

*Trinity
Presbyterian Church
(TPC)*

Appeals Process Policy

Revised: N/A

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Appeals Process

In the event that an individual or group is dissatisfied with a decision or policy made by a body of church government (either the Board of Deacons or the Session) that individual or group may appeal the decision or policy, in writing, by following an orderly process that recognizes the structure of the Presbyterian government and allows all affected or interested parties to be heard.

Appeals Process Procedures:

1. Diaconate Level:

- a. If a decision or policy in question was made by the Board of Deacons, the individual or group dissatisfied with the decision or policy made may ask the Board Chair, via written communication within ten (10) business days of hearing of the decision or policy, to bring the issue before the Board of Deacons for reconsideration.
- b. After the Board reconsiders the decision or policy, the Board will convey their second opinion in writing to the individual or group requesting the reconsideration within ten (10) business days of the Board meeting.
- c. If the Board of Deacons reaffirms the original decision and the individual or group is still dissatisfied, the individual or group dissatisfied with the decision may appeal the decision within ten (10) business days, in writing, to the Session.

2. Session Level:

- a. If a decision or policy in question was made by the Diaconate, Session or a Session committee, the individual or group dissatisfied with the decision or policy made may ask the Session moderator (TE Wenger), via written communication within ten (10) business days of hearing of the decision or policy, to bring the issue before the full Session for reconsideration.
- b. After the Session reconsiders the decision or policy, the Session will convey their second opinion in writing to the individual or group requesting the reconsideration within ten (10) business days of the Session meeting.
- c. If the Session reaffirms the original decision and the individual or group is still dissatisfied, the individual or group dissatisfied with the decision may appeal the decision within sixty (60) days, in writing, to the Presbytery. See the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) Book of Church Order (BCO), chapter 43, highlights of which are briefly summarized here:

- i. Any member in good standing (para. 43-1) may make such an appeal to the Presbytery, in writing, within sixty (60) days of the Session's decision (para 43-3), a copy of which is also provided to the Session of the local church.
 - ii. The notice of this appeal shall have the effect of suspending the decision of the lower court until the issue is decided upon at Presbytery (para. 43-4).
 - d. The final disposition of the issue is made at this level. After the Presbytery reconsiders the decision or policy, the Presbytery will convey their opinion to the individual or group requesting the reconsideration (para. 43-9) and to the Session of TPC.
3. At each of the levels, all affected or interested parties will have the opportunity to present their views in person, to supplement their written communication, in order to ensure fairness and transparency in the appeals process.