

## **FIFTEEN CHANGES YOU WILL NOT NOTICE/ENCOUNTER BEFORE YOU RETIRE—UNLESS IT IS YOUR OX BEING GORED.**

1. Committee on Representation. Used to be 10 long paragraphs and specific quotas. Now two short paragraphs and council can “provide by rule” for a COR. (e.g. how PLR does it now.)G-3.0103
2. The “Purpose of Confessional Statement” F-2.01—but it introduces a great preface to the study of the Confessions.
3. The elimination of most sub-headings (all those “...a(1)(2)(3)” sections.)
4. “Apostolicity” F-1.0302d. The Church sent. “Missional”.
5. “Call”. Would you believe, we now spell out that a “call” requires the individual, approval of a community of God’s people, and concurring judgment of a Council of the Church. G-2.0103.
6. G-1.0103 defines a “congregation”. Believe it or not, this is new.
7. G-6.0108a and b are now one paragraph, so that the concept of freedom of conscience is in tension with rather than opposition to it being exercised within bounds.
8. G-6.0201 and 0202a have been combined at 2.0501 to create a more flowing understanding of Teaching Elder.
9. Moderator does not have to sign congregational Minutes.
10. Teaching Elder can no longer moderate at congregational meeting at which their pastoral relationship is being moved to dissolve.
11. Administrative Staff of “Councils”. Used to be 8 long paragraphs. Now one short one.
12. Special Administrative Review is now one short paragraph instead of 4 long ones.
13. There are no longer Parish Associates defined in Form of Government. Presbyteries can keep them by local action.
14. Instead of a long list of responsibilities, the section on presbyteries puts it into the context of relationships and responsibilities per #4 above.
15. The sections on New Immigrant Ministries, Dual Standing, etc. are eliminated but permitted via G-2.0505

## **FIFTEEN THINGS THAT DON’T CHANGE (THANK HEAVENS)**

1. Jesus is still the head of the Church, gives to it its faith and life, and is the Church’s authority. And the church is the Body of Christ.
2. The Great Ends of the Church are still the Great Ends of the Church.
3. The Historic Principle of Church Order and of Church Government are the same as before.
4. Ministry of (Responsibilities of) members. G-1.0304. Still a must for new member classes.
5. We are a representative government. G-2.0102 Right of the people to elect presbyters and deacons is inalienable.
6. No person can be denied membership not related to profession of faith.
7. Business that may be conducted at congregational meeting.
8. Presbytery sets minimum terms of call.

9. Former pastors may officiate by invitation only.
10. Responsibilities of sessions and presbyteries. {"Functions"}
11. Pastors, elders, deacons, Christian educators are still Mandatory Reporters.
12. All Councils must still have an annual Full Financial Review.
13. Freedom of conscience within certain bounds. G-2.0105
14. PNC's
15. Each Council shall develop a manual of operations. (present 9.0405). Contrary to some information, Presbyteries, Synods, and GA's already have manuals of operations to which they can add certain items above. Session should have them—and those that do can easily insert most of the changes. Those that don't need to contact presbytery for help.