

Resolved, that the Presbytery of _____ overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) to receive the report and recommendations of the Form of Government (FOG) Task Force; dismiss the task force with thanks; post the draft of the task force–recommended substitutes for the present Form of Government on the PC(USA) website for informational purposes; and invite presbyteries to consider proposing specific amendments to the present Form of Government to improve and enhance the ways in which we govern ourselves missionally.

Rationale points to develop

(Outcomes of session and presbytery studies might serve as a source for the rationale)

- Vague comments by focus groups inadequate to support a rewrite
- Overtures from presbyteries last year that were unanimous in opposing the rewrite submitted
- Lack of uniform agreement on what changes would improve the Form of Government
- Considerable agreement that many of the sections of the proposed Form of Government would not improve the Book of Order
- Lack of agreement that the proposed Form of Government encourages mission more than the current FOB
- Concern about proposed FOG’s tampering with theological statements
- Concern about proposed FOG’s assigning new powers to governing bodies
- Concern about proposed FOG’s removing precedents established by the church courts
- Concern about the institution of manuals
- Concern that the newly required manuals do not mention much of the material that would be eliminated altogether from the Form of Government
- Concern about effect on sessions’ freedom to exercise stewardship
- Concern about the new power given to the Advisory Committee on the Constitution
- Concern about changes in the meaning of “inclusiveness”
- Concern about how specific parts of the nFOG relate to the whole of the document
- Concern about vague language, open to various interpretations