

PART I

ACTIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Arranged by *Book of Church Order* Chapters

***BCO* PREFACE**

The Constitution Defined, The Only Binding Statement Identifying the PCA (*BCO* Preface, III)

1999, p. 173, 27-44, III.12. In response to Overture 21 from Westminster Presbytery and a “Statement of Identity” mailed by Westminster Presbytery to elders in the PCA, the Assembly affirmed “that the only binding statement identifying this denomination is the Constitution of the Church as defined in the Preface of the *Book of Church Order*, Section III. All other statements are simply individual statements of opinions and are to carry no authority nor to be binding guides to practice within the churches, committees and courts of the church.”

I. THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT (*BCO* 1-26)

Nature, Extent of Church Government (*BCO* 1-3)

No GA Actions, 1999-2018

The Particular Church (*BCO* 4-9)

The Particular Church (*BCO* 4)

For preaching in the local church, see *BCO* 12, 2001, p. 223.

Organization of the Particular Church (*BCO* 5), Establishment of Mission Churches

2014, p. 39, 42-31. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 2 from North Texas Presbytery to amend *BCO* 5-2, clarifying how mission churches can be formed (see **2014, p. 40, 42-31, III.8** and **2014, p. 253, App. G, Attach. 6** for the original overture from North Texas Presbytery

to the 41st GA and referred to the MNA Permanent Committee for Recommendation to the 42nd GA).

2015, p. 24, 43-14. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to *BCO 5-2*, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2015, p. 106, App. A**).

Organization of the Particular Church (BCO 5), Oversight and Organization of Mission Churches

2010, p. 346, 38-54. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 11 from Presbytery of the Blue Ridge to amend *BCO 5-3* to allow for latitude in the oversight of mission churches, recognizing that the three possible options for temporary oversight of a mission church may overlap in significant ways, and are thus not mutually exclusive (see **2010, p. 355, 38-54, III.6**).

2011, p. 17, 39-9, Item 4. The presbyteries approved the amendment to *BCO 5-3*, but the Moderator ruled the item out of order. Since changes had just been made to *BCO 5-3* in Item 3, the item was seeking to amend a form of *BCO 5-3* that was no longer in effect (see **2011, p. 95 and 107**).

2010, p. 346, 38-54. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 15 from Potomac Presbytery to approve extensive changes to *BCO 5*, in order to bring clarity to the chapter, chronological order in respect to the process of organization, and consistency with the practices of an organized church (see **2010, p. 357, 38-54, III.7**).

2011, p. 17, 39-9, Item 3. The presbyteries having voted for the extensive changes to *BCO 5*, the Assembly approved the amendments (see **2011, p. 95**).

Organization of the Particular Church (BCO 5), Records of Mission Churches to Presbytery

2016, p. 68, 44-40. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 38 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend *BCO 5-3* by adding an explicit requirement for reporting and reviewing minutes of a Mission Church temporary system of government (see **2016, p. 81, 44-44, III.13**).

2017, p. 19, 45-10. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to *BCO 5-3*, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2017, p. 93, App. A, Item 1**).

Church Members (BCO 6). See Digest PART II, Constitutional Advice:

- Constitutional Advice (BCO 6): Minimum Voting Age in Congregational Meetings, 1999, p. 147, 27-43, III.
- Constitutional Advice (BCO 6): Minimum Age for Communicant Membership, 2001, p. 134, 29-28, III.4.
- Constitutional Advice (BCO 6), The Procedures and Requirements for Membership in the Visible Church, 2012, p. 365, App. O, II.T.

Church Officers (BCO 7), Perpetual Offices

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 8 from Suncoast Florida Presbytery to amend **BCO 7** to add depth and clarity to the definition of perpetual offices (see **2017, p. 51, 45-41, III.8**).

For discussion about who is and who is not an officer of the church, see **BCO 9, 2010, p. 379**.

The Elder (BCO 8), Commissioning of Evangelists

2014, p. 39, 42-31. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 3 from North Texas Presbytery to amend **BCO 8-6**, separating the commissioning acts of Presbytery that grant an evangelist powers to receive and dismiss members, and powers to examine, ordain, and install REs and Deacons and organize churches (see **2014, p. 41, 42-31, III.9** and **2014, p. 259, App. G, Attach. 7**, for the original Overture 3 from North Texas Presbytery to the 41st GA and referred to the MNA Permanent Committee for Recommendation to the 42nd GA).

2015, p. 24, 43-14, Item 2. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the change to **BCO 8-6**, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2015, p. 110**).

The Elder (BCO 8), Definition of Elder

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 5 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery to amend **BCO 8** to add depth and clarity to the definition of Elder, on the grounds that the proposed language did not “sufficiently provide clarity to warrant change” (see

2017, p. 50, 45-41, III.5). A Minority Report signed by 15 commissioners was defeated (**p. 682**).

The Elder (BCO 8), Qualifications of Elder

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 27 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery to amend **BCO 8-1** and **8-3** to change some of the language describing the qualifications of Elders, namely replacing to word ‘grave’ with ‘spiritually fruitful, dignified’ in **BCO 8-1** and adding the words ‘and demonstrate hospitality’ to **BCO 8-3** (see **2018, p. 43, 46-29, IV.27**). Overtures 11 from Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery (**2018, p. 38, 46-29, IV.11**) and Overture 15 from Tidewater Presbytery (**2018, p. 38, 46-29, IV.15**) were answered by reference to the action taken in Overture 27.

The Deacon (BCO 9), Assistants to

2010, p. 346, 38-54. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 7 from Evangel Presbytery proposing the addition of a sentence at the end of **BCO 9-7**, specifying that assistants to deacons “are not officers of the church (**BCO 7-2**) and, as such, are not subjects for ordination (**BCO 17**).” The language of the overture reflected the considerable discussion which took place within the Overtures Committee (see **2010, p. 379, 38-54, III.8.** and **2010, p. 386, 38-54, III.9** for overtures answered in reference to the Assembly’s action on Overture 7).

2011, p. 17, 39-9, Item 5. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the change to **BCO 9-7**, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2011, p. 110**).

The Deacon (BCO 9), Unordained Diaconate

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 25 from Savannah River Presbytery to require 1) all congregations within a Presbytery which do not have an active deacon board made up of only ordained deacons to report why they are not able to establish a diaconate of qualified men, 2) that Presbyteries inquire whether these congregations have replaced the deacon board described in **BCO 9-4** with an unordained body of servants, and 3) that Presbyteries report their findings to the AC to be included in their report to the 47th GA (see **2018, p. 42, 46-29, IV.25**).

The Deacon (BCO 9)

For Women Holding Office in the PCA, see **BCO 24**.

For the Election of Officers, including Voting and Congregational Meetings, see **BCO 24** and **25**.

For Emeritus Status for Elected Officers, see **BCO 24**.

Church Courts (BCO 10-15)

Church Courts in General (BCO 10). See Digest PART II, Constitutional Advice:

- **Constitutional Advice (BCO 10): Scope of Presbytery Stated Clerk to Disseminate Information**, 2016, p. 349, App. O, IV.B.

Jurisdiction (BCO 11). See Digest PART II, Constitutional Advice:

- **Constitutional Advice (BCO 11): Pastoral Oversight and Discipline in Marital Discord When Parties Are Under Different Jurisdictions**, 2009, p. 211, 37-29, IV.2.

The Session (BCO 12), Women Speaking or Teaching in the Context of Public Ministry

2000, p. 281, 28-72, III.4. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 12 from Potomac Presbytery to amend **BCO 12.5.d** by adding words to make explicit the “well-grounded biblical consensus” of the PCA against women expounding and preaching the Word of God in public worship.

2001, p. 49, 29-12, Item 1. The Presbyteries having defeated the amendment to **BCO 12.5d** by a vote of 31-23 (less than the 2/3 majority needed), the amendment failed. See **SJC Case 1999-01**.

The Session (BCO 12), Preaching in Worship, Qualified Men Only

2001, p. 223, 29-44, III.18. The Assembly answered in the affirmative a substitute motion for Overture 27 from Philadelphia Presbytery to amend **BCO 12-5.e**, adding as a function of the Session’s spiritual government regarding worship in the church “to ensure that the Word of God is

preached only by such men as are sufficiently qualified (*BCO* 4-4, 53-2, 1 Timothy 2:11-12).

2002, p. 71, 30-10, Item 6. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to *BCO* 12-5.e, the Assembly approved the amendment. See **SJC Case 1999-01**.

The Session (*BCO* 12), Churches Without REs

2011, p. 65, 39-57. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 10 from New Jersey Presbytery to insert a new paragraph, *BCO* 12-4, clarifying the ability of presbyteries to assist churches with an insufficient number of elders for a Session, while preserving the rights of the congregation (see **2011, p. 67, 39-57, III.4**).

2012, p. 18, 40-10, Item 1. The Presbyteries approved the amendment to *BCO* 12-4, but the 40th GA defeated the amendment (**2012, p. 97**).

The Presbytery (*BCO* 13), TE Without Call, Relocation

1998, p. 198, 26-55, III.5. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 1 from Potomac Presbytery to amend *BCO* 13-5 by adding a new sentence to clarify time limitations for a TE without a call who relocates to a new presbytery.

1999, p. 53, 27-12, Item 1. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to *BCO* 13-5, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **1998, p. 198, 26-55, III.5**).

The Presbytery (*BCO* 13), Special Meetings of Presbytery

1998, p. 201, 26-55, III.8. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 4 from Potomac Presbytery to amend *BCO* 13-12 by removing the emergency requirement for calling a special meeting of presbytery.

1999, p. 55, 27-12, Item 2. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to *BCO* 13-12, the Assembly approved the amendment.

1999, p. 155, 27-44, III.1. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 4 from Ascension Presbytery to amend *BCO* 13-12 by raising the requirement for calling a special meeting of presbytery, but allowing

a presbytery to set its own requirements provided that they were not less than those stated in the *BCO*.

2000, p. 53, 28-12. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to *BCO 13-12*, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2000, p. 56, Item 1**).

The Presbytery (BCO 13), RE Representation at Presbytery

2000, p. 285, 28-72, III.9. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 18 from Ellisville PCA to amend *BCO 13-1* to increase the number of RE commissioners to presbytery meetings from each church from one to two, with additional commissioners for larger congregations.

2001, p. 218, 29-44, III.15. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 21 (similar to Overture 2000-18) from Ellisville PCA to amend *BCO 13-1*.

2002, p. 60, 30-10. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to *BCO 13-1*, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2002, p. 69, Item 5**).

The Presbytery (BCO 13), Subscription to Westminster Standards; Ordained Ministers Coming from Other Denominations

2009, p. 255, 37-43. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 9 from Ascension Presbytery to amend *BCO 13-6* requiring that ordained ministers coming from other denominations into PCA presbyteries must declare their differences with the Westminster Standards and have them judged by the presbytery (see **2009, p. 276, 37-43, III.7**).

2010, p. 58, 38-9, Item 2. An insufficient number of presbyteries having voted, the Assembly deferred action on the amendment to *BCO 13-6* until the 39th GA.

2011, p. 17, 39-9, Item 2. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to *BCO 13-6*, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2011, p. 83**).

The Presbytery (BCO 13), Annual Reports from Ministers without Call

2016, p. 68, 44-40. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 37 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend

BCO 13-2 by adding the requirement for annual reports from ministers without call (see **2016, p. 80, 44-44, III.12**).

2017, p. 19, 45-10. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to **BCO 13-2**, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2017, p. 96, App. A, Item 2**).

Editorial Note on BCO 14:

Because of the number of entries for BCO 14, the entries have been arranged into 4 groupings. Entries for each grouping (below) are in roughly chronological order.

- (1) Authorities, Responsibilities***
- (2) GA Permanent Committees and Agencies***
- (3) Other GA Committees***
- (4) Amendments to Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO)***

(1) BCO 14 General Assembly, Authorities, Responsibilities

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Authorities) Changes to Presbytery Boundaries and Formation of New Presbyteries

Editorial Note: *This topic is included under “The General Assembly” because BCO 14-6.e gives power to General Assembly to change boundaries.*

1999, p. 105, 27-31, III.10-11. Overtures 2 and 7 were adopted, moving certain townships from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery to Heritage Presbytery.

1999, p. 106, 27-31, III.14. Overtures 6, 20, and 24 were adopted, moving certain counties in the state of Arkansas from Mid-America Presbytery to Covenant Presbytery (see **1999, p. 109, 27-31, III.17** for Overture 20, and **1999, p. 110, 27-31, III.19** for Overture 24).

