

DATE: August 30, 2010  
TO: Presbytery of Shenandoah  
FROM: Sally Hinchman, Interim General Presbyter/Stated Clerk

This communication is to inform you of the process that the Presbytery of Shenandoah will use to vote on the amendments to the Constitution from the 219<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Assembly (2010).

These proposed amendments to the Constitution will come in three (3) parts:

**Part 1 of 3** – Foundations of Presbyterian Polity, Form of Government, and Advisory Handbook for Councils for the Development of Policies and Procedures (commonly referred to as the 'New Form of Government')

**Part 2 of 3** – Confession of Belhar

**Part 3 of 3** – Amendments to a variety of sections of the current 2009-2011 *Book of Order*

These proposed amendments will be distributed to minister members of presbytery, Commissioned Lay Pastors and elder commissioners from individual churches as soon as they are received. You may also find them on the websites of the Presbytery of Shenandoah – [www.shenpres.org](http://www.shenpres.org) - and the Presbyterian Church (USA) – [oga.pcusa.org](http://oga.pcusa.org) .

The presbytery will vote on **Part 3**, Amendments to the current 2009 – 2011 *Book of Order* at the **November 9, 2010** stated meeting of presbytery. The meeting will be held at the Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center.

At the **February 12, 2011** stated meeting of the presbytery at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Staunton, VA, the presbytery will vote on **Part 1**, Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and the Form of Government and **Part 2**, Confession of Belhar.

To assist the presbytery commissioners in preparing for voting on **Part 1** there will be an informational presentation on the background of the 'New Form of Government' at the November 9, 2010 meeting. Mission Communities and church sessions are encouraged to study this document with the aid of the study guide (insert) included in this booklet. The Rev. Dan Williams, pastor of 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church, Staunton, served as co-moderator of the task force for the New Form of Government. He is also available to assist you with any questions for clarification.

There is also a study guide for **Part 2**, Confession of Belhar, included in the booklet. You are encouraged to make use of both of these study guides.

Sessions may want to consider electing the same commissioner(s) to both of these stated meetings of presbytery.

It is also my privilege to inform you that Elder Cynthia Bolbach, Moderator of the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010), will be preaching at the February 12, 2011 Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery.