

**“Who Speaks for the Presbytery?”: Criteria and Process for Consultation**

The Presbytery of Chicago, as “the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district” (G-3.0301), is called upon, on occasion, to speak on matters of public concern. It is the practice of Chicago Presbytery to delegate the spokesperson role to the Executive Presbyter or his/her designee. For example, all media inquiries should be initially referred to the Executive Presbyter.

The role of the Executive Presbyter as spokesperson, however, does not preclude others from speaking on behalf of the Presbytery when appropriate. The following criteria and process for consultation provide guidance when questions may arise about whether an individual member, designated leader, presbytery entity (commission, committee, work group, task force), or congregation speaks for the Presbytery.

Any statements made on behalf of the Presbytery must be clearly and appropriately grounded in:

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

If a proposed statement appears to meet the above criteria, then the entity or persons proposing to make a statement shall take one or more of the following steps in sequence:

1. Consult with the Executive Presbyter to ascertain whether or not the proposed statement is supported by presbytery or denominational documents or actions, or warrants further consultation.
2. Task forces and work groups that are created and filled by the Presbytery Coordinating Commission should also consult with the moderator of the Presbytery Coordinating Commission.
3. Mission Teams that have an approved covenant with one or more of the Mission Priority Leadership Teams or their successors shall also consult with the moderator of the applicable Mission Priority Leadership Team or successor.
4. If needed, at the suggestion of the Executive Presbyter and the appropriate moderator, consult with one or more appropriate Presbytery entities to further explore, interpret and strategize about the proposed statement.