1999, pp. 107 and 109, 27-31, III.15 and III.18. Responding in the affirmative to Overtures 18 and 23, the Assembly transferred certain counties in Oklahoma from Mid-America Presbytery to North Texas Presbytery. A Minority Report requesting that Overtures 18 and 23 be answered in the negative was defeated (see **1999, p. 119**).

1999, p. 108, 27-31, III.16. Overtures 19 and 25 were adopted, moving certain counties in the state of Missouri from Mid-America Presbytery to Missouri Presbytery (see **1999, p. 110, 27-31, III.20**, for Overture 25).

1999, p. 111, 27-31, III.21. Overture 26 was adopted, moving all heretofore out-of-bounds Texas counties to within North Texas Presbytery.

2000, p. 103, 28-31, III.10. Overture 3 from Westminster Presbytery was answered in the negative to divide Westminster Presbytery into two Presbyteries. Two Minority Reports were also defeated (see **2000, 28-44, p. 213**).

2000, p. 112, 28-31, III.15. Overture 19 was adopted, forming three new Presbyteries (Southern New England, New York State and Northern New England) out of the existing Northeast Presbytery, thereby dissolving the existing Northeast Presbytery and describing the boundaries of each new presbytery.

2001, p. 165, 29-38, III.9. Overture 5 was adopted, dividing Heartland Presbytery so that the state of Iowa became a separate Presbytery.

2001, p. 166, 29-38, III.10. Overture 12 was adopted, moving certain North Carolina counties from Central Carolina Presbytery into a new presbytery, the Piedmont Triad Presbytery.

2001, p. 167, 29-38, III.11. Overture 22 was adopted, forming Ohio Valley Presbytery out of the Great Lakes Presbytery, to include specified counties in Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky.

2001, p. 169, 29-38, III.18. Overture 26 was adopted, moving certain counties from Ascension Presbytery to New York State Presbytery (see also **2001, p. 170, 29-38, III.18, Comm. 6**).

2001, p. 172, 29-38, III.20. Overture 32 was adopted, allowing Mid-America Presbytery (portions of the state of Oklahoma) to be joined and received into North Texas Presbytery. This action effectively dissolved Mid-America Presbytery (see **1999, p. 119**).

2001, p. 173, 29-38, III.21. Overture 34 from Westminster Presbytery was adopted, moving two counties from Westminster Presbytery to New River Presbytery (see **2001, p. 174**, the change approved by New River Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 20, 2001).

2001, p. 175, 29-38, III.23. Overture 37 was adopted, forming Chesapeake Presbytery out of Potomac Presbytery.

2002, p. 179, 30-31, III.8. Overture 22 as amended from New River Presbytery and Overture 8 from James River Presbytery were adopted, forming Blue Ridge Presbytery by moving specified counties out of New River, James River, and Potomac Presbyteries to the new Blue Ridge Presbytery. In response to Communication 9 from Potomac Presbytery, the Assembly kept Fauquier County in that presbytery (see **2002, p. 186, 30-31, III. 17**).

2002, p. 183, 30-31, III.14. Overture 13 from the Session of Faith Reformed Presbyterian Church, to revise the boundaries of the proposed Blue Ridge Presbytery, was answered in the negative. The overture was rejected by New River Presbytery.

2002, p. 184, 30-31, III.15. Overture 16 was adopted, moving the state of Montana (previously not in any PCA presbytery) into Rocky Mountain Presbytery.

2002, p. 185, 30-31, III.16. Overture 23 was adopted, moving four western New York counties from Ascension Presbytery into New York State Presbytery (see **2002, p. 186, 30-31, III.16, Comm. 5**).

2003, p. 82, 31-29, III.11. Overture 7 was adopted, dividing South Texas Presbytery into two presbyteries and specifying the boundaries of the continuing South Texas Presbytery and the new Houston Metro Presbytery (see **2003, p. 84, 31-29, III.11, Comm. 3**).

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2003, p. 85, 31-29, III.12. Overture 15 was adopted, dividing Central Georgia Presbytery into two presbyteries, Central Georgia Presbytery and a new Presbytery in eastern Georgia named Savannah River Presbytery. The boundaries of the two presbyteries were established.

2004, p. 127, 32-35, III.11. Overture 11 was adopted, dividing Southwest Florida Presbytery to form Suncoast Florida Presbytery, and defining the boundaries of the continuing Southwest Florida Presbytery and the new Suncoast Florida Presbytery.

2004, p. 129, 32-35, III.14. Overture 3 from Fellowship Presbytery was adopted, transferring one county in South Carolina from Palmetto to Fellowship Presbytery, pending concurrence of Palmetto Presbytery.

2004, p. 130, 32-35, III.15. Overture 4 was adopted, dividing the Presbytery of Southern Florida to create Gulfstream Presbytery, and defining the boundaries of the continuing Presbytery of Southern Florida and the new Gulfstream Presbytery.

2005, p. 163, 33-31, III.12. Overture 6 was adopted, dividing the Presbytery of Northern Illinois into three presbyteries: the Presbytery of Wisconsin, Chicago Metro Presbytery, and the continuing Presbytery of Northern Illinois. The boundaries of the three presbyteries were defined.

2005, p. 164, 33-31, III.13. Overture 8 was adopted, dividing the Presbytery of Philadelphia to form three presbyteries: Philadelphia City Presbytery, Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery, and Philadelphia Metro West Presbytery. The boundaries of the three presbyteries were defined (see also **2005, p. 166, 33-31, III.14**).

2005, p. 167, 33-31, III.16. Overture 5 was adopted, dividing Pacific Northwest Presbytery to establish Western Canada Presbytery. The boundaries of the new presbytery were defined.

2005, p. 168, 33-31, III.17. Overture 15 from Great Lakes Presbytery, to move certain portions of Ascension Presbytery into Great Lakes Presbytery, was answered in the negative, the Assembly having not received the concurrence of Ascension Presbytery.

2006, p. 177, 34-47, III.10-11. Overtures 1 and 5 were adopted, moving three counties from Missouri Presbytery to Covenant Presbytery.

2006, p. 177, 34-47, III.12. Overture 7 to change the boundaries of Southwest Presbytery was answered in the negative, due to lack of concurrence by Rocky Mountain Presbytery.

2006, p. 179, 34-47, III.13. Overture 12 was adopted, moving six counties from James River Presbytery to the Presbytery of the Blue Ridge, pending the approval of James River Presbytery.

2006, p. 180, 34-47, III.14-15. Overtures 18 and 19 were adopted, dividing North Georgia Presbytery into three presbyteries: Metro Atlanta Presbytery, Northwest Georgia Presbytery, and Georgia Foothills Presbytery, and defining the boundaries of the three presbyteries.

2007, p. 103, 35-35, III.9-10. Overtures 3 and 5 were adopted, redefining the boundaries Metropolitan New York Presbytery and New York Presbytery.

2007, p. 105, 35-35, III.11-12. Overtures 11 and 12 were adopted, moving specified counties from Eastern Carolina Presbytery to James River Presbytery:

2007, p. 110, 35-35, III.13-14. Overtures 17 and 18 were adopted, adjusting the western boundary of Tennessee Valley Presbytery and the eastern boundary of Nashville Presbytery.

2007, p. 111, 35-35, III.15. Overture 19 was adopted, forming Platte Valley Presbytery out of Heartland Presbytery and defining the boundaries of the continuing Heartland Presbytery and the new Platte Valley Presbytery.

2007, p. 113, 35-35, III.16. Overture 20 from Northwest Georgia Presbytery to add certain counties was answered in the negative, due to lack of concurrence by Tennessee Valley Presbytery.

2008, p. 145, 36-32, III.11-12. Overtures 5 and 10 were adopted, moving certain Georgia counties from Tennessee Valley Presbytery to Northwest Georgia Presbytery.

2008, p. 146, 36-32, III.13. Overture 12 was adopted, dividing Evangel Presbytery into two presbyteries: Evangel Presbytery and North Alabama

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Presbytery (renamed Providence Presbytery). The boundaries of the two presbyteries were defined.

2008, p. 147, 36-32, III.14. Overtures 16 and 18 were adopted, moving two North Carolina counties from Western Carolina Presbytery to Piedmont Triad Presbytery.

2009, p. 229, 37-39, III.11. Overtures 11 and 16 were adopted, moving one Iowa county from Iowa Presbytery to Platte Valley Presbytery (see also **p. 245, 37-39, III.18**).

2009, p. 230, 37-29, III.12. Overture 12 was adopted, forming Central Indiana Presbytery out of Ohio Valley Presbytery, and defining the boundaries of the new presbytery.

2009, p. 231, 37-29, III.13. Overtures 17 and 22 were adopted, moving one county from Central Carolina Presbytery to Eastern Carolina Presbytery (see also **2009, p. 245, 37-29, III.17**).

2009, p. 233, 37-29, III.14. Overtures 19 and 21 were adopted, forming Ohio Presbytery out of Great Lakes Presbytery and Ascension Presbytery. The boundaries of the three presbyteries were defined (see also **2009, p. 240, 37-29, III.16**).

2009, p. 239, 37-29, III.15. Overture 20 was adopted, adding Washoe County of Nevada, and the state of Utah, to Northern California Presbytery.

2010, p. 297, 38-45, III.6. Overture 3 was adopted, expanding the boundaries of Pacific Northwest Presbytery to include the entirety of the states of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

2010, p. 298, 38-45, III.7-8. Overtures 4 and 8 were adopted, moving two Georgia counties from Savannah River Presbytery to Central Georgia Presbytery.

2010, p. 304, 38-45, III.13 and III.16. Overtures 19 and 26 were adopted, moving one North Carolina county from Western Carolina Presbytery to Piedmont Triad Presbytery.

2011, p. 45, 39-46, III.5. Overtures 1 and 6 were adopted, creating a new Catawba Valley Presbytery, composed of specified counties from Central Carolina Presbytery and Western Carolina Presbytery.

2011, p. 45, 39-46, III.6. Overture 5 was adopted, dividing Korean Eastern Presbytery into Korean Eastern Presbytery (covering Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware) and Korean Northeastern (covering New York and all the New England states).

2012, p. 48, 40-49, III.8-9. Overtures 5 and 7 were adopted, transferring one Mississippi county from Covenant Presbytery to Mississippi Valley Presbytery.

2012, p. 48, 40-49, III.10-11. Overtures 23 and 24 were adopted, adjusting the boundaries of Philadelphia Presbytery and Philadelphia Metropolitan West Presbytery.

2012, p. 49, 40-49, III.13-17. Overtures 39, 22, 40, 41, and 42 were adopted, dissolving Louisiana Presbytery and redrawing the boundaries of the contiguous presbyteries: North Texas Presbytery, Covenant Presbytery, Mississippi Valley Presbytery, and Southeast Louisiana Presbytery.

2013, p. 28, 41-24, III.9. Overture 9 was adopted, dividing James River Presbytery to form Tidewater Presbytery (see **p. 830**), and defining the boundaries of the two presbyteries.

2014, p. 40, 42-31, III.6-7. Overtures 1 and 4 were adopted, transferring certain Missouri counties from Missouri Presbytery to Covenant Presbytery.

2014, p. 42, 42-31, III.10-11. Overtures 10 and 16 were adopted, transferring a portion of one Mississippi county from Covenant Presbytery to Mississippi Valley Presbytery.

2014, p. 42, 42-31, III.12. Overture 25 was adopted, expanding the boundaries of the Korean Southeastern Presbytery to include the states of Mississippi and Tennessee.

2014, p. 42, 42-31, III.13. Overture 26 was adopted, dividing Korean Southwest Presbytery into two presbyteries and forming Korean

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Southwest Orange County Presbytery. The boundaries of the two presbyteries were defined.

2014, p. 42, 42-31, III.14-15. Overtures 27 and 28 were adopted, transferring one Alabama county from Southeast Alabama Presbytery to Evangel Presbytery.

2015, p. 52, 43-45, III.6. Overture 4 was adopted, dividing and multiplying Palmetto Presbytery into three new presbyteries: a continuing “Columbia Area Presbytery,” a new “Coastal Carolina Presbytery,” and a new “Low Country Presbytery,” all to be officially named by the members of the respective presbyteries. The boundaries of the three presbyteries were defined.

