**OFFICER TRAINING DEACONS & ELDERS SESSION 2**

How We Organize Ourselves, Give Leadership & Make Decisions:

Presbyterian Principles of Church Polity

**Homework:**

1. **Watch: Theoacademy: Elders & Deacons** 
   1. Lesson Eight: Principles of Order and Government

<http://www.theocademy.com/lessons-for-ruling-elders-and-deacons>

* 1. Lesson Nine: The Councils of the Church

<http://www.theocademy.com/lessons-for-ruling-elders-and-deacons>

**2. Read The Book of Order:**

a. The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity

i. Chapter One: The Mission of the Church, F-1.01—F-1.04

ii. Chapter Two: The Church and Its Confessions, F-2.01-2.05

iii. Chapter Three: Principles of Order and Government, F-3.01— 3.04

b. Scan the rest of the Book of Order, and the Table of Contents & the Index

c. If the Presbyterian Church has a “Mission Statement” it might be “The Great Ends of the

Church.” F-1.0304. They are:

i. the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;

ii. the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;

iii. the maintenance of divine worship;

iv. the preservation of the truth;

v. the promotion of social righteousness; and

vi. the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. F1.0304

1. **Read and familiarize yourself with the worksheet**, Presbyterian Polity Essentials. See the Attached Worksheet.

<https://firstpresbyterian.org/sites/default/files/other/Presbyterian-Polity-Essentials.pdf>

1. **Just for fun,** complete the Worksheet, Principles of Presbyterian Polity! We’ll discuss it in class. See below.

Resources:

Electronic form of Book of Order:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/book-of-order2017-electronic.pdf>

Electronic form of the Book of Confessions:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/boc2016.pdf>

**PRINCIPLES OF PRESBYTERIAN POLITY**

**The Head of the Church Book of Order**

1 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is head of the Church. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**The Great Ends of the Church**

2 The church exists for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of humankind. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3 The church exists for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and the \_\_\_\_\_a\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the children of God. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4 The church exists for the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of divine \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5 The church exists for the preservation of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6 The church exists for the promotion of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7 The church exists for the exhibition of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the world. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Historical Principles of Church Order**

8 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is Lord of the conscience; this means that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a fundamental right along with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of church and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

9 Every church has the right to establish the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into its fellowship

and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of its ministers and members. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

10 Jesus Christ appointed officers, not only to preach and administer the sacraments, but to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

11 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in order to goodness. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

12 People of good conscience can have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . . . and need to exercise \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward each other. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

13 The right to elect members of a council rests in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

14 The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are the only rule of faith and conduct. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Historical Principles of Church Government**

15 The several different congregations constitute \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Christ.

Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

16 A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ council of the church . . . shall govern the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

17 A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shall govern. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

18 Appeals shall be made from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ governing

bodies/councils and that final decisions should be made by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the whole church. Book of Order: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_