

# Memo

To: Delegates and Visitors to General Synod 31  
From: Geoff Brace, Governance Committee, United Church of Christ Board of Directors  
Date: March 17, 2017  
Re: Votes for Constitution and Bylaw Amendments at General Synod 31

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Greetings!

At General Synod 31, Delegates will be asked to consider amendments to the United Church of Christ Constitution and Bylaws. The detailed amendments to these governing documents along with supplementary guides on the process and amendments themselves will be available on the General Synod 31 website under the heading of Constitution and Bylaw Amendments.

The amendments will come to the floor in three separate votes. The three votes will be as follows:

- Amendments related to the Full Communion with the United Church of Canada
- Amendments related to Ordained Ministry and Ecclesiastical Oversight
- Amendments related to the Number & Responsibilities of Officers and the United Church of Christ Board of Directors & Its Structure

In presenting the amendments in three separate votes, the objective is to prevent too many topics from being considered at once. This is important for helping to keep the floor conversation and debates focused and assisting delegates in casting their votes. The document entitled “Preparing for General Synod 31: A Guide to Proposed Changes to the UCC Constitution and Bylaws” provides a summary of the amendments and the rationale for the amendments. It would be helpful in seeing how these votes will fit together.

I look forward to our gathering in Baltimore! Please pray for the many individuals who serve our beloved church.