2015, p. 52, 43-45, III.7, 10. Overtures 5 and 6 were adopted, restructuring the boundary of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida so that all churches and mission works in certain counties were moved to Suncoast Florida Presbytery.

2016, p. 42, 44-33. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 24 from Ohio Presbytery to form Columbus Metropolitan Presbytery out of Ohio Presbytery (see **2016, p. 44, 44-36, III.7**).

2016, p. 42, 44-36. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 61 from Illiana Presbytery, in concurrence with the Presbytery of Northern Illinois, to restructure the boundary of Illiana by moving one county into the Presbytery of Northern Illinois (see **2016, p. 45, 44-36, III.9**). The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 62 from Presbytery of Northern Illinois concurring with the action (see **2016, p. 42, 44-36** and **2016, p. 45, 44-36, III.10**).

2017, p. 58, 45-45. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 12 from Eastern Canada Presbytery to restore the original boundaries for Eastern Canada (see **2017, p. 60, 45-45, III.6**).

2017, p. 58, 45-45. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 13 from Tidewater Presbytery to change the boundaries of Heritage and Tidewater Presbyteries by transferring two counties into Tidewater Presbytery. Overture 24 from Heritage Presbytery concurred with this action (see **2017, p. 60, 45-45, III.7**).

2017, p. 58, 45-45. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 19 from Southwest Presbytery to divide Southwest Presbytery into two new presbyteries, Arizona and Rio Grande (see **2017, p. 60, 45-45, III.8**).

2017, p. 58, 45-45. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 20 from Pittsburgh Presbytery to reassign counties from Pittsburgh Presbytery to Ohio Presbytery. Overture 23 from Ohio Presbytery concurred with this action (see **2017, p. 60, 45-45, III.9**).

2017, p. 59, 45-45. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 21 from Covenant Presbytery to form a new presbytery from North Texas and Covenant Presbyteries. Overture 22 from North Texas Presbytery concurred with this action (see **2017, p. 60, 45-45, III.10**).

2018, p. 67, 46-41. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 19 from New Jersey Presbytery to redraw the boundaries of New Jersey Presbytery to include Mercer County (see **2018, p. 69, 46-41, III.8**).

2018, p. 67, 46-41. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 22 from Metropolitan New York Presbytery to divide Metropolitan New York Presbytery into two presbyteries, the new West Hudson Presbytery and a redefined Metro New York Presbytery (see **2018, p. 69, 46-41, III.9**).

2018, p. 67, 46-41. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 33 from Metro Atlanta Presbytery and Overture 34 from Georgia Foothills Presbytery to clarify the boundaries between the two presbyteries (see **2018, p. 69, 46-41, III.10**).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Authorities)
Contested Presbytery Boundary Changes**

2000, p. 103, 28-31, III.10. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 3 from Westminster Presbytery, requesting that Westminster Presbytery be divided into two presbyteries on the basis of significant doctrinal differences as well as geographical considerations. The MNA Committee of Commissioners had moved that the overture be answered in the affirmative. Two Minority Reports were presented by members of the Committee of Commissioners (see **2000, p. 213, 28-44**). Minority Report 2, taken up first as a substitute motion, was ruled out of order. Minority Report 1, taken up as a substitute motion, was defeated. The

content of Minority Report 2 was moved again, with further amendment, and was defeated. The Committee of Commissioners' recommendation was then moved. It was defeated by a vote of 381-599.

2001, p. 187, 29-41. Westminster Presbytery informed the Assembly that the Presbytery intended to withdraw from the PCA and overtured the Assembly (Overture 38) to constitute a new Presbytery, consisting of those churches and ministers which did not desire to remain in Westminster Presbytery, with the same boundaries as the present Westminster Presbytery. The MNA Permanent Committee recommended that the overture be answered in the affirmative (see **2001, p. 176, 29-38, III.24**). The MNA Committee of Commissioners recommended a substitute motion that the overture be answered in the negative, and that Westminster Presbytery be urged to reconsider its action to withdraw and reverse its judgment (see **2001, p. 177**). The Permanent Committee's recommendation was defeated, 411-484. The Committee of Commissioners' recommendation was adopted (see **2002, p. 80, 30-12** Communication 4, for Westminster Presbytery's letter informing the Assembly that it had rescinded its withdrawal).

2005, p. 159, 33-31. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 2 from Potomac Presbytery, adjusting the boundaries of Potomac Presbytery pending the approval of Chesapeake Presbytery. However, meeting between the 33rd and 34th GAs, Chesapeake Presbytery did not approve the revised boundaries (see **2005, p. 162, 33-31, III.11**).

2006, p. 174, 34-47. The 34th GA directed Chesapeake Presbytery and Potomac Presbytery pertaining to Recommendation 16 to meet to discuss the matter and to report back to the 34th Assembly. Overture 2 was amended by revision of some of the proposed boundary changes and adopted as amended by the Assembly (see **2006, p. 185, 34-47, III.16** and **2006, p. 237-9, 34-62** for the report). TE John Arch Van Devender protested the Assembly's requiring Chesapeake Presbytery, by a motion from the floor, to reconsider an action it had previously acted upon within its sphere of jurisdiction (see **2006, p. 237**).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Authorities)
Korean Language and Bilingual Presbyteries**

2002, p. 177, 30-31. The MNA Permanent Committee recommended that the Assembly establish a new bilingual Korean language and

English language presbytery according to eight guidelines (see **2002, p. 182, 30-31, III.12**). The Assembly adopted instead the Committee of Commissioners' recommendation to defer action until the MNA Permanent Committee had consulted with the Korean language presbyteries regarding the integrating of one-and-a-half and second generation Koreans fully into the life of the PCA.

2003, p. 78, 31-29. Two Korean presbyteries having overtured (Overtures 26 and 27) the Assembly not to set up second generation Korean Presbyteries for English-speaking Koreans, the Assembly responded by noting that the MNA Committee had informed the Korean language presbyteries that MNA would not seek to recommend or advance a Korean American Bilingual Presbytery until it was supported by all the Korean language presbyteries (see **2003, p. 85, 31-29, III.13** and **2003, p. 479, App. H, Attach. D**).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Authorities)
Provisional Presbyteries**

2015, p. 46, 43-44. After Overture 2014-29 was referred to the MTW Permanent Committee for further study, the Assembly approved the formation of a provisional presbytery for the country of Paraguay, until sufficient men have been ordained and churches established to form their own presbytery and a new Reformed and covenantal denomination in Paraguay (see **2015, p. 48, 43-44, III.10** and **2014, p. 829, App. W**, for the original overture from Potomac Presbytery which was referred to MTW).

2016, p. 37, 44-32. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 20 from Southwest Florida Presbytery to erect a provisional presbytery in Nicaragua “until sufficient men have been ordained and churches established to form their own presbytery and a new Reformed and covenantal denomination in Nicaragua” (see **2016, p. 39, 44-32, III.9**).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Responsibilities)
Psalm Singing at Worship Services of General Assembly**

1999, p. 172, 27-44, III.11. In response to Overture 17 from Central Georgia Presbytery, the Assembly voted to urge the Arrangements Committee of the Assemblies and all those involved in planning Assembly worship services to take specific steps to ensure the singing of

Psalms at each Assembly. The Assembly further encouraged presbyteries and congregations of the PCA to sing Psalms in worship services.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Responsibilities)
Worship Services

2002, p. 294, 30-62, III.5. The Administrative Committee recommended that it, through the local GA Host Committee, be made responsible for all worship services at GA. The Committee of Commissioners recommended that the practice remain as it had been since 1980, when the practice of rotating worship leadership responsibilities at GA among all the presbyteries had been instituted. The Assembly substituted the permanent committee's recommendation for that of the Committee of Commissioners, and adopted it. Three men recorded their negative votes on this recommendation.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Responsibilities)
How the Assembly Conducts Business

2006, p. 74, 34-22. The Assembly, acting on recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, originally appointed in 2000 and in essence extended through 2005, significantly changed the way it conducted its business. See **2000, p. 265, 28-67, III.10.** See also **Administrative Committee** and **Changes to RAO** below.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Responsibilities)
Delegated Assemblies

2006, p. 73, 34-21. In response to recommendations from the Strategic Planning Committee (2000-2006) regarding changes in the way business should be conducted at the Assembly, the Assembly answered in the negative Overture 24 from Western Carolina Presbytery to postpone consideration on all proposed changes to the *BCO* and *RAO*, and to ask the Administrative Committee to bring to the 35th GA a proposal for a delegated Assembly.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Responsibilities)
Logo of the PCA

2006, p. 157, 34-43. Answering Overture 21 from Southeast Alabama Presbytery, the Assembly directed the PCA Historical Center to develop

a logo consistent with the principles approved by the 11th GA and to report to the 35th GA with two options, from which the commissioners may choose a logo (see **2006, p. 162, 34-43, III.16**).

2007, p. 139, 35-51. The Assembly heard a report from RE Wayne Sparkman, Director of the PCA Historical Center, regarding progress on the development of a PCA logo (see **2007, p. 140, 35-51, III.3**).

2014, p. 48, 42-34. In answer to Overture 52 from Southeast Alabama Presbytery, the Assembly directed the PCA Historical Center subcommittee to make a report to the 43rd GA concerning a seal/logo for the PCA, taking into consideration the logo offered by Southeast Alabama Presbytery (see **2014, p. 53, 42-34, III.30** and **2014, p. 856**).

2015, p. 56, 43-47. The Assembly continued the assignment of the logo project to the Historical Center, since progress had been delayed due to illnesses of various Historical Center advisory members working on the project (see **2015, p. 63, 43-47, III.34**).

2016, p. 29, 44-24. The Administrative Committee recommended that the Assembly consider two logos that had been approved by the Historical Center Subcommittee and that the Assembly vote to make a selection between the two proposed logos. A second vote was taken, and one logo (reproduced on **p. 30**) was adopted (see **2016, p. 63, 44-38, III.31**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Responsibilities) **Bi-Annual Assemblies**

2010, p. 326, 38-47. In response to Overture 6 from Evangel Presbytery, the Assembly directed the Administrative Committee to conduct a study on the feasibility of conducting General Assemblies on a bi-annual basis and to include recommendations for contiguous presbyteries on alternate years to join in two or three-day regional meetings (see **2010, p. 332, 38-50, III.9**).

2011, p. 52, 39-51. Reporting on its requested consideration of a bi-annual Assembly, the Administrative Committee recommended that the Assembly continue to meet annually (see **2011, p. 55, 39-51, III.11**, and **2011, p. 136, App. C**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (General Assembly Responsibilities)

Electronic Voting at General Assembly

2014, p. 48, 42-34. The Assembly authorized the Administrative Committee to implement electronic voting in elections and other motions at the 43rd GA on a trial basis (see **2014, p. 53, 42-34, III.31**).

**(2) BCO 14 General Assembly
Permanent Committees and Agencies**

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committees and Agencies),
Membership on Permanent Program Committees, Number of Men**

2001, p. 187, 29-44, III.1. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 1 from Missouri Presbytery to amend the second paragraph of **BCO 14-1.12**, increasing the number of men on Permanent Program Committee from fourteen to fifteen, and extending the terms of membership from four years to five.

2002, p. 60, 30-10. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to **BCO 14-1.12**, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2002, p. 62, 30-10, Item 2**).

2003, p. 77, 31-27. The Assembly adopted a recommendation of the Nominating Committee that candidates be nominated to the Class of 2007 in a manner that establishes and maintains 5 classes totaling 15 Committee members.

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committees and Agencies), Floor
Nominations for Permanent Committees**

See **2002, p. 212, 30-47; 2003, p. 157, 31-53**. See also **Changes to the RAO [RAO 8-4.i]** below.

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committees and Agencies), Access
to Records of Assembly-Level Committees and Agencies**

2002, p. 92, 30-24. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 7 from Westminster Presbytery, asking the Assembly to instruct the PCA Foundation and all Permanent Committees and Agencies to permit members of the General Assembly to inspect their records (see **2002, p. 93, 30-24, III.5** and **2002, p. 293, 30-62, III.4**).

2002, p. 98, 30-25. On motion, the Assembly instructed the Administrative Committee “to define what records of the PCA are available for inspection by members of the General Assembly according to pertinent state corporation law, and also to enumerate the legal requirements and procedures which must be followed in obtaining access to those records,” and to report to the 31st GA.

