

**The Corporate Responsibilities
of the Session**

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Chapter 1: The Great Ends of the Church

1. Evangelism

PC (USA) *Great End:*

“The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind”

Sharing Christ with others is particularly important to the church that seeks true growth since healthy growth comes primarily through new Christians. A healthy church has to provide its members both training and opportunity for evangelism.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the session develops ways to share God’s love with persons outside the community of faith and receive new members into a spiritually renewed congregation. The session establishes goals for evangelism in light of scripture, the confessions, and the evangelism directions of presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.

In its leadership of the congregation in the area of evangelism/mission, the session:

1. Provides opportunities for evangelism to be learned and practiced

- Shares faith in Christ with individuals and groups and encourages members to witness to their faith in daily life
- Educates the congregation on the theological and biblical foundations of evangelism
- Encourages participation in evangelism training
- Teaches members how to develop their personal witnessing styles
- Teaches members how to share their personal testimonies with others so that they are comfortable sharing their faith with others
- Provides opportunities for members to share their faith
- Encourages participation in evangelism programs sponsored by presbytery, synod or General Assembly
- Interprets the church’s evangelism outreach through worship, education, and special events

2. Develops a systemic approach to evangelism

- Seeks the guidance of the Holy Spirit in recruiting an evangelism team
- Conducts an internal analysis to assess current evangelistic involvement
- Conducts an external analysis to assess the felt needs of persons living within the church community
- Uses the results of the analysis to identify the most pressing needs in the community to which the church can respond
- Designs programs in collaboration with members of the community which will address the felt needs
- Identifies the strengths of the congregation as it presently exists and determines how it can build upon those strengths to serve both the needs of the congregation and the needs of the community
- Sets evangelism goals for the future that are specific, measurable, action-oriented, realistic, and time framed, and communicates them to the congregation

- Develops a comprehensive evangelism ministry plan which indicates what will be done (the goals), how it will be done (the objectives), when it will be done (the calendar), who will be responsible for doing the task (the team), and how it will be evaluated (the evaluation).
- Implements evangelistic outreach
- Monitors progress
- Supports the team in making mid-course corrections
- Projects financial needs for the evangelism ministry

2. Worship

PC (USA) *Great End:*

“The maintenance of divine worship”

True worship has nothing to do with a particular style or liturgy. It is, instead, a matter of the heart.

As Christians, we worship God in response to God’s love for us, acknowledging God’s claim upon our lives and God’s abiding presence with us. As members of the church, our worship is a corporate response to God’s mighty act of redemption in Jesus Christ. Even when we worship as individuals and families, we do so as members of the community of faith.

In its leadership of the congregation in the area of worship, the session:

1. Provides for the worship of the people of God

- Oversees and approve all public worship in the life of the church with the exception of those responsibilities delegated to the pastor alone.
- Works with the pastor in planning worship to achieve proper scheduling, style, and balance
- Encourages the people in the worship and service of God
- Leads the people of God in worship through prayers of intercession
- Leads the people of God in worship through reading the Scriptures
- Leads the people of God in worship through presenting the gifts of the people
- Makes provision for the regular offering of praise to God in song
- Determines occasions, days, times, and places for worship
- Provides space where worship is conducted, including its arrangement and furnishings
- Provides means by which worship may be enhanced through the use of special appointments such as flowers, candles, banners, paraments, and other objects of art
- Oversees the music program, including the choirs
- Participates in the selection of music staff
- Selects hymnals, song books, service books, Bibles, and other materials for use of the congregation in public worship with the concurrence of the pastor and in consultation with musicians and educators available to the session
- Secures persons to lead worship through music, drama, dance, and other arts
- Remains accountable to presbytery in fulfilling their responsibilities for worship
- Ensures that regular programs of the church do not prevent children’s full participation with the whole congregation in worship, in Word and Sacrament, on the Lord’s Day.
- Educates congregation concerning worship
- Secures persons to preach and lead worship when the pastor is to be absent
- Ensures that worship reflects the richness of the cultural diversity in which the church ministers, as well as the local circumstances and needs of its congregation.
- Authorizes other Sunday services
- Authorizes services for special purposes
- Supplies places which are without the regular ministry of the Word and Sacrament when authorized to do
- Projects financial needs for the worship ministry

