

Elders' Toolbox

Presbyterian Lingo

Mark Tremblay sent this humorous letter to the editor of the Presbyterian Record to show how church language intended to clarify, has inadvertently excluded people.

I want to examine cum nota some of our language seriatim, anent its archaic character. I do so ex parte, with no apology for the other side. I make bona fi de proposals apud acta, pointing out the humour and inconsistencies with our labels. I offer some proposals in hunc effectum, not de facto but rather simpliciter. It is my hope that we understand prima facie the need to reform our language per se and send down the proposals inter alia to sessions and presbyteries for consideration and ipso facto deal with the matter of language de novo. My committee of one recommends these changes to be made mutatis mutandis. Of course, my ad hoc committee of one shall be judged to have acted ultra vires, de jure.

*Submitted simpliciter, but respectfully,
Mark Tremblay*

- _____ The limit of a presbytery's or synod's authority.
- _____ The building of a new church.
- _____ The appeal is lacking any substance that would enable a higher court to review the matter.
- _____ The process through which the church considers the possibility of a change in legislation.
- _____ Being obstinate or showing contempt toward an order or action of a court.
- _____ A baptized child who has not yet taken a profession of faith, but who may celebrate the sacrament of communion.
- _____ A reference to the official meeting of the court.
- _____ The responsibility a presbytery has to churches.
- _____ It's not vanilla, not the whole minute, just an important part of information for someone who asks.
- _____ Someone attached to a congregation but who is not a professing member.
- _____ A form of censure, usually done in private, that entreats an individual or court to cease from a particularly insidious or divisive behaviour.
- _____ The process of moving a minister from one congregation to another.
- _____ It's not a secret or private presbytery or synod meeting but one dealing with very sensitive matters.
- _____ A process through which corrections to an individual's behaviour or court irregularities or errors may be corrected.
- _____ She's already done it, and we wanted her to do it, so we let's give her our approval.
- _____ A complaint or appeal lacking sufficient grounds and deemed annoying.

Mark and the Elders' Institute would like to challenge you to put the following words beside the correct definitions below. The first to submit the correct answers to the Elders' Institute will receive a prize.

EXTRACT	BARRIER ACT
SEDERUNT	IN CAMERA
JUDICIAL PROCESS	CONTUMACIOUS
TRANSLATION	FRIVILOUS
OVERSIGHT	ADHERENT
ERECTION	BOUNDS
ADMONITION	HOMOLOGATE
VEXATIOUS	COVENANT MEMBER