

**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

I. Membership

- A. The members of the Presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) are nominated by the Presbytery Nominating Committee and elected by majority vote of the Presbytery.
- B. The PJC consists of seven (7) members, three of whom shall be teaching elders and three shall be ruling elders, broadly representative of the member churches of the presbytery. The additional member may be either a teaching or ruling elder. The PJC shall be divided into three classes, two of two members and one of three members. There shall be at least one ruling elder and one teaching elder in each class.
- C. A quorum is a majority of the members present in person (see *BoO* D-5.0204). When the PJC is unable to reach a quorum, the process of *BoO* G-5.0206 shall be followed.
- D. The Stated Clerk shall maintain a roster of former PJC members who continue to be members of the Presbytery or members of churches of the Presbytery.

II. Terms of Office

The term of office for each member of the PJC shall be six (6) years. No person having served on the PJC for a full term of six years shall be eligible for reelection until after a period of four (4) years has elapsed (see *BoO* D-5.0105). No person shall serve on more than one permanent judicial commission (*i.e.*, on the Presbytery, Synod, or General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission) at the same time (see *BoO* D-5.0105).

III. Powers and Duties

- A. The PJC elects from its members a moderator and a clerk, and, in the cases transmitted to it, has the powers prescribed by, and conducts its proceedings according to, the Constitution of the PC(USA) and rules governing the procedure in such cases (see *BoO* D-5.0201 & D-5.0202).
- B. The PJC acts only upon reference by the Stated Clerk or an investigating committee, in accordance with the *BoO*. Its decisions, unless appealed, are final and shall be reported to Presbytery and entered in the Minutes.
- C. The Stated Clerk provides Constitutional advice and direction to the PJC. The Stated Clerk may consult with Synod and General Assembly staff persons as necessary in providing such advice.
- D. The PJC may incur expenses associated with its procedures pursuant to the *BoO* Rules of Discipline (*e.g.*, hiring counsel for the accused). The PJC moderator notifies the BP&F Committee of anticipated expenses other than those that are de minimis.

#### IV. Accountability

The PJC is accountable to the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission through the appeal process.