2. Works with the pastor in determining meaningful and significant settings and methods for administering the Sacrament of Baptism
 - Decides who may be baptized
 - Determines schedule of observance
 - Provides for the preparation of the baptismal font
 - Assists in baptismal service
 - Instructs parents regarding baptism of children
 - Provides opportunities for the congregation to understand the Sacrament of Baptism
 - Keeps roll of baptized children

3. Works with the pastor in determining meaningful and significant settings and methods for administering the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
 - Determines time, place, and frequency for observance
 - Provides opportunities for the congregation to understand the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
 - Provides for the preparation of the elements
 - Assists in serving the elements
 - Instructs baptized children regarding participation in the Sacrament
 - Provides opportunity to receive Communion by those unable to attend corporate worship
 - Authorizes the Lord's Supper at special gatherings
 - Administers the Lord's Supper, personally, in accordance with G-11.0103z in places which are without the regular ministry of the Word and Sacrament when authorized to do so following proper instructions

4. Encourages members to engage in personal, family, and small group worship
 - Provides resources for such worship
 - Provides for special worship needs of those who are ill, aged, or handicapped

5. Encourages elders to assume responsibility as individuals for worship
 - Encourages elders to attend worship regularly and pray for pastor, congregation, universal church, and the world
 - Reminds elders to prepare themselves, through prayer and study, to assist in the celebration of the sacraments
 - Invites elders to assist in the leadership of worship

3. Fellowship

PC (USA) *Great End:*

“The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God”

When people need directions to a place they have never been, they use a map. Far too often when people have major life-forming decision to make, they make them alone. In every church there are people facing decisions about vocations, ministry involvement, health, finances, relocation, and relationships. How sad if they make these decisions without the benefit of community. Their decisions may be impulsive, emotional, based on too little information. The result is too many broken lives.

An embrace is what we all need from a community of transformation. Yes, we need to know that someone is committed to us and loves us. That cannot happen when we are alone.

Fellowship is communion with other believers in order to encourage one another's walk with the Lord. It is the love of Christ that can unite people from diverse backgrounds and with distinctive personalities so that they are able to call each other “brother” and “sister”. The church is a fellowship and each of us needs the friendship, encouragement, support, and comfort that can be provided by other members of the congregation.

The session is responsible for providing all members of the church with adequate pastoral care. Such care cannot be provided by the pastor alone. The session provides for the visitation of all members, creates opportunities for fellowship, and aids in the resolution of problems when there is conflict.

In its leadership of the congregation in the area of fellowship, the session:

1. Welcomes newcomers, genuinely expressing God’s love and care in tangible ways so that from their first contact with the church they are drawn step by step towards a full experience support, belief, belonging, and service.
 - Develops and maintains quality systems to identify, meet, and follow up newcomers
 - Identifies and assesses the individual pastoral care giving needs of newcomers and satisfactorily meets those needs wherever possible referring some, if necessary, to outside agencies
 - Works to assimilate new members into congregational life
 - Provides varied opportunities for new members to share joys and sorrows and responds to conflicts with skill and sensitivity
 - Provides structured and unstructured social interaction opportunities at appropriate peer levels and interest points in order to assimilate newcomers into congregational life
 - Assesses the expectations of newcomers who decide to stay, helping them to adopt our church’s beliefs, style of ministry, methods, heritage, and direction
 - Nurtures newcomers by providing resources, initiating interviews, and following up with the purpose of recommending appropriate entry level education and creating personalized growth paths for individuals and families as appropriate
2. Provides a fulfilling church experience which is the major stimulus of personal and spiritual growth for each individual and family that calls this church their church home.
 - Plans successful fellowship events to help church members get to know each other, celebrate individual milestones, and appreciate the contributions of individuals and families

- Makes sure new members are included in fellowship events and made to feel welcome.
- Involves and integrates church members into committees/ministry teams/boards, taskforces, and congregational decision making where appropriate to enhance the process of shaping and developing the church's style, methods and direction and to enthusiastically communicate these along with the heritage and beliefs of the church to others
- Encourages individuals to find ways to connect to others at points of affinity, to develop helping relationships, and to stretch their personal comfort zones to include social interaction with unfamiliar people some of whom will leave if ignored
- Projects financial needs for the fellowship ministry