2003, p. 135, 31-43. The Assembly adopted the Administrative Committee’s response to the 30th GA’s instruction, answering the question of what records of the PCA are available for inspection by members of the Assembly, as well as stating the biblical approach for dealing with such a matter. In addition, the response reminded the Assembly that the PCA Constitution is structured in such a way that it “trumps” the bylaws of incorporation (see **2003, p. 144, 31-43, III.17** and **PCA Bylaws, Article VIII**).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committees and Agencies),
Denominational Employees, Appropriate Private Exercise of
Responsibilities of Office**

2002, p. 243, 30-53. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 34 from Westminster Presbytery, which would have instructed Assembly-level employees that the use of denominational resources and/or personnel to advocate and/or promote organizations such as the Presbyterian Pastoral Leadership Network (PPLN) was “inappropriate” and “incompatible with continued occupation of denominational posts.” Rather, the Assembly declared, “each TE or RE serving as a denominational employee retains the right to the private exercise of the duties and responsibilities of his office as he sees best while taking great care not to lessen the effectiveness of his denominational labors in the exercise of his rights” (see **2002, p. 279, 30-53, III.21**).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committees and Agencies),
Coordinators, Term Limits**

See **2011, p. 65, 39-57, III.1**; **2011, p. 611, App. V**. See also **Changes to the RAO [RAO 4-9]** below.

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committees and Agencies),
Corporations of the General Assembly, Relationship to the Courts
of the PCA**

2002, p. 291, 30-62. The Assembly referred to the Administrative Committee Overture 35 from Ascension Presbytery, which requested

clarification regarding the civil and especially the ecclesiastical relationships of the various corporations of the Committees, Agencies, and Boards of the General Assembly to the courts of the PCA. The Administrative Committee was instructed to report to the 31st GA (see **2002, p. 300, 30-62, III.23**).

2003, p. 135, 31-43. The Assembly accepted as a proper response to Overture 2002-35 a twelve-point explanation of the accountability of these corporations to the General Assembly (see **2003, p. 141, 31-43, III.13**).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committees and Agencies),
Composition of Committees and Agency Boards**

2017, p. 68, 45-49. The Assembly approved as satisfactory the response to an exception taken to the AC minutes of April 28, 2016, regarding the composition of permanent committees and agency boards (see **2017, p. 71, 45-49, III.11**).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committees and Agencies),
Women Serving on the Board of Agencies**

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered Overture 13 from Nashville Presbytery to revise **BCO 14-1.11** and the Corporate Bylaws of the PCA to allow women to serve on the Boards of Agencies of GA by dividing the question. The Assembly ruled out of order Part A to amend the Corporate Bylaws. The Assembly answered in the negative Part B to amend **BCO 14-1.11**, on the grounds that a previous GA has answered a similar overture, as “for women to participate on GA committees and agencies would allow them to exercise ruling authority in the Church, in violation of I Tim. 2:11ff (*M17GA*, p. 176)” (see **2018, p. 38, 46-29, IV.13**).

Administrative Committee

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Administrative Committee),
Strategic Planning Committee (2000-2006)**

2000, p. 265, 28-67, III.10. The Assembly approved the appointment of a nine-member Strategic Planning Committee for the PCA General Assembly Ministries, composed of the GA ministries coordinators,

presidents, and directors. A twenty-four-member Steering Committee was to be nominated by the Strategic Planning Committee, and approved by the Administrative Committee, to give input and review the plans as they develop. The Administrative Committee was to bring a final recommendation to the 30th GA in 2002.

2002, p. 291, 30-62. The Assembly commended “The Framework of Strategic Direction of the PCA” to the presbyteries for their consideration, discussion, and suggestions on how to perfect and implement the plan (see **2002, p. 292, 30-62, III.2** and **2002, p. 403, App. C**).

2002, p. 291, 30-62. The Assembly extended the Strategic Planning Committee for another year, to report back to the 31st GA (see **2002, p. 293, 30-62, III.3**).

2003, p. 135, 31-43. The Assembly approved the “Future Direction of the PCA: A Framework for Planning” (see **2003, p. 137, III.1** and **p. 300, App. C, Attach. A**) as a working draft reflecting the mission, vision, values, and priorities of the PCA, and commended it as the PCA’s framework for strategic planning.

2003, p. 135, 31-43. The Assembly voted to continue the Strategic Planning Committee until the 33rd GA in 2005 (see **2003, p. 138, 31-43, III.3**).

2004, p. 147, 32-47. The Assembly recommitted the report of the Strategic Planning Committee, with all proposed recommendations related to that report, with instructions that it be revised to put the report in a form better adapted for the consideration of the 33rd GA (see **2004, p. 149, III.1** and **2004, p. 272, App. C, Attach. A** for the Report of the Strategic Planning Committee).

2005, p. 185, 33-48. The Assembly appointed an Ad Interim Committee for the purpose of presenting the final report and recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee directly to the 34th GA (see **2005, p. 187, 33-48, III.11**).

2006, p. 72, 34-20. The Assembly having voted to hear the Strategic Planning Committee for up to one hour under the rules for “informal consideration” (*Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*, 2000 ed., pp. 513-14), the Strategic Planning Committee gave its report (see **2006, p. 568, App. O**).

2006, p. 74, 34-22. The Strategic Planning Committee moved the several recommendations of its report. The Assembly approved amendments to the following sections of the *RAO*: 7-2; 9-7 (addition); 10-2; 11-1, -2, and -3; 12-2 and -3; 13-1, -2, -4, -5, -6, -7, -8, -9, -10,

-11, and -13; Article XIV (added and subsequent Articles renumbered); 17-4. Also 15-10, 15-2; 4-4, -19, -20; Article VII (added and subsequent Articles renumbered). See **Changes to the RAO** below.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Administrative Committee), A Denominational Print Magazine

2002, p. 291, 30-62. The Assembly authorized the Administrative Committee to proceed with the development of a denominational print magazine entitled *PCANews* (see **2002, p. 296, 30-62, III.8**).

2006, p. 157, 34-43. The Assembly commended *byFaith* for receiving the Award of Excellence for 2006 by the Evangelical Press Association, and strongly encouraged all commissioners and their churches to subscribe to the magazine to broaden the knowledge of the PCA throughout the church at large (see **2006, p. 166, 34-43, III.18-19**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Administrative Committee), Strategic Plan 2010

2010, p. 327, 38-47. The Assembly, adopting Recommendation 17 of the AC Committee of Commissioners, approved the three “Themes and Goals” of the 2010 Strategic Plan, and approved all the Means except for “Theme 2, Means (Specific) #4” to “establish standards for voluntary certification of men and women for specific non-ordained vocational ministries” (see **2010, p. 335, 38-50, III.17**). See also **2010, p. 473**, for the other means approved, and **2010, p. 326**, for the parliamentary debate surrounding the 2010 Strategic Plan. A protest, signed by 126 elders, was lodged against the Assembly for failing to recommit Recommendation 17 to the Administrative Committee (**2010, p. 343**) on the grounds that no scriptural grounds were given for the analysis or the Plan, and that the Assembly violated its *Rules of Assembly Operations* (7-3.c), which require recommendations from the CMC to come to the Assembly through respective Committees and Agencies, whose works are involved in the recommendation.

2011, p. 52-53, 39-51. The Assembly, adopting Recommendations 16-20 and 24 of the AC Committee of Commissioners, approved Theme 4, “Practical Presbyterianism,” and Means 1-4 and 7 of the 2010 Strategic Plan (**2011, p. 56, 39-51, III.16-24**). Means 5 and 6 (i.e. Recommendations 21-23) were referred back to the Administrative Committee (**2011, p. 59, 39-54**).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Administrative Committee),
Funding for the Administrative Committee**

2010, p. 327, 38-47. The Assembly approved a new funding model for the Administrative Committee, in which presbyteries, churches, and TEs would be asked to give a certain amount of money toward the Administrative Committee's operations (see **2010, p. 336, 38-50, III.19-20** and **2002, p. 475, App. C, Attach. 5**). The AC recommendation to amend **BCO 14-1** and **BCO 14-2** was adopted by the Assembly, allowing for implementation of the AC funding proposal aspects of the 2010 Strategic Plan (see **2010, p. 482, App. C, Attach. 6**).

2011, p. 17, 39-9, Items 1 and 2. The Presbyteries voted against the amendments to **BCO 14-1** by a vote of 34-40 and **BCO 14-2** by a vote of 32-42 (see **2011, p. 85**).

2011, p. 53, 39-51. The Assembly referred Overtures 3, 7, 11, 13, 14, and 15, and Communications 1, 2, 3, and 4, regarding AC funding, to the Cooperative Ministries Committee Sub-Committee on AC Funding for consideration and to report to the CMC, then to the AC, and then to the 40th GA (see **2011, p. 57, 39-51, III.26** and **2011, p. 609, App. V** for the original content of these overtures).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Administrative Committee),
Contracts for General Assembly Meetings**

2012, p. 56, 40-52. The Assembly authorized the Administrative Committee to finalize contracts with hotels and convention centers for General Assembly meetings, pending several conditions (see **2012, p. 59, 40-54, III.18**).

**The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Administrative Committee),
General Assembly Registration Fee for REs**

2018, p. 71, 46-42. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 7 from Calvary Presbytery to reduce to \$100 the cost of General Assembly registration for Ruling Elders, with the Committee of Commissioners on AC stating eight different reasons as grounds for the decision (see **2018, p. 75, 46-42, III.26**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Administrative Committee), Establishing a Subcommittee of AC for 50th Anniversary of PCA 2018, p. 71, 46-42. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 35 from Southeast Alabama Presbytery to establish a subcommittee of the AC for the 50th Anniversary of the PCA in 2023 (see 2018, p. 77, 46-42, III.32).

**Committee on Discipleship Ministries
(formerly Committee on Christian Education and Publications)**

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committee on Discipleship Ministries), Retirements and New Staff 2012, p. 37, 40-46. The Assembly adopted a resolution of thanks for TE Charles H. Dunahoo and his many years of service to the PCA as Coordinator of the Committee on Christian Education and Publications (see 2012, p. 39, 40-46, III.15).

2013, p. 52, 41-49. The Assembly elected TE Stephen T. Estock to serve as the Coordinator for the Committee on Christian Education and Publications (see 2013, p. 54, 41-49, III.11).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committee on Discipleship Ministries), Name Change to “Committee on Discipleship Ministries” 2014, p. 17, 42-11. The Assembly approved changing the name of the Committee on Christian Education and Publications to the Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM). The Assembly also directed the Stated Clerk to make the necessary editorial changes to the *BCO* and the *RAO* to reflect this name change.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Committee on Discipleship Ministries), Ministry Training for Non-Ordained Ministry Leaders 2016, p. 31, 44-29. The Assembly adopted the Recommendation of the Committee on Discipleship Ministries that the Assembly authorize CDM “to work with other Committees, Agencies, and Reformed ministries to develop a training and certification program, specifically for [certain] non-ordained ministry leaders (paid or volunteer) serving in discipleship ministries in the local church” (see 2016, p. 33, 44-29, III.11).

Covenant College

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Covenant College), Chamber Choir Participation in a Roman Catholic Mass

1999, p. 67, 27-19. A Personal Resolution from RE Hugh Belcher regarding the singing of a choir from Covenant College in a Roman Catholic mass was read and not received by the Assembly on a vote of 316-488. TE Henry Johnson, along with five other elders, protested the General Assembly's failure to receive a personal resolution regarding the singing of a Covenant College choir in a Roman Catholic mass (**1999, p. 209**). In response to the protest, the Assembly appointed the Board of Covenant College to prepare a response for the 28th GA.

2000, p. 250, 28-57, III.4. In the matter of a Covenant College chamber choir singing in a Roman Catholic mass, the Assembly adopted a recommendation that the response of the Board of Trustees of Covenant College be accepted as fulfilling the directive of the 27th GA. The Board's response set forth, among other factors, the context of the choir's singing, which was during a tour of Eastern Europe. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 20 from Westminster Presbytery, which requested that the Assembly reject the Board's response and direct the Board of Covenant College not to permit any musical group from the college to participate in any service where a Roman Catholic mass is held (see **2000, p. 251**).

