

Spring 2022 Polity Exam

Section I: Constitutional Heritage

A portion of F-1.01 states:

Human beings have no higher goal in life than to glorify and enjoy God now and forever, living in covenant fellowship with God and participating in God's mission.

F-1.0304 states: The great ends of the Church are:

the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
the maintenance of divine worship;
the preservation of the truth;
the promotion of social righteousness; and
the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

REQUIRED RESPONSE: *(Total response in this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.)*

Write an essay that discusses why striving toward all "the great ends" is necessary to fulfill the goal described in the portion of F-1.01 quoted above. Include one practical way each great end might guide a congregation to fulfill the goal described in the portion of F-1.01 quoted above.

Section II: Constitutional Order for the Particular Church

Val is a full-time installed associate pastor at Holyrood Presbyterian Church, where you serve as the pastor. During a session meeting, Val reports being elected to chair the presbytery's Committee on Ministry and notes that this will require a significant time commitment. In response, session members make the following comments:

- Minh: That's great, but since it's an outside activity it should be all on Val's personal time.
- Jamie: Since Val is an employee of Holyrood, I think the session needs to approve this.
- Belén: Is this a change of call on which the congregation will need to vote?
- Lynn: Pastor, you're Head of Staff. Anything to do with Val's duties is your job, isn't it?

REQUIRED RESPONSES: (*Total responses in this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.*)

1. Identify one (1) point of polity for each of the four (4) comments above. Provide one (1) citation from the *Book of Order* (e.g., X-0.0000) for each point of polity identified, quoting the most relevant portion, and discuss briefly how each citation relates to its point of polity. A citation may be used more than once as long as a different relevant portion of the citation is quoted.
2. Building on your work in Required Response 1, respond directly to each of the speakers in the scenario, addressing their comments. The responses should be verbatim, not a description of how you would respond.

Section III: Application to Ministry

Fran was installed as pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church three years ago. At that time the session authorized a \$20,000 loan to the pastor. Pastor Fran signed a covenant to make regular monthly payments of \$200.

After months of making payments, Pastor Fran has not made any payments since January.

In April, two representatives from session spoke to Pastor Fran and an agreement to resume repayment immediately was made. No payment was received.

In June, the liaison for the church from presbytery's Committee on Ministry met with the elders and Pastor Fran, and again an agreement was made to resume repayment immediately. No payment was made.

There is not a circumstance causing undue financial hardship for Pastor Fran.

REQUIRED RESPONSES: *(Total responses in this Section not to exceed 1,200 words.)*

1. Identify three (3) points of polity from the scenario. Provide at least one (1) citation from the *Book of Order* (e.g., X-0.0000) for each point of polity and discuss briefly how the citation relates to its point of polity. A citation may be used more than once as long as a different relevant portion of the citation is quoted.
2. Focusing on polity and building on Required Response 1, describe a strategy for moving forward with Pastor Fran and this situation.