

Book of Church Order Questions

1. Who is head of the PCA? – Jesus Christ BCO Preface 1
2. What documents make up the Constitution of the PCA? – Doctrinal Standards in the Westminster Confession, The Larger and Shorter Catechisms, and the Book of Church Order. (BCO) Preface 111.
3. What are the names of the officers of the church? – Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder, and Deacon BCO 1-4
4. May a church without a Teaching Elder hold services? – Yes BCO 4-5
5. Describe the differences between communing and non-communing members – Communing members have made a profession of faith, have been baptized, and have been admitted to the Lord's table by the Session. Non-communing members are children of believers. BCO 6-1, 6-2.
6. For how long is one a deacon or an elder? – The office is perpetual BCO 7-2, 24-6
7. Describe the duties of the elder. BCO 8-3
8. Do Ruling Elders have the same authority and eligibility to office in the courts of the church as Teaching Elders? – Yes, BCO 8-9
9. How often is the Session of a church required to meet? – At least quarterly. BCO 12-6
10. How many representatives may a church send to a meeting of Presbytery? –All their Teaching Elders, 1 Ruling Elder for the first 350 members, and one for each additional 500 members or fraction of 500. BCO 13-1 [Note: This number may vary among Presbyteries. Check with your own Presbytery.]
11. Describe the duties of the Deacon. BCO 9-2
12. How often is the Board of Deacons required to meet? – At least quarterly. BCO 9-4
- 13: How are meetings of church courts to be opened and closed? – With prayer. BCO 10-5
- 14 Name the courts of the PCA? –Church Session, Presbytery, General Assembly, BCO 10-2
15. What is the difference between a committee and a commission? – A committee examines, considers, and reports; a commission deliberates, and may conclude the business assigned to it. BCO 15-1

16. To whom is the report of a commission to be submitted? – To the court that appointed the commission BCO 15-1
17. What is the difference between an assistant pastor and an associate pastor? – An associate pastor is elected by the congregation and is a member of the Session. An assistant pastor is called by the Session but is not a member of the Session. BCO 22-2 and 22-3
18. May an associate or assistant pastor succeed a senior pastor? – Generally not without an intervening term of service in another field but is permissible with special exceptions. BCO 23-1
- 19~ Describe these special exceptions. - A 4/5 majority of the congregation in secret ballot vote and 3/4 majority of Presbytery. BCO 23-1
20. What is a quorum of a congregational meeting? – For churches of 100 members or less 1/4 of the resident communing members; for churches of more than 100 members 1/6 of the resident communing members BCO 25-3
21. What is an associate member? – Believers temporarily residing away from their permanent homes, associate members have all rights and privileges with the exception of holding office and voting in congregational meetings. BCO 46-4
22. What is the procedure for calling a congregational meeting? – Public notice of at least one week, normally called by the Session but the Session shall always call a meeting if requested by 1/5 of 100-300 member church; 1/6 of 300-500 member church; 1/7 of 500-700 member church. BCO 25-2
21. Who may moderate a congregational meeting? – The pastor, any PCA minister, or any male member of the church. BCO 25-4
24. Who may call a meeting of the church Session? – The pastor, any two ruling elders, or Presbytery. BCO 12-6
25. Who may call a meeting of the Board of Deacons? – The Session BCO 9-4
26. Who can vote in a congregational meeting? – All Communing members BCO 25-1
27. What notice is required for congregational meetings? – One week public notice. BCO 25-2
28. What limitation is placed on business that may be conducted at a congregational meeting? – Only that stated in the announcement of the meeting BCO 25-2
29. Who owns the property of a PCA church? – The particular church BCO 25-9

30. How is the Book of Church Order amended? – A proposed change is approved by a majority of commissioners present and voting at a meeting of the General Assembly, advice and consent of 2/3 of the Presbyteries, and approval of a majority of commissioners present and voting at a subsequent General Assembly. BCO 26-2

