

## CODE AMENDMENTS SINCE LAST UPDATE OF THE CODE

**RULES 3.11(s)(ii), 5.42 and 13.25(B)(d)**

1. Amend Rule 3.11(s)(ii) as follows:  
*Any proposed Constitution of every congregational organisation must be submitted to the Kirk Session, and shall become operative, and may be amended only, with the approval of the Session and the Code and Legal Reference Committee.*
2. Amend Rule 5.42 by the addition of the following clause:  
*Before enacting, repealing or amending regulations or a Constitution of the Code and Legal Reference Committee shall be advised of the proposal for its information and report if the Committee considers it necessary.*
3. Amend Rule 13.25(B)(d) as follows:  
*Every overture must be forwarded to the Code and Legal Reference Committee for its information and report if the committee considers it necessary.*

**RULES 5.8 AND 5.11**

1. Enact new Rule 5.8 as follows:  
*Assembly Officers*  
5.8 (a) *The Officers of the State Assembly are the Moderator, Clerk, Deputy Clerk, who must be Ministers or Elders, and the Treasurer who must be either a Minister, an Elder, or a Communicant Member. They hold office until they resign or are superseded.*  
(b) *All Assembly Officers may be remunerated on such terms as determined by the Stipends Commission in consultation with the Finance and Administration Board.*
2. Delete the phrase “an honorary” from Rule 5.11 and insert the word “a” in its place.

**RULE 1.10**

Amend Rule 1.10 by the addition of the following clause:

*The Session or superior court convening a congregational meeting shall determine both the means by which the congregational meeting shall be held, in accordance with Guideline 220, and the means by which voting shall be conducted. When deemed necessary, voting may also be conducted by one or a combination of the following additional voting mechanisms: postal, electronic or online.*

**RULE 1.15**

Amend Rule 1.15 as follows:

*Annual Congregational Meetings*

- 1.15 *An annual meeting of the congregation shall be held as soon as possible after the first day of January, but, unless unforeseen extraordinary circumstances arise, no later than 31 March, at which*
  1. *The Committee of Management shall:*
    - (a) *present a report of its activities for the preceding year,*
    - (b) *present an audited statement of the Treasurer's receipts and payments,*
    - (c) *give such information and explanations as may be asked for,*
    - (d) *receive any suggestions which may be offered with reference to future organisation and administration of funds.*
  2. *The Session shall:*
    - (a) *present a statement regarding the spiritual work of the charge during the past year, for information only,*
    - (b) *present the reports and financial statements provided by all organisations.*

*Where there are several congregations in a Charge, an annual meeting may be held in each.*

**REGULATION 110****Ministry and Personal Development Leave**

14. (a) Leave from ministry duties for seven days annually, being non-cumulative but not necessarily consecutive (ie not one week), including one Sunday, shall be included in the terms of settlement or appointment for a Minister, Licentiate, Accredited Ministry Worker or Deaconess for the purpose of ministry and personal development.
- (b) While a Minister, Licentiate, Accredited Ministry Worker or Deaconess is on leave the Charge shall continue to pay the cash component of the stipend plus usual allowances and expense-payment fringe benefits on behalf of the Minister, Licentiate, Accredited Ministry Worker or Deaconess.
- (c) Unused leave shall not accrue at the conclusion of any annual period, or period of employment, and the Minister, Licentiate, Accredited Ministry Worker or Deaconess shall not be entitled to be paid in lieu thereof.
- (d) The record of leave taken shall be maintained by the Session Clerk.
- (e) A Minister, Licentiate, Accredited Ministry Worker or Deaconess taking leave shall advise the Session and seek the approval of the Presbytery. In the case of an Accredited Ministry Worker or Deaconess taking leave, the concurrence of the Committee on Ministry Resourcing shall also be sought.

**Long Service Leave - Clause 16**

- (i) During leave, the Charge shall continue to pay to the Fund any stipend amount in excess of the Urban Zone rate in accordance with their terms of settlement, and the relevant ministry expense allowance. Charge shall continue to pay expense-payment fringe benefits at the appropriate rate on behalf of the Minister in advance or upon completion of the leave. The Charge shall also pay all costs of supply during the leave period.

**Short-term Sickness Benefits**

18. In the event of a Presbytery or Appointing Body taking action outlined in Rule 4.43 (a) and (b), for the purpose of short-term sick leave, sickness benefits shall be payable as follows:
- (a) Up to 3 months for any one claim at the rate of 50% of the regional minimum stipend for Urban Zone including Urban Zone expense payment fringe benefits (where there is no manse provided) to be paid from the Accident and Sickness Fund. If the medical condition allows the Minister, Accredited Ministry Worker or Deaconess to resume work and if that same medical condition later requires further leave, then the second and subsequent claims on the Accident and Sickness Fund shall be added together and shall not exceed the 52 weeks total allowable claim; however, the second and subsequent claims will also be subjected to the requirements of clause 20 (b) (i).

