

## **Who Speaks for the Presbytery?**

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### **“WHO SPEAKS FOR THE PRESBYTERY?”: CRITERIA AND PROCESS FOR CONSULTATION**

How should Chicago Presbytery manage those situations in which questions may arise about whether an individual member, designated leader, group (council, commission, committee, task force), or congregation speaks for the Presbytery? The following criteria and process for consultation is now in effect.

Parties – individual members, designated leaders, groups or congregations - are empowered to speak for the Presbytery when their statements and actions are clearly and appropriately grounded in the following:

- Book of Order;
- Vision, mission, and values of the Presbytery;
- Vision, mission and values of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA);
- Corporately adopted overtures, actions and policies of the Presbytery or denomination.

Parties should engage in a consultative process about whether their statements and actions represent or “speak for” the Presbytery in the following instances:

- Statements or actions that are not clearly and or appropriately grounded in defining documents;
- Statements or actions that present a “teachable moment” for the Presbytery;
- Statements or actions that are likely to have an impact on the public nature of the Presbytery’s mission and ministry.

If statements or actions appear to fall into one of these categories, then the party or parties involved would take one or more of the following steps in sequence:

1. Consult with the Executive Presbyter to ascertain whether or not their statement or action are in fact supported by presbytery or denominational documents or actions, or warrant further consultation.
2. At the suggestion of the Executive Presbyter, consult with one or more appropriate Presbytery bodies to further explore, interpret and strategize about the statement or action under consideration.
3. With a now more fully considered statement or action, consult with Presbytery Coordinating Commission towards a definitive, mutually agreed upon next step (e.g. proceed with the statement or action, or do not proceed, bring the matter before the Presbytery Assembly).
4. If necessary, either because no agreement could be reached with the Presbytery Coordinating Commission/ or the nature of the proposed statement or action in its own right warrants it, bring the matter before the Presbytery Assembly for deliberation and, if indicated, official action.