3. Offers pastoral care to members and others in their personal and communal life

- Develops and implements a systematic plan of visitation of the entire congregation that involves both members and pastor
- Ministers to those who are need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress, both within and beyond the community of faith
- Monitors the need for the pastoral care of all church members
- Uses the giftedness of the people to meet the pastoral care needs of church members with a view toward developing strong caring and loving relationships
- Assures that pastoral counseling is available for individuals and groups
- Informs the pastor and session of those persons and structures which may need special attention
- Makes referral in certain circumstances to specialized ministers or others qualified by credentials and faith-perspective to provide appropriate counseling or therapy

4. Discipleship

PC (USA) Great End:
“The preservation of the truth”

Learning in the church is essential to its life and mission. It involves persons of all ages and conditions. It takes place in the classroom as well as within the life and work of the community of the faithful. It serves to increase the understanding of the content of the faith and to enable maturing Christians to bring their faith to bear upon their life in the world. The goal of learning process is to develop fully devoted disciples of Jesus Christ. Discipleship requires a specific strategy to move a new believer from being a babe in Christ to a mature believer.

In its leadership of the congregation in the area of discipleship, the session:

1. Provides instructions for new members
 - Counsels with parents concerning baptism and nurture of their children
 - Provides instruction for persons being baptized
 - Provides resources and instruction for persons who seek church membership
 - Provides resources and instruction for baptized children and their parents concerning participation in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper
2. Provides opportunities for life-long learning through a strong educational church environment which holistically meets the needs of the learners through dedicated teachers
 - Uses quality on and off-site environments, equipment, and a variety of methods suitable to maximize communication in every teaching/learning situation
 - Monitors the felt and real needs of all learners giving attention to their maturational readiness, aptitude, ethnicity, and life situations, adjusting the curriculum or approach as necessary to meet those needs
 - Identifies, recruits, and trains high quality teachers with ability, temperament, passion, and giftedness suitable to the learners they are teaching
 - Arranges individual teacher schedules to maximize the efficiency of the teaching/learning process
3. Promotes life-long learning collectively and individually, monitoring the learning impact of the whole church life to assure proper and adequate coverage of the whole counsel of God for all church participants
 - Plans and implements the best strategies for promoting the spiritual interests of the congregation
 - Creates an open climate in which members regularly share and explore on a deep level their spiritual development, religious life, and beliefs
 - Provides opportunities for members to share their concerns about their spiritual development, religious life, and beliefs
 - Engages in a process for education and mutual growth of the members of the session
 - Cultivates, personally, an ability to teach the Bible
 - Accepts teaching responsibilities in areas of personal special interest when requested
 - Raises expectation for membership as ministry
 - Ensures that members are instructed in the history, theology, and polity of the church

- Ensures that the Bible and the confessional standards of the church are the basis for instruction
- Encourages members to grow spiritually through individual and/or small group study
- Encourages members to discover and employ their spiritual gifts in the work of the church
- Assesses the spiritual growth needs of those attending discipleship classes annually
- Stays informed of all training that is offered by the discipleship ministry
- Offers core discipleship classes accessible to all
- Requires discipleship classes to develop and implement discipleship training goals
- Keeps members aware of the need and opportunities for discipleship training
- Encourages members to take discipleship training workshops individually and/or as a group
- Encourages members to take spiritual gifts training and to put their gifts to work in the ministries of the church
- Encourages individuals to accept personal responsibility for their spiritual growth and to respond to opportunities for personal development, ministry, and leadership training where appropriate, all the while giving special attention to the distinct needs of each individual and their personal growth path
- Teaches members how to pray
- Teaches members how to draw near to God through faith in quiet contemplation
- Teaches members how to read the Bible
- Teaches members how to use the Bible for daily devotional time
- Encourages members to attend Bible Study regularly
- Educates congregation concerning a proper perspective about money
- Challenges the people of God with the privilege of responsible Christian stewardship of money, time and talents
- Provides for instruction which leads to stewardship of one's total life and Christian witness in the community and world
- Encourages a faithful stewardship that shuns ostentation and seeks proper use of the gifts of God's creation
- Provides education that opens the way for ecumenical, interfaith, and intercultural learning and experience
- Encourages participation in educational programs sponsored by presbytery, synod or General Assembly