**Long-term Sickness Benefits**

19. In the event of a Presbytery or Appointing Body taking action as outlined in Rule 4.43 (a) – (e), for the purpose of long-term or permanent sick leave, sickness benefits shall be payable as follows:
- (a) Up to 3 months for any one claim at the rate of 50% of the regional minimum stipend for Urban Zone including Urban Zone expense payment fringe benefits (where there is no manse provided) to be paid from the Accident and Sickness Fund.

**REGULATION 130**

Amend Property Board Regulation 130 by inserting a new clause 8 as follows (and renumber the current clauses 8 to 14 as clauses 9 to 15):

**Spring Hill Property Committee**

8. *There shall be a Spring Hill Property Committee which shall manage the Assembly Property at 369 Boundary St, Spring Hill QLD, hereinafter called the Spring Hill Property, and shall:*
- (a) Along with the annual budget submission to the Property Board and the Finance and Administration Board, the committee shall:
    - (i) Present a report of its activities for the preceding year,*
    - (ii) Present an audited statement of the committee's receipts and payments,*
    - (iii) Give such information and explanations as may be asked for,*
    - (iv) Receive suggestions from the Property Board and the Finance and Administration Board with reference to the committee's management of the Spring Hill Property and the administration of the committee's funds.**
  - (b) Before 31 November present the following for approval by the Property Board and the Finance and Administration Board:
    - (i) A budget for the following year's management of the Spring Hill Property,*
    - (ii) Recommendations for the following year's management of the Spring Hill Property Sinking Fund.**
  - (c) Have authority to deal with all financial and property matters for the Spring Hill Property that are within the provisions of the budget and sinking fund authorisations that have been approved by the Property Board and the Finance and Administration Board.*
  - (d) Bring all financial and property matters that are outside the provisions of the approved budget and sinking fund authorisations to the Property Board and the Finance and Administration Board for consideration and approval.*
  - (e) Consist of the Queensland Theological College (QTC) Principal, the QTC Vice Principal, the Clerk of Assembly, the Assembly's Operations Manager, and one member of the Property Board appointed by the Property Board with the concurrence of the Assembly or its Commission, with the committee annually electing its office bearers from amongst its members.*
  - (f) Have authority to delegate operational decisions to QTC and Assembly staff in accordance with minuted decisions of the committee.*
  - (g) Consult as needed with the Queensland Theological College Board through the QTC Principal and Vice Principal.*

**QTC Constitution - Third Addendum**

*The appointment of persons to lecturing and teaching positions is in terms of Constitution 10.1(e). The Board of QTC may appoint a person who is not a minister, elder or communicant member of the PCA on the following conditions, only:*

1. *The person to be appointed is a full or communicant member of a Protestant denomination, and subscribes, personally, to one of the following five Protestant Confessions of Faith:*
  - (i) *The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion (1562)*
  - (ii) *The Book of Concord (1580)*
  - (iii) *The “Three Forms of Unity,” i.e. all three of: The Belgic Confession (1561) and the Heidelberg Catechism (1563) and the Canons of Dort (1619)*
  - (iv) *The Savoy Declaration (1658)*
  - (v) *The 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith (the “Second London Baptist Confession”)*
2. *The appointment is made pursuant to rule 6.7 of the Queensland Code;*
3. *The Commission of Assembly gives its concurrence to the appointment;*
4. *The person to be appointed will be the only full-time lecturer with QTC who is not a minister, elder or communicant member of the PCA;*
5. *The person to be appointed shall sign an agreement concerning their faith and adherence to the doctrines and practices of the church in the following terms:*
  - (i) *Do you confess anew your faith in God as your Heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your Sanctifier?*
  - (ii) *Do you profess your faith in the Gospel of the love and grace of God, wherein through Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, He freely offers to all men forgiveness and eternal life, and calls them into the fellowship and service of His Kingdom?*
  - (iii) *Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice?*
  - (iv) *Do you own and accept [insert the title of a Protestant Confession of Faith listed for this purpose in this Addendum], as an exhibition of the sense in which you understand the Holy Scriptures and as a confession of your faith?*
  - (v) *Are the glory of Almighty God, love to the Lord Jesus Christ, and an earnest desire to see people come to a saving faith in Christ, your chief reasons for accepting the position of Lecturer within the Queensland Theological College of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland?*
  - (vi) *Do you engage in the strength of the Lord Jesus Christ to lead a life worthy of your office, to discharge with integrity and cheerfulness the duties entrusted to you to seek furtherance of the Kingdom of God?*
  - (vii) *Will you, by God's grace, carry out all lawful instructions issued directly by your supervising authorities, and by the Board of the Queensland Theological College of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, or through their delegated officers?*
  - (viii) *All these things you profess and promise, through grace as you would answer to your Lord, and enter into His eternal glory?*