2000, p. 253, 28-57, III.11. The Assembly adopted a recommendation to forward the response of the Board of Trustees of Covenant College to the General Synod of Bible Presbyterian Church as a partial response to their communication, which expressed concern over the singing of the Covenant College chamber choir during a Roman Catholic mass.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Covenant College), Retirements and New Staff

2002, p. 192, 30-33. The Assembly gave thanks to God for the fifteen years of faithful service by RE Frank Brock as President of Covenant College, and for providing President-elect RE Neil Nielson to replace him (see **2002, p. 193, 30-33, III.6-7**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Covenant College), College Policy on Sexual Identity

2016, p. 65, 44-39. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Committee of Commissioners on Covenant College that the General Assembly direct the College to maintain policies in keeping with a biblical understanding of sexual identity (see **2016, p. 67, 44-36, III.8**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Covenant College), Covenant College Honoring the Sabbath

2016, p. 65, 44-39. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 54 from Calvary Presbytery to commend Covenant College for forfeiting a championship tennis match which was scheduled on a Lord's Day (see **2016, p. 67, 44-36, III.9**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Covenant College), Non-Ordained Members on the Board of Trustees of Covenant College

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 26 from Tennessee Valley Presbytery to amend **BCO 14-1.11** and the Corporate Bylaws of the PCA VI.2 so that a minority of seats on the Board of Trustees of Covenant College may be open to non-ordained members, on the grounds that a previous GA has answered a similar overture by citing as grounds that "for women to participate on GA committees and agencies would allow them to exercise ruling authority in the Church, in violation of I Tim. 2:11 ff (*M17GA*, p. 176)" (see **2018, p. 43, 46-29, IV.26**). Recommendation 8 from the Committee of Commissioners for Covenant College was declared moot in light of the vote on Overture 26 (see **2018, p. 55, 46-32**).

Mission to North America

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Mission to North America), Retirements and New Staff

1999, p. 103, 27-31, III.2. Having been approved by the Theological Examining Committee (see **1999, p. 102, 27-30**), TE James C. Bland III was elected by the Assembly to replace TE Cortez A. Cooper, Jr., who had served from 1995 to 1999.

2016, p. 42, 44-33. The Assembly accepted the resignation of TE James C. Bland III from his service as MNA Coordinator, with thanksgiving to God for his faithful leadership and asking God’s blessing upon TE Bland in his retirement (see **2016, p. 43, 44-36, III.1**).

2016, p. 42, 44-33. The Assembly, being well satisfied with his testimony and qualifications, and upon recommendation of the Permanent Committee on MNA, elected TE J. Paul Hahn, Jr., as Coordinator of MNA (see **2016, p. 43, 44-36, III.2**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Mission to North America), Women Speaking in Seminars

1999, p. 117, 27-31, III.1. In answer to a personal resolution from TE Jeff Black, the Assembly adopted the recommendation of the MNA Committee of Commissioners, finding that the MNA staff did not violate the statement of the 25th GA regarding women’s leadership in MNA seminars, and that the MNA staff should be considered vindicated from any bad reports.” Sixty-one commissioners registered their negative vote on this recommendation (see also **1999, p. 211, 27-57, Protest 3**). See **Moral and Theological Topics** below, “Women, Teaching in Public Ministry Context,” **1999, p. 118, 27-31, Supplemental III.2; 2000, p. 101, 28-31, III.9**. See also *BCO 12-5.d* above, **2000, p. 281, 28-72, III.4**.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Mission to North America), Ethnic Diversity and Ministry Challenges

2002, p. 177, 30-31. For the MNA committee report to the 31st GA on ethnic diversity, in response to Overture 19 to the 30th GA, see **Moral and Theological Topics** below, “Race Relations.” See also **2002, p. 177, 30-31; 2003, p. 78, 31-29**.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Mission to North America), The Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel (PRJC)

2004, p. 121, 32-35. The Assembly approved MNA’s recommendation to authorize the PRJC to endorse all non-military chaplains who request endorsement, according to the guidelines in the PRJC “Chaplains Manual” (see **2004, p. 129, 32-35, II.13** and **2004, p. 457, App. H, Attach. F**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Mission to North America), Disaster Response Coordination between MNA and MTW

2010, p. 296, 38-45. In answer to Overture 21 from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery, the Assembly adopted recommendations from MNA and MTW, directing MNA to work under MTW in disaster responses outside North America and MTW to work under MNA in disaster responses inside North America. The Assembly also clarified the respective responsibilities & spheres of labor of MTW and MNA including the disaster response and the work in Cherokee, NC, with explanatory statements by MTW and MNA pertaining to their current practice, particularly in regard to the country of Haiti (see **2010, p. 305, 38-45, III.14** and **2010, p. 310** for the original overture; see **2010, p. 274, 38-36, III.8** for the affirmative response of MTW).

Mission to the World

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Mission to the World), Church Planting Teams, Powers of

1999, p. 93, 27-25, III.7. The Assembly adopted a recommendation of the MTW Committee of Commissioners that section 2.02.1(5) of the Mission to the World Handbook be revised to specify that a Church Planting Team “will have the power to do the work of forming a provisional Presbytery as described in the *Book of Church Order*, 15-6 “when there are three or more elders on the field.”

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Mission to the World), Disaster Response Coordination, MTW and MNA

2010, see The General Assembly (Mission to North America), 2010, p. 296, 38-45.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Mission to the World), New Coordinator Elected

2015, p. 46, 43-44. The Assembly elected Dr. Lloyd Kim to serve as the Coordinator for Mission to the World (see **2015, p. 47, 43-44, III.4**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Mission to the World), Changes to Missions Policy Manual

2016, p. 40, 44-32, III.10. The Assembly amended the MTW Missions Policy Manual by specifying that candidates from a NAPARC agency,

or a member of a church or agency of the World Reformed Fellowship, are excepted from the requirement to be members of a PCA church prior to approval.

Reformed University Fellowship

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Reformed University Fellowship), Established as a Permanent Committee of the PCA

2000, p. 105, 28-31, III.12. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the MNA Committee to separate Reformed University Ministries (RUM) from the MNA Committee and establish it as a Permanent Program Committee of the General Assembly effective at the 29th GA in 2001, after due constitutional process. Thirteen reasons for a separate RUM Permanent Committee were given (cf. **1996, p. 196** and **1997, p. 163**, for earlier overtures requesting such action, and MNA's appointment of a study committee to examine the relationship of RUM and MNA).

2000, p. 109, 28-31, III.12, Attach. B. Changes to **BCO 14-1.12**, adding Reformed University Ministries to the *BCO* as a Permanent Committee, were approved by the Assembly as an attachment to MNA Recommendation 12.

2001, p. 53, 29-12, Item 3. The Presbyteries having approved the amendments to **BCO 14-1.12** by a vote of 53-1, the Assembly approved the amendments.

2000, p. 110, 28-31, III.12, Attach. C. The Assembly accepted the MNA committee recommendation for the formation and structure of a new Reformed University Ministries Permanent Committee, with the understanding that after the first year this Committee would be subject to the nominating process of the GA. The Assembly proceeded to approve that the presbyteries nominate, through the GA Nominating Committee, individuals for the particular classes in the Proposed Initial Committee Structure for the RUM Permanent Committee and that the transition committee be allowed to present a slate of candidates with the advice and consent of their respective presbyteries to the Nominating Committee for the March 2001 meeting (see **2000, p. 112, Rec. 1**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Reformed University Fellowship) Changes of Leadership

2001, p. 163, 29-38, III.2. The Assembly elected TE Rod S. Mays as the Coordinator of the newly formed Permanent Committee on Reformed

University Ministries. The Assembly gave special thanks to former and interim coordinators TE Mark L. Lowrey Jr., RE James “Bebo” Elkin, TE Marvin Padgett, and TE Wilson Benton.

2014, p. 22, 42-19. The Assembly elected TE Thomas K. Cannon as Coordinator of Reformed University Ministries for the 2014-2015 term. The Assembly gave thanks for the faithful service of TE Rod S. Mays as Coordinator of RUM from 1999 to 2014 (see **2014, p. 23, 42-19, III.5-6**).

2018, p. 28, 46-26. The Assembly received the resignation of TE Thomas K. Cannon as Coordinator of Reformed University Ministries with appreciation for his service and tenure (see **2018, p. 29, 46-26, III.5**). The Assembly elected TE Rod S. Mays as interim Coordinator of Reformed University Ministries for the 2018-19 term (see **2018, p. 29, 46-26, III.6**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Reformed University Fellowship), Change of Name from Reformed University Ministries to Reformed University Fellowship

2016, p. 35, 44-31. The Assembly approved the name change from Reformed University Ministries to Reformed University Fellowship (see **2016, p. 36, 44-31, III.5**).

2017, p. 45, 45-40. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Committee of Commissioners on Reformed University Ministries to change the name of Reformed University Ministries (RUM) to Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) and direct the Stated Clerk to make the necessary editorial amendments to the *BCO* and the *RAO*, and the *Corporate Bylaws of the PCA* (see **2017, p. 46, 45-40, III.5**).

PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.), Property/Casualty and Long-Term Care Insurance Programs

1999, p. 101, 27-29, III.6-7. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of Insurance, Annuities, and Relief (now RBI) to make property/casualty insurance and long-term insurance programs available if sufficient interest existed to make them viable.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.), Name Changed from “Insurance, Annuities and Relief” to “PCA Retirement & Benefits, Incorporated”

2002, p. 195, 30-34. The Assembly “authorized and ratified” the action of IAR to incorporate under the name “PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.” and amended *BCO 14-1.12.b.4*, recognizing the change of name of “Insurance, Annuities and Relief” to “PCA Retirement and Benefits, Inc.” See **2002, pp. 195, 196, 30-34, III.7-11**. See also **Changes to the RAO [RAO 4-3 and 5-1.b.7]** below.

2003, p. 50, 31-11. The Presbyteries having voted 60-0 to amend *BCO 14-1.12.b.4*, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2003, p. 59, 31-11, Item 4**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.), Mandated Health Coverage

2002, p. 195, 30-34. The Insurance, Annuities and Relief Permanent Committee (now PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.) recommended that “the General Assembly mandate coverage in the PCA health plans for all active ministers and church lay employees who are current residents of the United States and who are not covered under a spouse’s group health plan, and that the presbyteries be responsible for implementing and enforcing this mandate.” The Committee of Commissioners on Insurance, Annuities and Relief adopted the recommendation, with the removal of the words “and enforcing.” The Moderator referred the recommendation to the CCB as a constitutional inquiry. In light of the CCB’s opinion, the Assembly amended the recommendation by adding the words “full-time” after “active” (by a vote of 354-267), and then amended by substituting “highly recommend” for “mandate.” The amended motion was adopted (see **2002, p. 197, 30-34, III.15** and **2002, p. 201, 30-36**). See **Constitutional Advice (BCO 14), Mandating Health Coverage for All Active Teaching Elders**, **2002, p. 106, 30-29, Item 2**.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.), Staff Changes

2002, p. 195, 30-34. The Assembly expressed appreciation to James L. Hughes for 21 years of service as Director of Insurance, Annuities, & Relief (see **2002, p. 197, 30-34, III.14**).

2003, p. 576 Appendix L. The IAR Board of Directors reported the selection of RE William G. “Bill” Kuh as Director designate of IAR.

2006, p. 72, 34-18. During the Informational Report to GA, RE Gary D. Campbell was introduced as the nominee of the Board of Directors to succeed RE Bill Kuh as President of RBI.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.), Changes to the Retirement Plan Document

2016, p. 25, 44-22. The General Assembly approved the 34th Amendment to the 403(b)(9) PCA Retirement Plan Document (**2016, p. 26, 44-22, III.4**).

Ridge Haven

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Ridge Haven), Recommendations for Ministry

2008, p. 154, 36-38. The Assembly adopted a recommendation that the Cooperative Ministries Committee “monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency” of Ridge Haven and make recommendations “covering all areas of Ridge Haven and any future plans for ministry” to the Board of Ridge Haven that would be “reported and acted on at the 37th GA” (**2008, p. 155, 36-38, III.2**).

2009, p. 63, 37-14. The Cooperative Ministries Committee task force on Ridge Haven, in its report to the Assembly, presented nine recommendations to the Ridge Haven Board (see **2009, p. 65ff.**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Ridge Haven), Resignations and New Staff

2009, p. 249, 37-41. The Assembly thanked TE Morse Up De Graff for his faithful service to the PCA as Executive Director of Ridge Haven (see **2009, p. 250, 37-41, III.4**).

2010, p. 127, 38-30, III.4. The Assembly acknowledged RE Wallace Anderson, the new Executive Director of Ridge Haven (see **2010, p. 127, 38-30, III.4** and **2010, p. 759, App. N**).