4. Administers, supervises, and supports the educational ministry

- Develops and supervises the church school and educational program of the church
- Submits a strategy to use either in-house or "packaged" programs
- Schedules opportunities for learning that permit all members to engage in public worship
- Relates discipleship goals to the overall goals of the congregation
- Approves the appointment of teachers, leaders, and administrators of the discipleship ministry
- Provides encouragement, recognition, and training for volunteer leaders and teachers
- Participates, personally, in educational activities
- Approves selection of study materials for discipleship ministry
- Provides quality supplies, equipment, and study resources
- Communicates with the congregation and community concerning the educational program
- Projects financial needs for the discipleship ministry

5. Ministry

PC (USA) *Great End:*

“The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world”

Ministry is a Christian using his or her spiritual gifts for the edification of the church and in service to a lost world. God uniquely gifts God’s people with abilities in order that God’s Church may advance.

One of the primary responsibilities of the session is to equip God’s people for the work of the ministry. In doing so, the session helps members to identify their God-given gifts and call for ministry. The session empowers members of the church to serve God and others through their giftedness.

In its leadership of the congregation in the area of ministry, the session:

1. Prepares people for ministry by helping them understand the church and their giftedness
 - Assimilates new people into the church through which they come to know people so that they may serve and be served by helping them to understand the church and discovering information about them
 - Helps existing members extend their involvement beyond Sunday morning attendance or find more meaningful ministry opportunities
 - Teaches the biblical foundations of gift-based ministry so that people come to trust that God has gifted them and called them to ministry and that they will grow spiritually as they use their spiritual gifts
2. Connects people to the church and community by inviting them to serve through their giftedness
 - Conducts interviews to discover new member’s faith history and life experiences he or she brings to the church with a view towards discerning how each person can work together to build the church and to spread her impact in the community.
 - Administers spiritual gifts assessment to help new members discover their God-given gifts and calling
 - Assesses ministry needs in light of the spiritual gifts of new members
 - Makes effective placement in ministry service by matching the spiritual gifts of new members with the church’s ministries
3. Equips and renews the people for their tasks within the church and for their mission in the world
 - Trains people to use their God-given gifts so that they grow in their faith through service to God and others
 - Provides training for new members to help ensure their success in ministry
 - Affirms the people who serve in the various ministries of the church and community
 - Provides feedback to let people know how they are doing as they carry out their ministries
 - Evaluates the results of the ministry, engaging in reflection on the experience, and asking questions to assess the effectiveness of people and programs
 - Provides on-going leader development through orientation, training, coaching, or mentoring
 - Values the gifts of time and leadership freely given to the church and community through services of celebration and recognition

- ❑ Encourages people in ministry service to reflect on what they are doing in ministry and what God is teaching them through that ministry and to consider what God wants them to do now as a result of their experiences
- ❑ Projects financial needs for the discipleship ministry

6. Mission

PC (USA) *Great End:*

“The promotion of social righteousness”

The mission of the Church is given form by God’s activity in the world as told in the Bible and understood by faith. Therefore, the Church’s mission extends beyond serving its members personally. It is called to demonstrate concern for the whole of society.

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the session develops practical ways to demonstrate God’s love to persons outside the community of faith. The session establishes goals for mission in light of scripture, the confessions, and the mission directions of presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, while considering the needs of the congregation, the community, and the world.

In its leadership of the congregation in the area of mission, the session:

1. Provides opportunities for mission to be learned, practiced, and supported

- Interprets to church members the need for service
- Interprets the church’s mission through worship, education, and special events
- Takes initiative in identifying social problems in the community and assumes personal responsibility in seeking solutions to them
- Works toward the improvement of the quality of community life
- Undertakes service projects in the community
- Considers matters of worldwide need and concern
- Informs members of opportunities through the presbytery, synod, or General Assembly for service beyond the community
- Informs members of opportunities for individual service
- Encourages study of particular mission programs
- Provides opportunities and training for participation in mission
- Engages in mission ecumenically where possible
- Determines the distribution of the church’s benevolences
- Orders offerings for Christian purposes
- Provides for special offerings in support of mission
- Challenges members to make special gifts, wills, and bequests for mission
- Encourages financial support of the basic mission of the denomination

