# Lesson 19: The Church – Government (1)

## Local Church Government

Local church government can come in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

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Most Reformed Churches practice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Some tend towards \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, others to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Canadian Reformed Churches are “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”.

## Belgic Confession articles 30-32

1. A distinction is sometimes made between “office” and “ministry”. Not all who have a ministry in the church, have an office. Think, for example, of the organist or the janitor. The distinction being made is: those who hold office have authority, those who have a ministry simply execute a task. Is this approach Scriptural?

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2. How does God call someone to office?

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3. Name some examples of “human inventions and laws” in churches (not necessarily our own) which “bind and compel the consciences”.

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4. How is the relationship between the eldership and the congregation to be described? Does the congregation have authority over the eldership?

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5. A current issue in our churches is whether women may vote during the election of office-bearers. What factors play a role in forming a position on this?

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6. Not everybody attends a meeting of the consistory and deacons with the congregation. What is “the congregation”?

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## Government Organized

The basic document for the government of our church \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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The form of our Church Order goes back to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is commonly referred to as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Church Order can be found in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It can also be viewed at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & [www.officebearers.com](http://www.officebearers.com/). As it can change every general synod (once every 3 years), the ones printed at the end of every Acts of General Synod or on the web-sites will be the most up-to-date version.

## Space for further notes

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