity to participate with
Christ in his ministry in the world. We ask that you guide us through your Holy Spirit in this
meeting, so that our decisions reflect your will and our actions be pleasing to you. Through Jesus
Christ we pray. Amen.”
Let's do our reports: (Each staff member gives a brief report on business, issues, concerns of that department of the church. Music Director reports on the purchase of the bells and our options, which will be taken before the session.)

One of the things that I really value about being in this church and working with you is the great love for Christ that each of you displays in your lives and in your work. You truly see your vocation as a call — to be an associate pastor, an administrative assistant, a grounds keeper, a music director, a daycare supervisor, and so on. You all have such gifts — and God is using those gifts in building up Christ’s people and Christ’s Kingdom. And I’m sure you have all seen how our conversations here, led by the Holy Spirit, help us discern the actions that God wants us to take. After all, Christ is the head of this church and we want to be faithful to His leading! The Holy Spirit working through the discernment of the faithful — that is one of the hallmarks of our Reformed church. Sure we make mistakes sometime, but God is forgiving and works even through our missteps to glory God’s name. So it’s important for all of us to keep that joy in Christ alive and our enthusiasm for the Gospel always in our hearts, but at the same time honor each other by listening to the views and perspectives of others as we decide together what our actions should be in the church. The session particularly, as representatives of the people and elected by them, is well suited to listen to the Spirit’s whisperings as to guide us. Let’s move on to our other business. You all that the anniversary of the church is coming up....