2. Develops a systemic approach to mission

- Seeks the guidance of the Holy Spirit in recruiting a mission team
- Examines the scriptures, the confessions, and the mission directions of presbytery, synod, and General Assembly
- Involves the congregation in planning, implementing, and evaluating local mission programs
- Encourages groups and individuals to become involved in mission beyond the local community and provides opportunities for such services
- Listens to the needs and hopes of the congregation
- Studies the needs of the community
- Evaluates the mission programs of the congregation and organizations in terms of the contributions made to the community and to the world

- Identifies mission goals for the future and explicitly and communicates them to the congregation
- Sets particular mission objectives for itself and approves those of the congregation's organizations
- Develops a comprehensive mission ministry plan
- Appraises the effect of mission programs on the spiritual growth of members
- Assesses the effectiveness of each program in light of the time, talent, and resources it requires
- Adjusts goals and programs accordingly
- Contributes , personally, talents, time, and resources to mission
- Projects financial needs for the mission ministry

Chapter 2: Governance and Discipline

Those tasks most clearly defined by the Constitution of the church as belonging uniquely to the session concern its role in governance and discipline of the particular church. The session has responsibility for membership, for maintenance of records, and for the peace, unity, and purity of the church.

The intent of discipline is to provide for the emotional, spiritual, and moral health of the community, supervising the welfare of all and working for the growth of all persons. Although discipline is generally thought of in punitive terms, it is well to recall that this is a major constitutional and historical function of the session. Discipline should be understood essentially as the reconciliation and restoration of persons to the fellowship of the church.

1. Determines who shall be members of the particular church and maintains accurate records of same
 - Discusses with prospective members their confession of faith and commitment to the church
 - Receives persons into membership
 - Decides who shall be baptized
 - Welcomes baptized children to the Lord's Table
 - Reminds non-resident members of their duty to join a church in their new community and notifies a church in that new community requesting it to assume pastoral care of member(s)
 - Grants letters of transfer to other Christian churches
 - Maintains complete and accurate church membership rolls
 - Reviews the rolls of the church annually and makes appropriate changes
2. Delegates and supervises the work of elected leaders and organizations
 - Delegates and supervises the work of the board of deacons and the board of trustees and all other organizations and task forces within the congregation, providing for support, report, annual review, and control
 - Exercises final authority over all work of the church
 - Authorizes all organizations and groups within the church
 - Supports and encourages all elected officers in the discharge of their duties
 - Instructs, examines, ordains, and installs elders and deacons elected by the congregation
3. Calls meetings of the congregation
 - Calls the congregation to hear the report of the nominating committee and elect officers
 - Calls the congregation to elect its representatives to the nominating committee
 - Calls the congregation to elect its representatives to a pastoral nominating committee
 - Calls the congregation to act upon the report of the pastor nominating committee
 - Calls the congregation to act on any recommended changes in terms of call after annual review of compensation for pastor(s)
 - Calls the congregation for an annual meeting to hear reports on the life of the church and on the financial health of the congregation
4. Exercises discipline over church members and officers
 - Maintains the peace, unity, and purity of the particular church
 - Inquires into the knowledge and Christian conduct of the church members under its care
 - Hears and acts upon complaints as a court of the church

- Admonishes or disciplines persons when necessary
- Complains or appeals to higher courts of the church when the peace, unity, and purity of the particular church is endangered
- Reports to ecclesiastical and civil legal authorities knowledge, gained in the course of service to the church, of harm, or the risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or an adult who lacks mental capacity when (1) such information is gained outside of privileged communication; or (2) she or he reasonably believes that there is risk of future physical harm or abuse

Chapter 3: Administration

The effectiveness of the church is dependent in large measure upon the administrative work of the session. Administration is the effective organization of people and resources so that the purposes of the church are accomplished and the needs of the congregation are met.

Administration requires planning, organizing, and supervising activities in a way that allows individuals and groups to move forward in a creative and productive manner.

The session is responsible for all matters relative to the church. Although specific matters may be assigned to other officially elected bodies, such as, deacons or trustees, final authority rests with the session.

