

# RULES

AND

## FORMS OF PROCEDURE.

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### CHAPTER I.—THE SESSION.

1. The Session is composed of the minister, or ministers, and elders of a congregation.

2. The duty of the Session is to watch over and promote in every Scriptural way the spiritual interests of the congregation, more particularly, to receive applicants for admission into the church, as well as to admit baptized persons into full communion, and to receive persons bringing certificates of membership from other congregations; to grant certificates to members leaving the congregation; to watch over the christian deportment of the members of the congregation; to exercise discipline when required, by admonition, rebuke, suspension, or exclusion; to restore to privileges; to care for the religious instruction of the young, including the oversight of Sabbath Schools; to determine the hours and order of public worship; to appoint the time of the dispensation of the Lord's Supper, and make provision for it; to appoint congregational fasts or thanksgivings; to appoint the times and modes of making special collections, and where there are no deacons, to provide for the necessities of the poor; to call congregational meetings when they see it necessary; to examine and judge of the qualifications of persons elected to the eldership and the deaconship; to receive and judge of petitions from the members; to transmit papers to the Presbytery; and in general, to superintend the religious interests of the congregation.