31. How is the Westminster Confession amended? – A proposed change is approved by 3/4 of the commissioners present and voting at a meeting of General Assembly, advice and consent of 3/4 of the presbyteries, and approval of 3/4 of the commissioners present and voting at a subsequent General Assembly. BCO 26-3

32. Who are the members of the visible church? – All persons, together with their children, who make a profession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and promise submission to His laws. BCO 1 3

33. Within the office of elder there are two orders, what are they? – Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders. BCO 7-2

34. Who is moderator of the Session? – The pastor BCO 10-3

35. What are the duties of the moderator? – BCO 10-3

36. Who are the members of the church Session? – The Pastor, Associate pastor and the Ruling Elders – BCO 12-1

37. What is a quorum of a meeting of the Session? – If there are three or more ruling elders, the pastor and any two ruling elders or three ruling elders; the pastor and one ruling elder. the Session may set their own quorum, provided it is not less than this. BCO 12-1

38. How often must Session minutes be submitted to Presbytery? – Once a year. BCO 12-7

39. To whom are minutes of the Diaconate submitted? – To the Session. BCO 9-4

40. Is an assistant pastor a member of the Session? – No. BCO 22-3

41. How does the Constitution of the church differ from the constitution of the state? – The constitution of the church derives from Divine revelation; the constitution of the state from human reason. BCO 3-4

42. What is a particular church? – A number of professing Christians, with their children, associated together for Divine worship and godly living according to the scriptures and submitting to the lawful government of Christ's kingdom. BCO 4-1

43. How does a mission church differ from a particular church? – It has no permanent governing body and must be governed or supervised by others. BCO 5-1

44, Who is usually responsible for oversight of a mission church? – Presbytery BCO 5-2

45. What are the duties of the clerk of a court? – To record transactions, preserve records, and grant extracts whenever properly required. BCO 10-4

46, Describe the jurisdiction of each of the church courts. - The Session, a single church; the Presbytery, a prescribed geographical district; the General Assembly, the whole church. BCO 11-4

47, Other than the pastor, who may serve as moderator of the Session? – A member of the Session, an assistant or associate pastor, a minister of the same Presbytery. BCO 12-2 12-3, 12-4

48. When an elder attends a meeting of a court, such as Presbytery or General Assembly, who is responsible for his expenses? – The body he represents. BCO 10-6

49. Can a teaching elder work with an organization outside the jurisdiction of the PCA? – Yes. BCO 8-7

50, May a teaching elder be member of a Presbytery in which he does not reside? – Yes. BCO 13 -2

51. Who are the members of the Presbytery? – All the teaching elders and churches within its bounds. BCO 13-1

52. What is a quorum of Presbytery? – A Three ruling elders and three teaching elders. BCO 13-4

53, How often must Presbytery minutes be submitted to General Assembly? – Annually. BCO 13-10

54. How often is Presbytery to meet? – At least twice a year. BCO 13-11

55. How often is General Assembly to meet? – Annually. BCO 14-2

56. How many commissioners may a church send to General Assembly? - All teaching elders, two ruling elders for first 350 communing members or one additional elder for each additional 500 communing members or fraction thereof. BCO 14-2

57, What is quorum of General Assembly? – 100 Commissioners, 1/2 Ruling Elders and 1/2 Teaching Elders from 1/3 of the presbyteries. BCO 14-5