(3) Other Committees of the General Assembly

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Other Committees), Committees of Commissioners, Amendments to Overtures

2002, p. 92, 30-23. The 30th GA received and referred to the Committee on Constitutional Business CCB a Personal Resolution directing the CCB “to propose measures, including amendments to the *BCO* and *RAO* if necessary, to confirm the PCA historic understanding and practice that Committees of Commissioners, as well as the Assembly, may amend overtures submitted by presbyteries....” The CCB was directed to report back to the next General Assembly.

See **2003, p. 67, 31-18.**

2002, p. 210, 30-47. The Moderator ruled against a point of order objecting that the Bills and Overtures Committee had disallowed amendments to overtures proposing *BCO* amendments (contrary to *RAO* 13-6.e [now see 15-6.n]); and requesting the Moderator to instruct the Committee to reconvene. An appeal to the Chair’s ruling was not sustained, and three commissioners protested the Assembly’s failing to sustain the appeal (**2002, p. 290, 30-61**). Upon receiving the protest, the Assembly directed the Moderator to appoint a committee of three to write a response to the protest. This committee responded to the protest with six points, arguing, among other things, that the *RAO* does not give authority to the Bills and Overtures Committee to make substantive alterations or major changes in the meaning or intent of a proposed amendment to the *BCO*. See **2002, p. 739, Appendix O**. See also **Changes to the RAO [RAO 15-6.i]** below.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Other Committees), Committees of Commissioners, Term Limits

2007, p. 59, 35-12. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 9 from James River Presbytery, which sought to limit service on the Overtures Committee to three consecutive assemblies, preferring rather the existing two-thirds rule that establishes a policy preference in favor of diverse representation, but allows for a presbytery to overcome that preference according to its wisdom (see **2007, p. 62, 35-12, III.7**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Other Committees), Committee on Review of Presbytery Records (RPR), Recommendations of

1999, p. 190, 27-54. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III. 1-58** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) and **Recommendations IV.1-7** (General Recommendations) of the Committee of Review on Presbytery Records.

2000, p. 321, 28-73. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III. 1-58** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) and **Recommendations IV.a-k** (General Recommendations) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records.

2001, p. 322, 29-64. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III. 1-61** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) and **Recommendations IV.A-C** (General Recommendations) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records.

2002, p. 305, 30-63. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III.1-61** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) and **Recommendations IV.1-10, 12-15** (General Recommendations) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. **Recommendation IV.11** was postponed to the 31st General Assembly.

2003, p. 214, 31-63. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III.1-64** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. Two negative votes on **Recommendation III.29** were recorded. On **Recommendation III.56**, refer to previous actions of this Assembly (see **2003, p. 61, 31-14**). The Assembly adopted **Recommendations IV.4-13, 15-16** (General Recommendations). The Assembly adopted **Recommendation IV.1-2** but struck **Recommendation IV.3**. **Recommendation IV.14** was adopted as amended.

2004, p. 205, 32-55. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III.1-64** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) and **Recommendations IV.1-8** (General Recommendations) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. **Recommendation IV.9** was declared moot, as it was dealt with as Recommendation 9 of Committee of Commissioners on Bills and Overtures (see **2004, 32-52, p. 201**).

2005, p. 266, 33-54. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III.1-66** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) and **Recommendations IV.1-3, 5-12** (General Recommendations) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. **Recommendation VI.4** was postponed to the 34th General Assembly.

2006, p. 240, 34-63. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III. 1-70** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) and **Recommendations IV.1-10** (General Recommendations) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. Because **Recommendation IV.5** involved rescinding actions of previous Assemblies, it required a 2/3 approval, which was received.

2007, p. 170, 35-54. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III.1-74** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) and **Recommendations IV.1-3, 5-9** (General Recommendations) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. **Recommendation IV.4** proposing changes to **RAO 16-3.e.5** was postponed to the 36th General Assembly (see **2007, p. 227, 35-54**).

2008, p. 214, 36-53. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III.1-76** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) and **Recommendations IV.1-3, 6-10** (General Recommendations) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. The Moderator ruled **Recommendation IV.4** out of order, based on previous action on a similar matter regarding changes to several sections of the *RAO* (see **2008, p. 55, 36-12**). After altering the wording, **Recommendation IV.5** was adopted as amended (**2008, p. 274, 36-53**). The Assembly adopted **Recommendation III.44**, and a Minority Report that concerned what roles women may perform in worship was submitted (see **2008, p. 277, 36-53**).

2009, p. 77, 37-18. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations VI.1-8** (General Recommendations) and **Recommendations VII.1-76** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. A substitute motion for **Recommendation VII.34.d** was defeated.

2010, p. 71, 38-17. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations V.1-9 and 11** (General Recommendations) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. **Recommendation 5.a.** was struck from the list. **Recommendation V.10** was not adopted because the affirmative vote

(576-8) did not achieve a majority of the enrollment. The Assembly adopted **Recommendations VI.1-77** (Minutes of Each Presbytery).

2011, p. 24, 39-17. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations IV.1-9** (General Recommendations) and **Recommendations V.1-51, 53-58, 60-79** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. The Assembly adopted as amended **Recommendation V.59. Recommendation V.52** was adopted after a Minority Report was defeated. A motion to recommit **Recommendation IV.10** was not well taken, and a proposed amendment to **Recommendation IV.10** was referred to the CCB (see **2011, p. 17, 39-10**). Having received the advice of the CCB (see **2011, p. 24, 39-18**), the Assembly adopted **Recommendation IV.10** (**2011, p. 25, 39-19**). For the full Committee report, see **2011, p. 433, App. Q**.

2012, p. 26, 40-31. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations IV.1-11** (General Recommendations) and **Recommendations V.1, 3-5, 7-13, 15-22, 24-35, 38-50, 52, 54-80** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. A minority report moved as a substitute for **Recommendation V.53** was defeated (**2013, p. 487, App. Q**), and **Recommendation V.53.d.** was defeated. Minority Reports were moved for **Recommendations V.6** and **14**. A motion to recommit **Recommendations V.53, 6, and 14** to the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records with the aspiration that it will bring harmonious recommendations was adopted. The Assembly adopted **Recommendations V.2, 23, 36, 37, 51** (**2012, p. 28, 40-34**). On motion, **Recommendation V.12.c** was reconsidered, and a motion to delete the first exception of substance, related to **BCO 3-1** and **BCO 13-9**, was defeated. For the full Committee report, see **2012, p. 410, App. Q**.

2013, p. 22, 41-18. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations IV.1-2** (Special Citations) and **Recommendations V.1-20** (General Recommendations) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. The Assembly also adopted **Recommendations VII.1-5, 7-13, 15-39, 41-45, 47-81** (Minutes of Each Presbytery). After a procedural motion to take up **Recommendations VII.6, 14, 40, 46, and 54** in sequence, **Recommendations VII.14, 40, and 46** were adopted (**2013, p. 24, 41-21**). After two Minority Reports were defeated, the Assembly adopted **Recommendation VII.54** as a whole. The Assembly adopted as a substitute the amendment in the Minority Report on **Recommendation VII.6** (**2013, p. 23, 41-18**). The amended Minority Report regarding

section **c** of **Recommendation VII.6** having been adopted as an amendment to **6.c** and therefore part of the main motion, **Recommendation VII.6** was adopted as a whole (2013, p. 24, 41-21). For the full Committee report, see 2013, p. 411, App. Q.

2014, p. 19, 42-15. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations V.1-19** (General Recommendations) and **VI.1-5, 7-10, 12-81** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. The Assembly adopted a motion to recommit **Recommendation VI.6** to the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records to report to the 43rd GA. **Recommendation 11**, with section **11.e** being stricken because it had been previously handled, was adopted. For the full Committee report, see 2014, p. 387, App. Q.

2015, p. 22, 43-24. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations IV.1-2** (Special Citations), **V.1-8** (General Recommendations), and **VI.1-13, 15-55, 57-74, 76-80** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. A Minority Report, presented to find the presbytery's response (**14.d**) satisfactory, was adopted and **Recommendation VI.14** was adopted as amended (2015, p. 436, App. Q). A Minority Report for **Recommendation VI.56** was defeated and **Recommendation VI.56** was adopted (2015, p. 464, App. Q). A Minority Report to strike **75.c**, 2nd exception of substance, for **Recommendation VI.75** was adopted as amended (2015, p. 479, App. Q). A substitute motion for **Recommendation VI.81** was defeated and **Recommendation VI.81** was adopted (2015, p. 485, App. Q). For the full Committee report, see 2015, p. 413, App. Q.

2016, p. 22, 44-19. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations III.1-2** (Special Citations), **IV.1-13** (General Recommendations), and **V.1-56, 58-82** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. A Minority Report for **Recommendation V.57** (2016, p. 434, App. Q, V.57) for the minutes of Philadelphia Metro West Presbytery was defeated and **Recommendation V.57** was adopted. For the full Committee report, see 2016, p. 385, App. Q.

2017, p. 33, 45-29. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations IV.1-2** (Special Citations), **V.1-18** (General Recommendations), and **VI.1-51, 53-85** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. The Assembly adopted a Minority Report as a substitute motion for **Recommendation VI.52**, which added

an exception of substance to the minutes of Northwest Georgia Presbytery regarding an apparent representation of the second person of the Trinity (see **2017, p. 405, App. Q, VI.52** and **2017, p. 431, App. Q**). For the full Committee report, see **2017, p. 368, App. Q**.

2018, p. 19, 46-12. The Assembly adopted **RPR Recommendations V.1-20** (General Recommendations) and **VI.1-86** (Minutes of Each Presbytery) of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. Substitute motions for **Recommendations VI.3** (Calvary Presbytery, regarding a transfer candidate's stated difference with *WLC* 109) and **VI.18** (Georgia Foothills Presbytery) were defeated, with 64 commissioners recording their negative vote for **Recommendation VI.18** (see **2018, p. 20-21, 46-16**). For the full Committee report, see **2018, p. 362, App. Q**.

(4) Amendments to Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO)

Editorial Note: The following entries on Changes to the RAO (pp. 45-66) are arranged, as much as possible, in order of RAO chapters (as of the year of the change).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Election of a Moderator

2003, p. 157, 31-53. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 2 from Mississippi Valley Presbytery, which would have amended the **RAO 1-3** to provide for the election each Assembly of a Moderator-in-Nomination who would be "first in line" for the position of Moderator the next year (see **2003, p. 172, 31-57, III.2**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Reformed University Ministries (now Reformed University Fellowship), Established as a Permanent Program Committee of the PCA

2002, p. 88, 30-19. The Assembly approved changes to **RAO 4-2, 9; 5-1.b.8; and 6-4**, to reflect the new status of Reformed University Ministries as a Permanent Program Committee of the PCA (see **2002, p. 89, 30-19, III.10**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Insurance, Annuities and Relief, Name Changed to PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.

