

1 **Section C-15.1. Amendment of Bylaws.**

2 These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at a regular General Assembly if
3 a proposed amendment has been placed on the agenda; provided, however, that
4 proposals to amend, repeal or add to a section of these Bylaws whose section
5 number is preceded by a "C" (hereinafter a "C Bylaw"), shall be governed by the
6 additional requirements enumerated in subsections (a) or (b) hereof. Where
7 applicable, amendments to amendments must be approved by a two-thirds vote of a
8 regular General Assembly.

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10 (a) A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw,
11 other than those C Bylaws in Article II of these Bylaws:

12 (1) shall be subject to a two-step approval process:

- 13 (i) Initially approved by a majority vote at a regular General Assembly.
14 (ii) be placed on the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for
15 final adoption. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.

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17 (2) The text of a proposed amendment which has been approved by one
18 General Assembly, may be amended at any time prior to final adoption.
19 If the Moderator rules that the amendment to the proposal is substantive,
20 final adoption shall only be by a subsequent General Assembly. Any
21 such proposal that has been under consideration for final approval at
22 three successive regular General Assemblies shall not be subject to
23 additional substantive amendment at the third regular General Assembly.

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25 (3) A proposal to amend a C Bylaw, which on any vote for final adoption
26 receives a majority but not a two-thirds vote, shall be placed on the
27 agenda of the next regular General Assembly, at which it may be finally
28 adopted if it receives the requisite approval. If the proposal is not passed
29 by a two-thirds vote at the third regular General Assembly at which it is
30 considered for final approval, neither the proposal nor another proposal
31 that is, in the opinion of the Moderator, substantially similar shall be
32 placed on the agenda of a General Assembly for two years.

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34 (b) A proposal to amend, repeal or add a new C Bylaw in Article II of these Bylaws:

35 (1) shall be considered at a regular General Assembly for the sole purpose of
36 determining whether the proposal shall be referred to a commission
37 appointed by the Board of Trustees for review and study.

- 38 (i) Such a review shall involve member congregations.
39 (ii) A majority vote at a regular General Assembly shall be required to
40 refer such a proposal to the study commission.
41 (iii) The review and study shall be completed and a report submitted to
42 the Board, no less than 120 days prior to the third General
43 Assembly following the vote to create the commission.

44 (iv) Once the review and study is complete, , the study commission
45 shall submit to the Planning Committee for inclusion on the
46 agenda of the next regular General Assembly. That submission
47 shall include any amendments to the proposal that the study
48 commission recommends as a result of the review and study
49 process.

50 (v) A motion to dispense with the review and study process shall
51 require a four-fifths vote for passage.

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53 (2) Shall be subject to a two-step process:

54 (i) The motion to amend an Article II C bylaw shall initially be
55 approved by a majority vote at a regular General Assembly.
56 During this initial consideration, the proposal may be amended.
57 Following this approval, a proposal shall not be subject to
58 substantive amendment. The Moderator shall determine if an
59 amendment to such a proposal is substantive.

60 (ii) Following initial approval the Article II C bylaw shall be placed on
61 the agenda of the next regular General Assembly for final
62 adoption. Final adoption shall require a two-thirds vote.

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64 (3) If the proposal does not receive the requisite approval at the General
65 Assembly, neither the proposal nor another proposal that is substantively similar,
66 in the opinion of the Moderator, shall be placed on the agenda of a General
67 Assembly for two years.

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69 (4) If no review and study process of Article II has occurred for a period of fifteen
70 years, the Board of Trustees shall appoint a commission to review and study
71 Article II and to recommend appropriate revisions, if any, thereto to the Board of
72 Trustees. The Review and Study and approval process will be as directed
73 above.

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75 ***Section 15.2. Submission of Proposed Amendment.**

76 Proposed amendments to these Bylaws may be submitted by only:

- 77 (a) the Board of Trustees;
78 (b) the General Assembly Planning Committee;
79 (c) the Commission on Appraisal
80 (d) not less than fifteen certified member congregations by action of their governing
81 boards or their congregations; such proposed amendments to Bylaws must be
82 received by the Planning Committee no later than February 1 whenever the
83 regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110 days
84 before the General Assembly; or
85 (e) a district by official action at a duly called district meeting at which a quorum is
86 present, such proposed amendment to be received by the Planning Committee

Comment [WXB11]: This strikes me as too high a threshold. A two-thirds majority seems sufficient.

Comment [Ljp2]: This is a significant change to the key requirements of the existing by-laws.

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no later than February 1 whenever the regular General Assembly opens in June; otherwise, not less than 110 days before the next General Assembly.