*This statement of faith and affirmation shall form part of the contract of employment of such a lecturer.*
6. *In relation to the signed agreement referred to in Clause 5 of this Addendum, one of the following shall be used as an acceptable Protestant Confession of Faith at 5(iv) above which is owned and accepted by the appointee:*
  - (i) *The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion (1562)*
  - (ii) *The Book of Concord (1580)*
  - (iii) *The “Three Forms of Unity,” i.e. all three of: The Belgic Confession (1561) and the Heidelberg Catechism (1563) and the Canons of Dort (1619)*

(iv) *The Savoy Declaration (1658)*

(v) *The 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith (the “Second London Baptist Confession”)*

*As soon as practicable after the relevant agreement has been signed, all members of the PCQ Assembly shall be advised as to which of the above Confessions the appointee has affirmed, in order that their theological position is clearly and well-known along with any points of difference to the position of the PCA.*

7. *At the first available meeting of the Board of Queensland Theological College after signature by the lecturer, the lecturer’s statement and affirmation referred to above shall be received and be recorded in the minutes of the Board of Queensland Theological College.*
8. *When such an appointment is made and confirmed by the Commission then that appointee shall not be entitled to a seat in any court, committee, Board, or other body of the church. A person appointed under the terms of this Addendum shall not be eligible to deliberate or to vote in relation to any matter regarding candidates or students for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia within meetings of the Faculty of Theology, the Committee for Training for the Ministry, or any other bodies of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. A person appointed under the terms of this Addendum shall not be placed in a supervisory relationship over other employees at the Queensland Theological College.*
9. *The employment contract of the lecturer to be appointed shall include provisions consistent with current Australian employment law, which require the appointee in the conduct of their QTC duties, to support the standards, doctrine, polity, mission, and ethos of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and of the Queensland Theological College, and to not undermine or discourage adherence to these. The employment contract, while allowing and supporting the fruitful exercise of ministry in a non-Presbyterian church, must also include provisions specifying that where the appointee undertakes activities beyond the Presbyterian Church of Australia, that the Queensland Theological College and the Presbyterian Church of Australia shall not be defamed, ridiculed or undermined by the appointee but that they be positively supported and commended.*
10. *The employment contract of the lecturer to be appointed shall include provisions consistent with current Australian employment law, which require the appointee to adhere to a suitable standard of conduct to be expected of Christians exercising a public teaching ministry. The contract shall also include provision(s) which allow for the employment contract to be terminated (or other sanctions or penalties to be imposed) by the General Assembly, its Commission, or the Board of the Queensland Theological College for a failure to adhere to this standard, or for breaching any part of the agreement referred to in Clause 4 of this Addendum. This may include a requirement to sign a binding Code / Standard of Conduct alongside or as part of the employment contract.*
11. *The appointee shall be a full or communicant member of a Protestant church, and remain so for the duration of their appointment. Their employment contract shall require this membership as a condition of their ongoing employment at QTC, and that they remain subject to the pastoral care and discipline of a Protestant church throughout the period of their employment.*
12. *The employment contract of the lecturer to be appointed shall include provisions consistent with current Australian employment law, which allow the employment contract to be terminated by the General Assembly, its Commission, or the Board of the Queensland Theological College at any time, for conducting themselves in a manner which undermines the standards, doctrine, polity, mission, or ethos of the Queensland Theological College or of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.*
13. *This Addendum to the QTC Constitution shall not be set aside, removed, or amended without the approval of at least 75% of the General Assembly, at least 75% of all*

*Presbyteries, and at least 75% of all Sessions of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.*

### **# PRESCARE CONSTITUTION**

4.2 The Board shall consist of:

- a. Not more than eight (8) persons and not less than three persons, which three persons may be only the ex-officio members, all of whom are Communicant Members or Ministers of the Church appointed by the Assembly, one of whom preferably shall have an accounting qualification and one of whom preferably shall have a legal qualification. Any vacancy caused by any resignation or termination of the membership of any of the eight persons so appointed, shall be filled by the Assembly or its Commission.

### **EMMANUEL COLLEGE CONSTITUTION**

No longer applicable

### **## GUIDELINE 220**

#### **MEETINGS CONDUCTED BY ELECTRONIC CONFERENCE**

1. In relation to the Commission of Assembly meetings may be carried out by electronic conferencing (eg video or audio teleconferencing) if the matter is exceptional.
2. In other circumstances there are specific situations where a body may meet by electronic conferencing whereby some members of the committee may participate remotely without actually attending the meeting.
3. The Assembly declares that any use of audio or video conferencing for the conducting of meetings within the church are permissible, but must take into consideration the following:
  - (i) The body concerned needs to make prior arrangements for such a meeting.
  - (ii) Any court of the church or any committee of the church at whatever level is able to conduct a meeting by such means.
  - (iii) Should it not be possible for the committee or body to decide in advance to conduct the meeting by audio or video conferencing, the meeting may be conducted by such means provided the Moderator, Convener or Chairman deems it necessary to do so.