58. What are some of the actions within the powers of the Session? - BCO 12~5

59. How often must Presbytery minutes be submitted to General Assembly? – Annually.. BCO 13-10
60. What is ordination? – Authoritative admission of one duly called to an office in the church of God accompanied by prayer and laying on of hands. and giving of the right hand of fellowship. BCO 17-2
61. Does the BCO require ruling elders to improve their ability to teach the Bible? – Yes. BCO 8-9
62. The subject of a sermon is to be what? – Some verse or verses of scripture. BCO 53-2
63. What are the elements to be included in a worship service? – Reading of Holy Scriptures, singing of Psalms and hymns, offering of prayer, preaching of the Word, presentation of offerings, confessing the faith, observing the Sacraments, and on special occasions taking oaths. BCO 47-9.
64. What translation of the BCO is to be used for public reading? – Any good translation in the language of the people, but not a paraphrase. BCO 50-3
65. There are four permanent committees of General Assembly, what are they? – Administration, Christian Education and Publications, Committee on Mission to North America, Committee on Mission to the World BCO 14-1-12
66. Is it scriptural that the church be divided into many individual churches? – Yes. BCO 2-3
67. May none communing members BCO children receive the Lord's Supper? –No. BCO 58-4
68. What is the basis of all church discipline? – BCO. 27-5
69. Is an officer elected to a second active term of office to be ordained again? – No BCO 24-7
70. Do courts of the church have political or civil jurisdiction? – No. BCO 11-1
71. If the pastoral relation between a Church and the Senior Pastor is dissolved, does the relation of associate or assistant pastors also dissolve? – No. BCO 23-1
72. Who is subject to the discipline of the Church? – All baptized persons, being members of the church. BCO 27-2
73. What is maintained through proper usage of discipline? - The glory of God, the purity of His church, the keeping and reclaiming of disobedient sinners. BCO 27-3

74. What is the basis of all church discipline? – Scriptural law. BCO 27-5
75. May an unbaptized person join the church? – No. BCO 57-3
76. No one may preach at a PCA church without what? – Permission of the Session. BCO 53-6
77. A candidate for an office is to be approved by which court of the church? – The court by which he is to be ordained. BCO 16-3
78. Examination for ordination shall include what subjects? – BCO 21-491
79. Examination for licensure shall include what subjects? – BCO19-2
80. What is licensure? – Permission to preach in the pulpits of the PCA on a regular basis. BCO 19 1
81. What is the length of a licensure? – 4 years. BCO 19-6
82. What is the purpose of internship? – BCO 19-7
83. What is the minimum length of internship? – One year. BCO 19-7
84. Describe the procedure for election of a pastor. - BCO 20-2
85. Who determines how often the Lord's Supper is to be observed? – The Session. BCO 58-1
86. What is an offense? –Anything in the doctrine or practice of church members contrary to the Word of God. BCO 29-1
87. What are the types of censure that may be administered by church courts? – Admonition, suspension from the Sacraments, excommunication, suspension from office, and deposition from office. BCO 30-1
88. What is a dissent? - A declaration on the part on one or more members of a minority, expressing a different opinion from the majority in its action on any issue before the court. BCO 45-2
89. What is the process for calling a special meeting of presbytery? – Request of or concurrence with two teaching elders and two ruling elders from at least three different churches. BCO 13-11
90. What notice is required for a special meeting of presbytery? – Not less than 10 days BCO 13-11

91. What is the process for calling a special meeting of General Assembly? – At the request of or concurrence with 10% of the commissioners who had seats at the preceding meeting of General Assembly, of whom at least 10 shall be teaching elders and 10 ruling elders representing at least one-third of the presbyteries. BCO 14-3

92. What notice is required for a special meeting of General Assembly? – Not less than 20 days. BCO 14-3

93. What notice is required for a congregational meeting for election of officers? – At least one month. BCO 24- 1

94. On what topics are nominees for the office of Ruling Elder and Deacon to be examined? – His Christian experience, knowledge of the system of doctrine, government, and discipline contained in the Constitution of the PCA. The duties of the office to which he has been nominated, his willingness to give assent to the questions required for ordination. BCO 24- 1

95. Who is entitled to vote in the election of church officers? – All communing members in good and regular standing. BCO 24-3

96. At what age may a deacon or ruling elder be honored with the designation deacon or elder emeritus? – Age 70. BCO 24-9

97. May a deacon or elder emeritus attend meetings of the diaconate or Session? – Yes, they may attend, participate in discussion but may not vote. BCO 24-10