

We will now begin the fifth lecture on Church Order.

**/Chapter 14, Election and Ordination of Pastors.**

**/Section I, Election of Pastors.**

/When a local church wishes to call a pastor, a congregational meeting must be called by the decision of the session. /A congregational meeting is a gathering of baptized and registered members of the church. /When calling a pastor, the moderator of the session of the vacant church must first preach. /Then he will ask for opinions regarding the vote in the call of a pastor. /When more than half of those present consent to taking a vote, actual voting can then take place.

**/Section II, Preparations for the Call.**

/A pastor is called when he receives more than two-thirds of the vote at the congregational meeting. /However, if there is intense opposition from the minority, it would be best to extend the call.

/Then the form of the call is filled out according to regulations. /Voters sign and date the form. /The form of the call is then sent to the general assembly.

**/Section III, the Form of the Call.**

/Please refer to the textbook on Church Order for the form of the call.

**/Section IV, Approval of Installation.**

/When a call shall be presented to any minister or candidate, it shall always be viewed as a sufficient petition from the people for his installment. /The acceptance of a call by a minister or candidate shall always be considered as a request on his part to be installed at the same time.

**/Section V, Presentation of the Call.**

/The call shall be presented to the presbytery under whose care the person called shall be, /and if the presbytery think it expedient to present the call to him, it may be accordingly presented. /No minister or candidate shall receive a call but through the hands of the presbytery.

**/Section VI, Changes in the Call.**

/When changing the agreed salary of the pastor made at the call, the pastor and the church may report to the presbytery after mutual consent is made. /When there are differences in opinion, the reasons are also reported to the presbytery.

**/Section VII, the Call of a Candidate Belonging to Another Presbytery.**

**/Section VIII, Preparations for Installation.**

**/Section IX, Installation Ceremony.**

/At the installation ceremony, the pastor first makes his vows. /An appropriate sermon is delivered by the president of the presbytery. /Next, the pastor being ordained stands and is asked the following questions. /There are seven questions in the textbook.

/When he answers “yes” to all seven questions, ordination will then take place. /Any licentiates receive the laying on of hands. /Pastors are pronounced the pastor of the congregation.

**/Section X, Ordination Ceremony.**

/The presbytery shall perform the ordination ceremony at the determined date and location as decided by the presbytery, and in the presence of the entire presbytery and members of the presbytery.

**/1. Vow of Pastors.**

**/2. Vow of Members of the Church.**

/Please refer to the textbook for the vows. /After the pastor being ordained makes his vows, the presiding minister makes a proclamation. /“I now pronounce that OOO has been regularly elected, ordained and installed Pastor of this congregation in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

**/Section XI, Authority of the Stated Supply.**

/The stated supply is given permission from the presbytery to temporarily serve at a particular church or at a mission church for one year only with a specific reason. /When one year comes to an end, he can extend the time and continue to be the stated supply with the decision made by the church board.

**/Section XII, Ministers of Different Denominations.**

/What must the Presbyterian government do in the case that a minister from another denomination is received? /The minister must receive an education at a seminary of the pertaining denomination for at least one year. /Then he must make his vows.

**/Chapter XV, Translation, or Removing a Minister from One Charge to Another.**

**/Section I, Approval of Translation.**

/A pastor cannot be translated from one church to another without the permission of the presbytery.

**/Chapter XVI, Resigning a Pastoral Charge.**

**/Section I, Resignation by a Pastor’s Wishes.**

/When a pastor submits the form of resignation to the presbytery as a result of difficult circumstances in his church, the presbytery will call the commissioners of the congregation to question the reasons for the pastor’s resignation.

/Then the pastor will resign. /“Resignation by a pastor’s wishes” indicates that a pastor makes the decision to resign. /“Resignation” indicates that a pastor discontinues his duties in the church.

**/Section II, Resignation by Encouragement.**

/When the local church does not welcome a pastor and wishes to remove the pastor, the presbytery hears the charges of the pastor and church commissioners.

/“Resignation by encouragement” indicates a dissatisfaction of the pastor.

**/Section III, Freedom of Resignation.**

/When a pastor feels that he has not benefitted the local church, he can personally submit a form of resignation to the presbytery, and the presbytery makes a decision based on the pastor’s decision. /“Resignation” indicates a complete removal from the pastoral office. He becomes a common believer.

**/Section IV, Advised Resignation.**

/When a pastor is not fully qualified for the pastoral office /and has been without a church for five years, the presbytery may advise him to resign, even if the pastor is in good health.

**/Section V, Dissolution of Pastor.**

/The presiding pastor may leave the church as a result of the need for physical recuperation, theological studies, or for other reasons. /He must consult with the session, and must receive approval of the presbytery when he will be absent for over two months.

