

**Presbytery of Detroit  
Report of the Coordinating Cabinet  
September 27, 2022**

The Coordinating Cabinet recommends that Presbytery:

1. After consultation with Trustees and Committee on Ministry, amend the Bylaws of the Presbytery of Detroit, Article IX (Pastoral Committees and Teams), section 1 (Committee on Ministry), subsection c (Authority to act on behalf of the Presbytery) by striking out the current item iii and inserting in its place the following:

iii. Appoint administrative commissions of the Presbytery for the following purposes: (1) to ordain or install teaching elders; (2) to visit congregations and inquire into and settle difficulties therein in accordance with G-3.0109b(5); (3) to take all steps necessary to assist with a congregation's discernment, to execute the dismissal, merger, consolidation, or dissolution of the congregation, including corporate matters, and to make recommendations to the Presbytery regarding the assets of the congregation. Commissions appointed under (2) or (3) above may be given authority to assume original jurisdiction of a Session if the Session so requests, or if the Committee on Ministry determines, after a thorough investigation and after full opportunity to be heard has been accorded to the Session, that the Session is unable or unwilling to exercise its authority. Commissions may be appointed under (3) above only if both the Committee on Ministry and the Trustees of the Presbytery agree on the powers and the membership of the commission.

The current Article IX(1)(c) reads as follows: "iii. Appoint administrative commissions to install, or to ordain and install, teaching elders to pastoral relationships."

Rationale: This amendment is being presented in order to appoint Administrative Commissions when congregations find themselves in difficult circumstances between Presbytery meetings. In the past, part of the problem with congregations that are struggling or discerning their future is that there is no committee, ministry team, or individual empowered to address issues quickly. The amendment seeks to redress that recurring problem by allowing the Constitutional vehicle for these situations, Administrative Commissions, to be appointed without a Presbytery meeting. At the same time, the Amendment limits the power of the Committee on Ministry in creating these Commissions in two ways: (1) the Session has to concur or request an Administrative Commission if the congregation is experiencing disorder or seeking discernment as to its future, or Committee on Ministry has to make a thorough inquiry before appointing a Commission. If a congregation is discerning its future, Trustees also have to concur in the action to appoint an Administrative Commission.

2. Approve the following meeting dates for 2023: January 28, time TBD, installation service and meal; February 25, 9am, Hybrid; May 23, 4pm, Hybrid; September 26, 4pm, Hybrid; November 19, 9am, Hybrid.
3. Approve the concurrence of Social Justice Ministry Team's support of the Hunger Ministry annual grant request through HAA.

The Coordinating Cabinet reports the following for the information of Presbytery:

1. Cabinet met on July 28 and reviewed the status of the separation and separation agreement with the former Transitional General Presbyter, and received the report of the team searching for an Acting Head of Staff.

2. Cabinet approved a \$200 donation to this organization to Michigan Presbyterian Black Caucus.
3. Cabinet approved its budget request to send to Planning and Visioning Team.
4. Cabinet reviewed and approved the docket with additions from Thika Workgroup and for Bylaws, and changes to report times allotted.
5. Cabinet agreed to meet 6 times annually beginning in 2023.