2002, p. 195, 30-34. The Assembly amended *RAO 4-3* and *RAO 5-1(4)* [now *RAO 5-1.b.7*], recognizing the change of name of “Insurance, Annuities and Relief” to “PCA Retirement and Benefits, Inc.” (see **2002, p. 196, 30-34, III.7-11**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Cooperative Ministries Committee as a Special Committee

2006, p. 74, 34-22. The Assembly amended *RAO 4-4* by adding “Cooperative Ministries Committee” to the list of “Special Committees” (see **2006, p. 613, App. O, VI.4.b(1)**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Term Limits of Coordinators

2011, p. 65, 39-57. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 2 from South Florida Presbytery to amend *RAO 4-9* by setting term limits on Coordinators of the four Program Committees to a maximum of two five-year terms (see **2011, p. 65, 39-57, III.1** and **2011, p. 611, App. V**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Budgets of Committees and Agencies, Review of

2007, p. 58, 35-11. The Assembly amended *RAO 4-11* to specify that review of the budgets of the Committees and Agencies and their recommendation to the Assembly be accomplished through the Administrative Committee. The amendment also gave guidelines to the Administrative Committee for implementing the Partnership Share Giving Program.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Meetings and Funding of Special Committees

1999, p. 185, 27-51, III.1. The Assembly revised the *RAO* by adding a new paragraph (**4-18**) regarding the functioning and funding of special committees (**4-4**), subcommittees, commissions [including] the SJC, *ad interim* committees, and study committees (**8-1, -2, -3, -4**) [now **9-1**]

through 9-5] that are funded through the Administrative Committee or whose funds are administered by the Administrative Committee.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Communications among Committees and Agencies

2006, p. 74, 34-22. The Assembly amended Article IV of the *RAO* by adding items 4-19 and 4-20 regarding communications among the Permanent Committees and Agencies. *RAO 4-19* concerned the timely sending of meeting agendas and minutes, and **4-20** added that all chairmen and chief administrative officers of the General Assembly Permanent Committees and Agencies may attend any meeting of any Permanent Committee or Agency (see **2006, p. 613, App. O, VI.4.b.2 and 3**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Administrative Committee Funding

2012, p. 56, 40-52. The Assembly adopted an amendment to *RAO 5-4*, directing the Permanent Committees and Agencies, and encouraging churches and TEs, to contribute to the Administrative Committee on an annual basis (see **2012, p. 57, 40-54, III.1**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO) Cooperative Ministries Committee Created

2006, p. 74, 34-22. As a part of the Strategic Planning Committee's recommendations, the Assembly added a new article to the *RAO* (*RAO 7*), renumbering subsequent articles, creating a Cooperative Ministries Committee (CMC) to help facilitate continuing collaboration and funding of GA ministries (see **2006, p. 613, App. O, VI.4.b.4**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), CCB Advice Directed toward Overtures Committee

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to *RAO 7-2* [**now 8-2**], adjusting the responsibilities of the Committee on Constitutional Business in light of the new Overtures procedure by directing CCB's advice towards the Overtures Committee and not the Assembly itself (see **2006, p. 583, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Responsibilities of the Committee on Constitutional Business

2006, p. 75, 34-23. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 13 from James River Presbytery with amendments to expand the role of the Committee on Constitutional Business (CCB), amending **RAO 7-2.b.3 [now 8-2.b.3]** and **RAO 10-5 [now 11-5]** to specify that the CCB provides advice on any proposed amendment to the *Rules of Assembly Operations*, in addition to the Constitution.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Cooperative Ministries Committee, Responsibilities for Long-Range Denominational Planning

2017, p. 19, 45-14. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 7 from Northern New England Presbytery to clarify language in in **RAO 7-3.c** concerning what types of long-range planning the CMC may engage in (see **2017, p. 20, 45-14, III.7**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Floor Nominations for Permanent Committees

2002, p. 212, 30-47. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 17 from Eastern Canada Presbytery, which sought to amend **RAO 7-4.i [now 8-4.i]** to eliminate the practice of requiring that floor nominations for Permanent General Assembly Committees be placed in opposition to particular individuals (see **2002, p. 239, 30-50, III.5**).

2003, p. 157, 31-53. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 4 from James River Presbytery, which sought again to amend **RAO 7-4.j [now 8-4.i]** to eliminate the practice of requiring that floor nominations be placed in opposition to particular individuals (see **2003, p. 174, 31-57, III. 3.a**; cf. **2002, p. 239, III.5**). The amendment would have specified that each nominee “run for the applicable office and not against another designated nominee.” A Minority Report recommending that the overture be answered in the affirmative (see **2003, p. 176**) was defeated (see **2003, p. 157, 31-53** and **2003, p. 174, 31-57, III.3b**). In giving grounds for its answer, the Assembly noted that the present system “presents the clearest choice to the Assembly between candidates for each seat” and “protects the role of the Assembly as a check and balance

to the Nominating Committee by allowing the Assembly to challenge a particular candidate without jeopardizing candidates it does not want to contest.”

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Election of Chairman of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records

2002, p. 73, 30-11. The Assembly adopted the amendment to *RAO 7-5.c* [now *RAO 8-5.c*] in accordance with *RAO 18*, inserting the words “in at least,” so that the new section reads: “A chairman and vice-chairman for the following year shall be elected by the committee from members who shall be serving in at least the second year of their term.”

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Theological Examining Committee’s recording of nominees’ differences with the Westminster Standards

2012, p. 23, 40-17. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 27 from Great Lake Presbytery to amend *RAO 8-3* to require the Theological Examining Committee to record nominees’ stated differences with our denominational standards (see **2012, p. 75, 40-57, III.18** and **2012, p. 724, App. W, Overture 18**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Changes to Assembly Schedule to Reflect Shortened Assembly

2018, p. 16, 46-8. The Assembly answered in the affirmative to amend the last two sentences of *RAO 8-4.i*, replacing ‘second day’ with ‘first day’ and ‘third day’ with ‘second day,’ to reflect the shortened Assembly (see **2018, p. 72, 46-42, III.1**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Submitting Nominations Electronically

2016, p. 35, 44-30. The Assembly amended *RAO 8-4.i* to include the possibility and procedure for electronic submission of nominations, making clear that “responsibility for such nomination rests with the nominator and that non-delivery is the sole responsibility of the nominator” (see **2016, p. 353, App. P**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), When the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records Meets

2013, p. 17, 41-10. The Assembly adopted **Recommendation VI.1** which removed from **RAO 8-5.b** the phrase “usually at the same time during which the committee of commissioners shall be meeting,” regarding when the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records meets (see **2013, p. 414, App. Q, VI.1**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Referring Recommendations from Ad Interim Committees to Overtures Committee

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 6 from Calvary Presbytery to revise **RAO 9** to require that recommendations from Ad Interim committees be referred to the OC (see **2018, p. 35, 46-29, IV.6**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), The Formation of Ad Interim Committees

2017, p. 19, 45-14. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 18 from James River Presbytery to amend **RAO** Article IX by inserting a paragraph (**RAO 9-2**) stating that Ad Interim committees may only be formed in response to presbytery overtures (see **2017, p. 23, 45-14, III.18**). Subsequent paragraphs were renumbered.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Require Three REs on Ad Interim Committees

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 4 from Calvary Presbytery to amend **RAO 9-4** to require three REs on each Ad Interim committee, on the grounds that Ad Interim study committees are often specialized in nature and the OC thought it unwise to prescribe specific numbers of REs for such committees (see **2018, p. 35, 46-29, IV.4**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Administrative Committee Recommendations for GA Locations

2006, p. 64, 34-9. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 20 from Southeast Alabama Presbytery to consider as a separate item of

business the *RAO* amendment proposed by the Strategic Planning Committee (2000-2006) adding a new *RAO 9-7* [now *10-7*], authorizing the Administrative Committee “to take the initiative to investigate and recommend to General Assembly sites for the annual meeting of the General Assembly, and to that end...suggest to Presbyteries their hosting the annual meeting of the General Assembly,” in order to achieve economies that will enhance GA in being a self-supporting event (see also 2006, p. 74, 34-22 and 2006, p. 583 & 585, App. O, VI.2.b).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), General Assembly Date or Location Change Authorized

2001, p. 187, 29-43. The Assembly revised the *RAO* by adding section 9-6 [now 10-6], authorizing the PCA Stated Clerk and Moderator of the General Assembly in extraordinary cases to change the date or location of an Assembly (see 2001, 29-52, p. 253, III.6).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Administrative Committee Funding

2012, p. 55, 40-52. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 43 from James River Presbytery to amend *RAO 10* by adding a paragraph (to be numbered 10-9) that encouraged presbyteries to give annually to a special fund administered by the Administrative Committee as a means of assisting, especially, smaller presbyteries to host the annual meeting of the General Assembly (see 2012, p. 60, 40-54, III.32 and 2012, p. 747). The action entailed the Stated Clerk disseminating the information to the presbyteries in advance of the 41st GA.

2013, p. 55, 41-50. In response to Overture 43 from James River Presbytery submitted to the 40th GA, the Assembly amended *RAO 10* by adding a paragraph (to be numbered 10-9) encouraging presbyteries to give an annual fee to the Administrative Committee in order to assist more presbyteries to host the annual meeting of the General Assembly. A subsequent motion set the initial request at \$500 (see 2013, p. 56, 41-50, III.1 & 2).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Communications to General Assembly from Individuals

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to *RAO 10-2* [now 11-2],

deleting the word “ordinarily” to clarify that communications from individuals shall not be received by the General Assembly unless they originate with persons who have no other access to the Assembly (see **2006, p. 583 & 585, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Communications to GA, reference of

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to **RAO 11-3 [now 12-3]**, deleting the word “ordinarily” to eliminate confusion and removing redundant material that was also found in **RAO 11-1 [now RAO 12-1]** (see **2006, p. 583 & 588, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Presbytery Communications to General Assembly

2007, p. 59, 35-12. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 7 from James River Presbytery, making explicit what was already the case in practice by amending **RAO 11-1** to specify that presbyteries may send communications to the General Assembly without overturing for Assembly action (see **2007, p. 60, 35-12, III.5**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Informational Reports at General Assembly

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to **RAO 11-2 [now 12-1 and 12-2]**, substituting “permanent Committees and Agencies” for “committee of commissioners” as the body that makes informational reports (recognizing what was already the case), and codified a fifteen-minute (as opposed to a five-minute) limit on informational reports (see **2006, p. 583 & 587, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Referring all Overtures to the Overtures Committee

2017, p. 19, 45-14. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 10 from Western Carolina Presbytery to amend **RAO 11-5** to direct the Stated Clerk to refer overtures regarding Committees and Agencies and

Ad Interim committees to the Overtures Committee also (see **2017, p. 23, 45-14, III.10**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Overtures Proposing Constitutional Amendments

2012, p. 23, 40-17. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 3 from Potomac Presbytery to amend **RAO 12-1 [now 11-5]** and **15-1**, stipulating that any recommendations proposing constitutional amendments be referred to the Overtures Committee for their review and recommendation to the Assembly. The Overtures Committee amended the original overture by adding an amendment to **RAO 11-5** and omitting the proposed amendment to **15-1** (see **2012, p. 64, 40-57, III.3** and **2012, p. 684, App. W**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), New Business at General Assembly

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to **RAO 12-2 [now 13-2]**, adding language that makes the introduction of new business more difficult but not impossible, specifying a 2/3 vote to receive a personal resolution and excluding personal resolutions that seek to amend the Constitution (see **2006, p. 583 & 588, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Committee on Constitutional Business at General Assembly

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to strike **RAO 12-3 [now see 13-4 and 13-5]** because the rule was unnecessary (see **2006, p. 583 & 589, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Restructuring of RAO 13

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment restructuring and moving much of **RAO 13 [now RAO 14]** (moving **RAO 13-8, -9, -10, -11, and -13**. **RAO 13-8** was moved to after 13-2; **RAO 13-9** was struck; **RAO 13-10** was moved to 13-5.j; **RAO 13-11** was moved to after 13-6

and its language updated to allow for use of new technologies). [This restructuring of *RAO* Article XIII in 2006 is **now** reflected in *RAO* **Article XIV**, “Committees of Commissioners.” *RAO* **13-13** was moved to “Article IV. Committees and Agencies” [**now see 4-21**]. (see **2006, p. 583 & 600, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), New Language to Allow for New RAO Article on Overtures Committee
2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted amendments to *RAO* **13-1, -2, and -4** [**now see 14-1, -2, and -4**; cf. Article XV], changing language to provide for a separate article on Overtures Committee and to correct mistakes (13-1), to introduce conforming language (13-2), and correct a mistake (13-4) (see **2006, p. 583 & 589, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Committees of Commissioners, Permanent Committee Members Ineligibility Provision
2003, p. 67, 31-17. On recommendation by the Administrative Committee, the Assembly amended *RAO* **13-2** [**now 14-2**] by adding final sentences to define the Permanent Committee “staff” who are “ineligible for service in Committees of Commissioners.”

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Committees of Commissioners, Presbytery Representation
2006, p. 197, 34-57. The Assembly answered in the negative and declared moot Overture 16 from James River Presbytery to amend *RAO* **13-2** [**now 14-2**] to forbid presbyteries from electing the same representative to the same committee in two consecutive years (see **2006, p. 206, 34-57, III.6**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Procedure for Submitting Memorial Resolutions Honoring Deceased Individuals
2016, p. 19, 44-13. The Assembly answered in the affirmative a substitute motion regarding the amendment of *RAO* **13-2**, referring the matter of memorial resolutions back to the Administrative Committee for clarification concerning how memorial resolutions honoring deceased persons should be submitted in the future (see **2016, p. 57, 44-38, III.1**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), New Business at General Assembly

2016, p. 72, 44-44. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 36 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend **RAO 13-2** on the procedure for considering new business at GA (see **2016, p. 80, 44-44, III.11**).

