

**Recommendation:** That the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly approve the following policy related to the consideration of requests from presbyteries for relief from per capita apportionment:

- The Stated Clerk will consider requests that meet the following criteria:
  - The request must come from the Stated Clerk of the presbytery representing an action by the appropriate body in that presbytery
  - Only those requests for relief representing at least a 10% membership loss from the year upon which the assessment is based, and the current billing year will be granted
- In addition, presbyteries should provide a copy of the request to their synod, and OGA will copy the synod in its response, and including a disclaimer that any OGA action taken does not bind the action of any other council

**Background:**

Each year, OGA receives requests from mid councils for relief from the per capita apartment. Reasons provided range from natural disasters, loss of large churches to other denominations, or routine cleaning of the rolls. These requests have come from bookkeepers, secretaries and other staff – none of these requests were made clear that they were requests authorized by an appropriate body or committee of the presbytery. OGA’s past practice has been to grant the requested relief automatically.

Requests have normally totaled less than \$90,000 for each of the last several years.

Feedback from some synods has been that presbyteries that are granted relief often assume that the relief covers the synod apportionment as well. We want to make it clear that any decision that OGA makes does not bind the action of another council.

After consultation with the synod executives as their recent meeting, we discussed the proposal above and they were generally supportive.