**/Chapter 17, of Missions.**

**/Section I, Missionaries.**

/In order for the general assembly to establish a church, it can dispatch missionaries to domestic locations and to foreign areas as well.

**/Section II, Missionaries Abroad.**

/Missionaries abroad refer to missionaries affiliated with a general assembly.

/Missionaries abroad must sign a written pledge provided by the general assembly.

/Please refer to the text on Church Order for the written pledge.

**/Chapter 18, Moderator and Clerks.**

**/Section I, Moderators.**

/The moderator of a court is determined according to the rules of the court so that business may be conducted with order and despatch.

**/Section II, Authority of the Moderators.**

/A moderator is to be considered as possessing, by delegation from the whole body, all authority necessary for the preservation of order, /for convening and adjourning the judicatory, /and directing its operations according to the rules of the Church.

**/Section III, Clerks.**

/A clerk is appointed to make and preserve the records of a meeting, and his term in office is determined by the rules of the Church Court.

**/Section IV, Duties of Clerks.**

/Clerks of each judicatory record the transactions of the courts in detail, and preserve the records carefully.

/Such records written by the clerks are considered authentic vouchers of the fact which they declare, in any ecclesiastical judicatory and to every part of the Church.

## **/Chapter 19, Rights and Responsibilities of each Church Court.**

### **/Section I, Organization of Class Meetings.**

/A local church may organize meetings for missions.

### **/Section II, Administration of Class Meetings.**

/Class meetings must be governed by the session and fall under the jurisdiction and guidance of the session. /The session of course must be governed by the presbytery.

### **/Section III, Authority of Class Meetings.**

/Each meeting must fall under the jurisdiction, inspection and guidance of the Church Court in enacting regulations and names, appointing members, and receiving and disbursing finances as per church regulations.

## **/Chapter 20, Assemblies.**

/There are important meetings to be held for a church's upbringing. /There are congregational meetings and church boards.

### **/Section I, Congregational Meetings.**

/First, members. /All communicants of a local church who are without blame qualify to as members. /Anyone who is a baptized and registered member of the church may take part in congregational meetings. /Anyone who has been baptized as an infant may be a communicant once he is over the age of fifteen and has passed the communicant's catechism and vows.

/Second, convocation. /The session can call for congregational meetings upon the church board's appeal or upon one-third of the communicants' appeal. /A congregational meeting can also be called upon the order of the presbytery or general assembly.

/Third, members of a congregational meeting. /The moderator and clerk of the session of a local church is also the moderator and clerk of a congregational meeting. /In the case that the moderator of the session is absent, the session can appeal for a temporary moderator.

/Fourth, gathering. /The session makes an announcement in the church one week before the meeting will take place, which will include information about the date, place, and matter of which will be addressed.

/Fifth, meetings. /A congregational meeting is regularly held at the end of each year. /A congregational meeting sees and hears about the development and state of the session. /It also receives reports from the church board and departments. /It also gives annual report of a settlement of accounts of church expenses.

/The church must hold a congregational meeting at least once a year to give a report on a

settlement of accounts. /General decisions should be passed upon receiving more than half of the vote of those present. /However, when installing a pastor, the candidate must receive more than two-thirds of the vote. /Elders and deacons are also elected by receiving more than two-thirds of the vote.

### **/Section II, Church Board.**

/First, organization. /A local church may organize a church board with members of the session and deacons. /The moderator of the church board is the senior pastor. /Deacons (not ordained), unlicensed preachers, and layman evangelists may take part in the church board. /Exhorters may also take part in the church board.

/Second, the church board of a mission church. /A mission church is a church without elders. /A mission church may hold meetings with the assembly of a pastor, unlicensed preacher, and deacons.

/Third, management of finances. /The church board manages church finances. /It also makes financial decisions regarding relief and general expenses.

/Fourth, a quorum for opening a church board meeting. /A meeting is held when more than half the members are present.

### **/Section III, United Church Board.**

/A united church board can be organized according to the convenience of churches in each district. /There is no jurisdiction in united church boards. /The union of church boards can lead to better evangelism work in the district.

### **/Chapter 21, Amendment of Laws.**

#### **/Section I, Amendments of the Form of Government, Book of Discipline, and Directory for Worship.**

/When modifying the Form of Government, Book of Discipline, and Directory for Worship, more than half the members must be present, and more than two-thirds of the present members must vote for the modifications.

#### **/Section II, Amendments of the Confession of Faith and Catechisms.**

/Amendments to the Confession of Faith and the Catechisms must be approached with more caution. /The general assembly must send opinions regarding the amendments to each presbytery, and it must receive over two-thirds of the votes of each presbytery. /It must receive more than two-thirds of all votes taken.