In its leadership of the congregation in the area of administration, the session:

1. Provides for financial support and management

- Develops annual budget
- Anticipates sources of income
- Plans and executes stewardship procedures for securing funds to meet the budget
- Determines the distribution of the church's benevolences
- Authorizes offerings for Christian purposes, providing full information to the congregation of its decisions in such matters
- Uses orderly plans for receiving the offerings of the people
- Ensures all offerings are distributed to the objects toward which they were contributed
- Systematizes counting and banking
- Requires the counting and recording of all offerings by at least two duly appointed persons, or a fidelity bonded person
- Records monies received
- Uses standard procedures for requisitioning, disbursing, and purchasing
- Keeps adequate books and records to reflect all financial transactions, open to inspection by authorized church officers at reasonable times
- Submits periodic reports of financial activities to the board or boards vested with financial oversight at least annually, and preferably more often
- Arranges for annual audit of all books and records relating to finances by a public accountant or public accounting firm or a committee of members versed in accounting procedures
- Elects church treasurer annually

2. Provides for the management of the property of the church

- Determines the appropriate use of the church buildings and facilities
- Obtains property and liability insurance coverage to protect the facilities, programs, and officers, including members of the session, staff, board of trustees, and deacons
- Provides for custodial care of church buildings and grounds
- Renovates or repairs church buildings and manse when needed
- Provides for landscaping, maintenance, and care of church grounds
- Provides liaison with others when responsibility for property management is delegated to them

3. Makes provision for personnel

- Develops job descriptions and personnel policies
- Hires and assigns full and part-time non-ordained employed staff
- Provides for continuing education or in-service training
- Conducts annual performance reviews
- Formulates a plan regarding compensation and salary adjustments
- Reviews annually with pastor(s) the adequacy of compensation and submits its recommendation to the congregation

4. Organizes its work

- Convenes and adjourns each meeting with prayer
- Creates committees or ministry teams structures as needed
- Assigns session members to committees or ministry teams according to their interests and abilities
- Receives and approves committees or ministry teams reports
- Orders its meeting for effectiveness

5. Develops and maintains an effective systematic two-way communication with the congregation

- Utilizes newsletters, bulletins, letters, group meetings, telephone calls, causal contacts, printed resources, mass media, and other formal and informal means to share information with all
- Encourages all to listen to opposing points of view
- Demonstrates the ability to listen to what members are trying to say
- Encourages feedback and develops systematic procedures to ensure it
- Communicates its actions as appropriate to congregation and presbytery

Chapter 4: Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly

The Presbyterian Form of government recognizes that each particular church is part of the whole church. Each session, therefore, in addition to its oversight of the particular church, has a responsibility to maintain regular and continuing relationship to the higher governing bodies of the church; namely, the presbytery, the synod, and the General Assembly.

In its leadership of the congregation in the area of presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, the session:

1. Elects commissioners to higher governing bodies and receives their reports
 - Elects responsible commissioners to all stated meetings of presbytery
 - Dockets reports of significant actions taken by the presbytery and informs the congregation as appropriate
 - Nominates elders to presbytery who may be considered for election to synod or General Assembly
 - Dockets reports of significant actions taken by the synod or General Assembly and informs the congregation as appropriate
 - Implements the principles of participation and inclusiveness in its decisions of elections and nominations to ensure fair representation
2. Keeps accurate records and submits them for review
 - Assures that the clerk keeps accurate minutes
 - Assures that the clerk keeps accurate membership records
 - Submits records to presbytery for review
 - Submits annual statistical report and includes it in minutes
3. Interprets and supports the mission of the whole church
 - Interprets the work of the whole church to the congregation
 - Provides money in the budget for the general mission of the denomination
 - Provides for special offerings as authorized by presbytery, synod or General Assembly
 - Encourages support of the total mission, through prayer, programs, and study
 - Proposes programs and overtures to presbytery
 - Seeks assistance from presbytery for special mission opportunities
 - Seeks assistance of presbytery in time of difficulty
 - Observes and carries out the instructions of the higher governing bodies consistent with the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*
4. Involves its people in the work of the church
 - Encourages appropriate persons to consider church occupations
 - Recommends members for service on the boards and committees of presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, encouraging them to serve
 - Recommends elders as commissions to synod and the General Assembly, encouraging them to serve
 - Asks commissioners to report actions of the governing bodies in which they serve

5. Seeks assistance of presbytery

- Invites presbytery representative to meet with session and interpret presbytery work
- Welcomes representatives of the presbytery on the occasions of their visits
- Encourages elders and other members to attend training events sponsored by presbytery
- Seeks counsel regarding financial problems
- Requests help in resolving significant differences within the session or congregation
- Asks help of presbytery in resolving pastoral difficulties