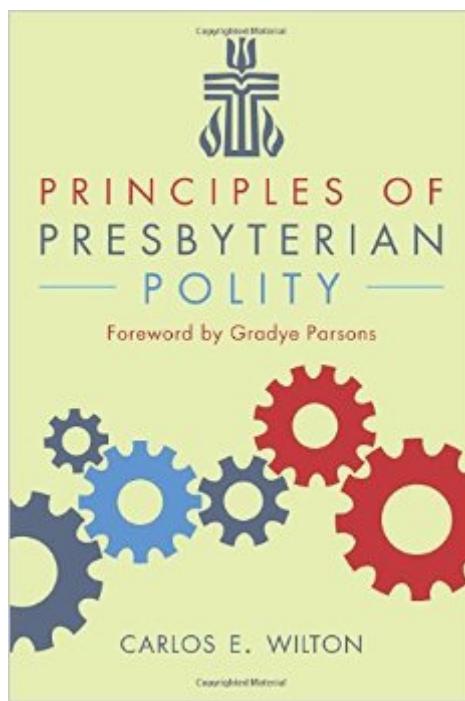


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# Principles Of Presbyterian Polity



## **Synopsis**

Pastors, church leaders, and students of Presbyterian polity will find this a useful guide to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) governance based on foundational principles. Recent changes in the PC(USA) Constitution have meant fewer rules and more flexibility in governance, making it imperative that leaders understand the historical principles that guide the church. Wilton explains the Book of Order's historic principles of church order in accessible language, providing readers with a lively appreciation of the revolutionary principles that guided the Presbyterian experiment in the New World and are still the beating heart of church life today. Principles of Presbyterian Polity is written from the conviction that it is not enough merely to know the "what" of polity; a deep, intuitive understanding of the "why" is just as vital. Church leaders will come away with a greater understanding of the Book of Order and have confidence using it in practical situations.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Principles of Presbyterian Polity is a wonderful blessing for all Presbyterians. Wilton brings a wealth of experience as a gifted pastor, a respected presbytery stated clerk, a wonderful teacher of Presbyterian polity at Princeton and New Brunswick seminaries, and an excellent preacher and writer who was predestined to write this book! I hope his book will be found in every church library and pastor's library when it is not being read, shared and discussed. I recommend this book as very helpful reading for pastors, ruling elders, deacons and all who want to better understand and live faithfully as Presbyterians. Today the majority of Presbyterians did not grow up in the denomination,

and even those who did so do not necessarily understand fully our form of church government; to all of them, this book is a gift. The author understands that learning our church's governing principles is not an end unto itself, but a way to help the church more faithfully serve God in the church and the world. Our PCUSA Confession of 1967 says it well, "The church thus orders its life as an institution with a constitution, government, officers, and administrative rules. These are instruments of mission, not ends in themselves. Different orders have served the gospel, and none can claim exclusive validity. A Presbyterian polity recognizes the responsibility of all members for ministry and maintains the organic relation of all congregations in the church. It seeks to protect the church from exploitation by ecclesiastical or secular power and ambition.

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