



# Clerk of Session News

Presbytery of the Pacific

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From: The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Pacific Wendy Tajima

## 1. BOOK OF ORDER 2011-2013 edition and UNDERSTANDING nFOG

### Your Resource: New Constitution page

The newly-released BOO is available for purchase or (free, at least for now) download in PDF format. Please use the "New Constitution" link above. You can learn more about the Form of Government changes there, too.

## 2) BOARD OF PENSIONS DUES INCREASE IN 2012 AND 2013

### Your Resource: Board of Pensions website

You may have heard about it (I didn't get any official communication), but the Board of Pensions voted on a two-step rate increase, and made several other adjustments to their health plans.

The changes will begin in 2012. The medical plan dues will go up by 3/4 of 1% in 2012, and then again in 2013. In other words, the medical plan dues will go from the current 19.5% to 20.25% in 2012 and to 21.0% in 2013. This brings the total member dues to 32.25% in 2012, vs. 31.5% for the past several years.

There are several other changes. The website link is at the top of this article under "Board of Pensions".

## 3) USING THE OLD BOOK OF ORDER AS AN ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL

Some of you have asked about a congregational version of the Presbytery's action to maintain the 2009-2011 Book of Order as an administrative manual. **Here it is:**

"Adopt the 2009-2011 edition of the Book of Order as the guide for the administration of mission for \_\_\_\_\_ Church, except when:

- it conflicts with the 2011-2013 Form of Government or any subsequent versions of the Constitution of the PC(USA)
- it conflicts with relevant policies of the Presbytery of the Pacific or Synod of Southern California and Hawaii
- it conflicts with relevant civil laws
- it is amended in the currently accepted manner by the Session or Congregation.

## 4) POSSIBLE BENEFIT TO CHURCHES FROM THE HEALTHCARE REFORM ACT

**One resource:** Description of the article discussed below with purchase information

The article is not a free download; please speak to the Stated Clerk for more information) E-mail In Richard Hammar's July/August "Church Law & Tax Report," he wrote about a tax credit from the healthcare reform act that may help some churches. Though it's a tax credit, Hammar points out that the law makes the credit "refundable," meaning that it is payable in cash. This credit was designed for employers with fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees, with average annual wages of less than \$50,000 per FTE, and pay at least half of the health benefits premiums. There are many variables in the law (for instance, clergy salary might not be taken into account in calculating the average salary, but they are counted in the total number of FTE's on the payroll), but look up Richard Hammar's cover article if you're interested.

## FINALLY, ABOUT THE PER CAPITA FOR 2012 . . .

. . . And for those who like to budget ahead, we will let you know per capita for 2012 as soon as that gets established, but sorry, not yet!

