

UNDERSTANDING THE PRESBYTERY DOCKET

The Presbytery docket is designed to permit maximum efficiency of workflow. Once you understand the macro aspects of the Docket, the micro elements become much easier to follow.

There are THREE basic sections in the Presbytery papers: The Main Docket, the Consent Docket, and the Omnibus Motion.

THE MAIN DOCKET. This is the primary working paper for Presbytery meetings. It consists of the times for all items of business to be covered at each meeting. It includes “Open Spaces”, “Plenaries” (business sessions), “Worship”, “Meal”, and any other items which the presbytery needs to handle.

Motions are bolded and are the wording that begins discussion. Many will also have a “hyperlink” to other sections of the papers where materials pertinent to the motion are housed. **Motions** require action by the presbytery and are likely to need debate, discussion, clarification, or explanation.

“Informational Items” are presented to inform presbytery about the mission and ministry of presbytery, to celebrate events and people we’d like to lift up for special attention, and to provide information helpful to the life and ministry of our congregations. They do not require action and meeting planners strive to keep these to a minimum to conserve time.

CONSENT DOCKET. As business (motions, recommendations, and reports) arrives for the meeting, if it requires action by the presbytery, but is of a non-controversial or routine nature for which little or no debate is anticipated and no resistance expected, it is assigned to the “Consent Docket”. All items in the Consent Docket are found in the second section to the Presbytery papers. All items in the Consent Docket are “Moved to Approve” and a single vote is taken to approve all items in the Consent Docket. Any one individual may rise and ask to remove a particular item from the Consent Docket; it is then placed at the end of the “Main Docket” for debate, discussion, and vote.

OMNIBUS MOTION. Much of the business that comes to the presbytery meeting consists of reports, announcements, and other items that do not require any action by the presbytery—but do require being recorded as part of the minutes of the meeting. All items for the Omnibus Motion are found in the last section of the Presbytery papers. The motion is to “receive” all items in the Omnibus motion; doing so permits the Clerk’s office to include all of these items in the permanent record for the meeting.