Should the body meet in private whilst teleconferencing every reasonable means must be taken to ensure that the area in which participants are taking part in the meeting are secure and that voting must always be carried out by a show of hands to enable dissents to be declared.

**STANDING ORDER 6**

*In the General Assembly, the Moderator for the current term shall preside, or in his absence or at his request, the Chair shall be taken by a former Moderator or a member appointed by the Court.*

**Standing Order 23**

Relevant questions may be put by any member through the Moderator to:

- (a) the Convener of a Committee:
- at the time when the report is before the Assembly
  - after individual clauses have been moved and seconded, and
  - when the deliverance as a whole has been moved and seconded;
- (b) the mover of a substantive motion after the motion has been seconded. Amended.

The motion was seconded, and approved.

**Standing Order 66A – Procedural Motions**

A motion, by which the House determines in what manner and/or when a question then in debate shall be dealt with, may be moved without notice at any stage in the debate and may itself be debated and amended.

**Standing Order 103**

Any proposed amendment of, or addition to, these Standing Orders may be introduced to the Assembly by Overture or Substantive Motion.

***CODE AND LEGAL REFERENCE COMMITTEE APPROVED AMENDMENTS UNDER RULE 13.25 (A)*****Amendment to Question (i) for Ministers and Elders (GAA Code Chapter 6)**

It was resolved, in accordance with the provision of Rule 13.25 (A), to amend all relevant portions of the PCQ Code to reflect the following amended Question (i) for Ministers and Elders (GAA Code Chapter 6) as approved by the General Assembly of Australia:

*'Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, the only rule of faith and practice?'*

**Amendment to Rule 1.21**

It was resolved to amend Rule 1.21, in accordance with the provision of Rule 13.25 (A), so that it reads:

*The payment of the Minister's stipend is the first charge on the funds of the Congregation or Charge, and is to be paid to the Church Office according to the determination of the Stipends Commission.*

**Amendment to Rule 3.11**

It was resolved to amend Rule 3.11, in accordance with Rule 13.25 (A), by renumbering the following clause as 3.11(t):

*"To have the authority to establish special groups or Committees to oversee on its behalf particular aspects of the life of the Church. The group or Committee shall report to the Session on the basis determined by the Session. The Session shall have the authority to disband such a group or Committee as it sees fit."*

**Amendment to Rule 4.3 (e)**

It was resolved to amend Rule 4.3 (e), in accordance with the provision of Rule 13.25 (A), so that it reads:

*Ministers who have been declared by the State Assembly to be a Minister Emeritus and who have been granted a seat by the Presbytery. In such circumstances the provisions of Rule 4.41A and Rule 4.41B shall also apply;*

**Amendment to Heading of Rule 5.23**

It was resolved to amend the heading of Rule 5.23 to read “Management of Finance and Administration Department”, in accordance with Rule 13.25 (A).

**Amendment to Rule 5.37 (b)**

It was resolved to amend Rule 5.37 (b), in accordance with Rule 13.25 (A), so that it reads:

*An Assembly Appointee appointed to direct the work of the Committee on Ministry Resourcing or the Committee on Outreach and Nurture shall be a member of the respective Standing Committee. The Principal and Vice Principal appointed by the Assembly to serve within the Queensland Theological College or its successor shall be an ex-officio member of the Committee on Training for the Ministry. Such appointees shall serve on the Executive of such Committees.*

**Amendment to Rule 13.13**

It was resolved to amend Rule 13.13 by the deletion of “Rule 4.20” and the inclusion of “Rule 4.22”, in accordance with Rule 13.25 (A).

**Amendment to Rule 13.28 (D)**

It was resolved to amend Rule 13.28(D) by the deletion of “(See SO 84, 85, 86)” and the inclusion of “(See SO 86, 87, 88)”, in accordance with the provision of Rule 13.25 (A).

**Amendment to Regulation 130.8 (c)**

It was noted that the Committee resolved by Flying Minute, in accordance with Rule 13.25 (A), to delete ‘Regulation 6’ in Regulation 130.8 (c) and insert ‘Regulation 130.6’.

**Amendment to OTC Constitution clause 14**

It was resolved, after consultation with the QTC Board, to amend the second paragraph of the Queensland Theological College Constitution clause 14, in accordance with the provision of Rule 13.25 (A), so that it reads:

*The Academic Subcommittee shall communicate to the Faculty its proposed or enacted decisions which will have a major impact upon the delivery of the candidates’ course, and consult with the Faculty on such changes where practicable.*