#### **/Section III, Opinions of the Presbytery (Overtures).**

/Once the presbytery sends its opinions for amendment to the general assembly, /the general assembly asks each presbytery for their opinions on the specific matter, and then makes a decision. /A meeting of the general assembly can also make amends. /We have studied the church form of government.

## **/II. Constitutional Rules**

**/Section I, Establishment of a New Mission Church.**

/A place of worship must be prepared in a certain area. /There must be at least fifteen adult believers in order to build a new church. /A new church can be built if there are over fifteen adult believers. /This is the process of founding a church. /The location, number of adult believers, and the number of children in Sunday school are recorded and reported to the presbytery.

**/Section II, Duties of Believers.**

/Believers must attend worship, prayer meetings, and all church gatherings chosen by the church. /Believers must give offerings. /Believers must diligently learn and teach the Bible. /Believers must keep the Lord's Day holy.

/Believers must not act in accordance with superstitious beliefs. /For example, believers must not get their fortunes told. /Believers must not drink or smoke. /Believers must not gamble. /Believers must not be violent in their actions. /Believers must observe the truth and live by the truth.

**/Section III, Rights of Believers.**

/Believers have the right to petition and make appeals by the order of church laws. /Believers have the right to vote and are eligible for election according to the laws of the local church. /However, their rights are taken away if they do not attend church for more than six months without reason.

**/Section IV, Sunday Worship.**

/Sunday worship begins with silent meditation. /Believers must keep the Lord's Day holy. /Believers must not celebrate or commemorate individuals during times of worship.

/Believers must not buy food or do business on Sundays. /They must not take part in feasts, secular pleasures, or amusements on Sundays. /Sundays must be devoted to worship, evangelism, visitations and prayer. /Individuals' monuments or statues must not be put up in sanctuaries.

**/Section V, Catechumenate.**

/The church can appoint catechumens after a believer has attended church for more than six months. /He can be a catechumen after he has attended church for more than six months. /He can be baptized six months after he has studied the Catechisms and after he has proven he has kept his faith.

/He must be over the age of fourteen, /must have believed for over six months, /and must be a faithful individual. /Once he has taken the exam, he can then become a catechumen. /The written vows for the catechumen are in the textbook.

/The catechumen is first appointed when performing baptism. /We appoint catechumens, members for baptism, members for infant baptism, and communicants when performing baptism. /Believers study the catechism for baptism and are baptized six months after they become catechumens. /Children who are not yet twenty-four months in age are

baptized as infants in accordance with the faith of their parents.

**/Section VI, the Holy Sacraments.**

/Once a believer has shown to be faithful and has diligently attended church as a catechumen for six months, he can then be baptized through the catechism for baptism. / An infant can be baptized before he is twenty-four months in age. /An infant can be baptized even if only one parent has been baptized.

/When one who has received infant baptism becomes fifteen years of age, he can then become a communicant through the catechism for baptism. /Once he has made his vows for baptism, he then becomes an officially baptized member of the church. /Because the communicant will have received infant baptism, he will not be baptized by the sprinkling of water. /He will become an officially baptized member through the catechism for baptism and vows for baptism.

/It is good to perform sacraments two to three times a year in the church. /It is good to perform baptism and communion more than two times a year. /An announcement for the sacraments must be made one week before the Sunday of when it will be performed so that believers can be prepared. /Leftover bread and wine from communion must be buried in a specific place or burned.

/Anyone who wishes to take part in baptism must study the catechisms and be prepared. / One week before one partakes in baptism, he must go to church and be questioned by the pastor about the contents of his studies. /He is asked if he will continue to faithfully believe in Jesus, and he will make his vows. /When the believer passes the catechism for baptism, he will participate in baptism during Sunday worship service.

/The catechumens are asked to stand, and they read the written vows for catechumens. /When the candidates answer “yes,” they are pronounced “catechumens.”

/Next, those who have received infant baptism, and are now over the age of fifteen, /are asked to stand and are questioned during Sunday worship service. /When they answer “yes,” they officially become communicants (baptized members).

/Parents of those receiving infant baptism are asked to stand and the parents make the vows. /The written vows are all in the textbook.

/When they finish making their vows, the pastor baptizes the infants by sprinkling water on their heads. This is called “sprinkling baptism.” /Next, the pastor proclaims, “I pronounce in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit that OOO has become a baptized member of OOO Church.

<About ten lines deleted.>

/Take the time to carefully read about how pastors must perform baptism and communion

in the church.

/Here we will conclude the fifth lecture on Church Order. /Thank you.