2017, p. 19, 45-14. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 14 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend **RAO 13-2** by specifying that any new business presented to General Assembly that was not first presented as an overture to a presbytery must include an explanation for why it was not (see **2017, p. 23, 45-14, III.14**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Changes to Assembly Schedule to Reflect Shortened Assembly

2018, p. 16, 46-8. The Assembly answered in the affirmative to amend **RAO 13-2**, replacing “second day” with “first day,” to reflect the shortened Assembly (see **2018, p. 72, 46-42, III.2**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Committees of Commissioners, Amendments to Overtures

2003, p. 67, 31-18. Overture 23 from Ascension and Western Carolina Presbyteries asked the Assembly to amend **RAO 13-5** and **13-6** [now **15-6**] in four ways, in order to allow the Bills and Overtures Committee to offer germane amendments to overtures and resolutions (see **2003, p. 169, 31-57, III.1**). The CCB advised that the overture was in conflict with the Constitution because it undermined the purpose of the overture process, which is to offer presbyteries the opportunity to propose to the Assembly measures which they believe benefit the Church at large. A Minority Report from the CCB argued that the overture was not in conflict with the Constitution because germane amendments do not interfere with the right of presbyteries to propose such measures. The Bills and Overtures Committee recommended that the overture be answered in the negative. A Minority Report recommended as a substitute that the overture be answered in the affirmative (see **2003, p. 171**). The substitute motion was adopted, and became the main

motion, which was amended and then adopted by the Assembly. For the full committee and Minority reports, see **2003, p. 165, 31-56, IV**). The CCB, answering the 30th GA's directive to respond to the personal resolution regarding amendments to overtures by the Bills and Overtures Committee (see **2002, p. 92, 30-23**), recommended that the personal resolution be answered by reference to the 31st GA's action on Overture 23 (see **2003, p. 164, 31-56, III**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Germane Amendments in Committees of Commissioners

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to **RAO 13-5.d [now 14-6.d]**, making provision for germane amendments in Committees of Commissioners, per *Robert's Rules of Order* (see **2006, p. 583 & 592, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Visitors Addressing Committees of Commissioners

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to **RAO 13-5.g [now 14-6.g]**, making plain how the "necessity" of visitors addressing a Committee of Commissioners is to be determined (see **2006, p. 583 & 593, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Committees of Commissioners, Substitute Recommendations and Minority Reports (BCO 14)

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to add **RAO 13-5.h [now 14-6.h]**, establishing a procedure for a committee of commissioners to bring a substitute motion for a Permanent Committee or Agency recommendation; also, a minority report from a committee of commissioners was disallowed (see **2006, p. 583 & 593, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Committees of Commissioners, Fair Notice for Substitute Motions

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to add *RAO 13-5.i* [now *14-6.i*], making provision for fair notice when a substitute motion will arise from a Committee of Commissioners (see **2006, p. 583 & 594, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Budgets of Committees of Commissioners, and Reordering of RAO 13

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to add *RAO 13-5.j* [now *14-6.j*], which concerns recommendations affecting the budgets of Committees of Commissioners, by moving *RAO 13-10* to this place (see **2006, p. 583 & 595, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Committees of Commissioners, Substitute Motions

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to *RAO 13-6.c* [now *14-6.h*], substituting language and providing for the proposal to the GA of a substitute recommendation by a committee of commissioners but disallowing the proposal of new recommendations (see **2006, p. 583 & 595, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Overtures Committee Procedures

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to strike *RAO 13-6.f* [now see *RAO Article XV*], eliminating matter to be handled under the new Overtures Committee procedure and renumbering *RAO 13-6.f-j* [now *14-6.f-j*] (see **2006, p. 583 & 596, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Committee of Commissioners Report and Minutes

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to add *RAO 13-6.j*

[now 14-7.j], thereby correcting an oversight in the current *RAO* (see 2006, p. 583 & 597, App. O, VI.2.b).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Procedure for Submitting Memorials Honoring Deceased Individuals

2017, p. 19, 45-13. The Assembly amended *RAO 13* by the addition of a new paragraph 13-6 concerning the procedure for filing memorials honoring elders who have played a significant role in the General Assembly (see 2017, p. 70, 45-49, III.2).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Reformatting of RAO 13-7

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to add a title and lettered subsections to *RAO 13-7* [now 14-9] for ease of reference (see 2006, p. 583 & 597, App. O, VI.2.b).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Procedure for Omnibus Motions

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to add *RAO 13-7.d* [now 14-9.d], providing a rule for the customary in gross (“omnibus”) motion that if there is an objection by one commissioner, a recommendation will be debated and voted on separately (see 2006, p. 583 & 598, App. O, VI.2.b).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Procedures for Motions

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to add *RAO 13-7.e* [now 14-9.e], making clear what is and is not permissible with respect to the motions listed in *Robert’s Rules of Order*, thereby reducing parliamentary confusion and prohibiting amendment (see 2006, p. 583 & 599, App. O, VI.2.b).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Procedure for Motions to Recommit

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to add **RAO 13-7.f [now 14-9.f]**, defining a motion to recommit under the new procedure (see **2006, p. 583 & 599, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Committees of Commissioners, Substitute Recommendations

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to add **RAO 13-7.g [now 14-9.h]**, making provisions for substitute recommendations from the Committee of Commissioners and making the procedure consistent with the treatment of a minority report from the Overtures Committee (cf. **RAO 14-8; now 15-8.g**) (see **2006, p. 583 & 599, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Overtures Committee, Procedures and Special Rules

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to add **RAO 14 [now 15]** and renumber accordingly. In so doing, the Assembly introduced a new procedure for the Overtures Committee “to allow the most unrestrained scriptural deliberation consistent with the need to come finally to a united recommendation.” General equality of RE and TE representation was provided for, and special rules pertaining to the Overtures Committee were specified (see **2006, p. 583 & 602, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), TE Stated Differences with Constitution

2003, p. 157, 31-53. In answer to Overture 5, the Assembly amended **RAO 14-3.e.5 [now RAO 16-3.e.5]** to stipulate that a minister or candidate’s “stated differences with our Standards that the presbytery approves as doctrinal exceptions” must be included in presbytery’s minutes. The Assembly also amended **RAO 14-8 [now RAO 16-8]** to state that Assembly approval of an RPR report does not set precedent in a matter. One commissioner recorded his negative vote on these amendments (see **2003, p. 180, 31-57, III.4a**). The Assembly rejected similar amendments to **BCO 21-4** which would have specified the way

presbyteries should handle exceptions to the Standards (see **2003, p. 180, 31-57, III.4b**). Cf. **2003, p. 184, 31-57, III.5**.

2004, p. 174, 32-52. The Committee on the Review of Presbytery Records proposed an amendment to *RAO 14-3.e.5* [now *16-3.e.5*] that would have required candidates for ordination to state their differences with the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*, and for Presbyteries to record how they handled the difference. This proposed amendment was referred to the Committee on Constitutional Business (see **2004, p. 52, 32-14**), who then referred it to the Bills and Overtures Committee. The Bills and Overtures Committee proposed that the Assembly vote to refer the proposed amendment back to the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records to be perfected in light of the advice of the Committee on Constitutional Business that the proposed amendment, as is, is in the conflict with the Constitution (see **2004, p. 133, 32-36, III.**), and to report back to the 33rd GA (see **2004, p. 201, 32-52, III.9**).

2005, p. 266, 33-54. In response to the 32nd GA's tasking the Committee on the Review of Presbytery Records to perfect the language of its proposed amendment to *RAO 14-3.e.5* [now *RAO 16-3.e.5*], the Committee proposed an amendment requiring candidates for ordination to state their specific differences with the Standards and listing specific judgments that are to be entered in the Presbytery records of the examination. The Assembly voted to postpone consideration on this amendment until the 34th GA (see **2005, p. 316, 33-54, IV.4**).

2006, p. 65, 34-10. The Assembly again took up the recommendation from the Committee on the Review of Presbytery Records regarding its proposed amendment to *RAO 14-3.e.5* [now *RAO 16-3.e.5*], and voted to amend it by striking reference to granting a candidate permission to "teach and preach" a stated difference. The amended motion was adopted.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Recording of a Candidate's Stated Differences in Presbytery Minutes

2004, p. 247, 32-55. In light of the newly incorporated language to *BCO 21-4*, the 32nd General Assembly tasked the Committee on the Review of Presbytery Records, in consultation with the Stated Clerk's Office, to

recommend an amendment to **RAO 14-3.e.5 [now 16-3.e.5]**, in order to standardize Presbytery recording of ministers' and ministerial candidates' stated differences with our Standards (see also 2004, p. 201, 32-52).

2005, p. 316, 33-54, IV.4. The Assembly postponed to the 34th General Assembly **Recommendation IV.4**, which proposed changes to **RAO 14-3.e.5 [now 16-3.e.5]** that included requiring each presbytery to record whether a) the candidate stated that he had no differences; or b) the court judged the stated difference(s) to be merely semantic; or c) the court judged the stated difference(s) to be more than semantic, but "not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine" (**BCO 21-4**), and whether the court granted the candidate permission to teach, preach, and/or practice the stated difference(s) or not; or d) the court judged the stated difference(s) to be "out of accord," that is "hostile to the system" or "strik(ing) at the vitals of religion" (**BCO 21-4**).

2006, p. 65, 34-10. On a proposed amendment to **RAO 14-3.e.5 [now 16-3.e.5]** regarding recording in presbytery minutes a candidate's stated differences, carried over from the 32nd General Assembly to the 33rd General Assembly, and subsequently postponed to the 34th General Assembly, an amendment to strike all after "**(BCO 21-4)** through the semicolon" (item c) was adopted, and the amended motion was adopted, having received the requisite 2/3 vote.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Dividing Recommendations

2012, p. 23, 40-17. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 4 from Potomac Presbytery to amend **RAO 14-6.h**, allowing Committees of Commissioners to divide a recommendation that is divisible, and if done by a two-thirds majority (see **2012, p. 65, 40-57, III.4** and **2012, p. 685, App. W**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Procedures for Committee of Commissioners Recommendations

2008, p. 55, 36-13. The Assembly, having passed a large number of changes to the **RAO** in 2006, and having had a year to discover areas that needed adjustments, answered in the affirmative Overture 13 from Potomac Presbytery to approve **RAO** amendments relating to the Committee of Commissioners recommendation process. A new **RAO 14-6.k** was

added, making provision for Committees of Commissioners to adopt recommendations commending coordinators, staff, Committees and/or Agencies for their efforts. A new **RAO 14-9.g** was added which ensured that, whatever the Assembly action, an overture will be answered. A new **RAO 15-8.e** was added on the same grounds as 14-9.g. Language was added to **RAO 14-9.e** and **15-8.c** permitting motions to recommit, but disallowing motions to “recommit with instructions.”

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Proper Format of Committee Reports

2017, p. 19, 45-13. The Assembly amended **RAO 14-8.a-e** [now **14-8.a-d**] to align the *RAO* text with the actual procedures following the move from typewriters to computers (see **2017, p. 69, 45-49, III.1**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Standing Judicial Commission Vows

1999, p. 156, 27-44, III.2. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 5 from Evangel Presbytery, which sought to amend *BCO* 39-3 and the 4th and 5th vows taken by SJC members in **RAO 15-1** [now **17-1**] by adding direct references to “the principles of Scripture which are systemized in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America.” The overture was answered with reference to the grounds listed in the actions of the 25th GA to a similar overture made by Evangel Presbytery (see **1997, p. 180, 25-45, III.5**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Membership on the Standing Judicial Commission

2001, p. 231, 29-44, III.20. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 31 from Mid-America Presbytery, thereby declining to amend **RAO 15-1** [now **17-1**] to forbid denominational employees from serving on the Standing Judicial Commission, on the grounds that “permanent employees of the denomination may bring useful gifts and perspectives to SJC matters. Professional and personal integrity should lead men to recuse themselves appropriately from deliberations and votes on various matters....”

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Request for Assembly to Assume Original Jurisdiction

2001, p. 126, 29-27, IV. The Assembly amended *RAO 15-2* (now *17-2*) to specify which legal circumstances would be assigned to the Standing Judicial Commission, which would, if the case were found in order, proceed to adjudicate the case.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), General Assembly Giving Direction to SJC Decisions

2016, p. 69, 44-40. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 5 from Pittsburgh Presbytery to amend *BCO 15-5.a* and *RAO 17-1, Para. 4*, to allow the General Assembly to give directions to the SJC in judicial decisions and reasoning and opinions, on the grounds that the overture would undermine the judicial process established by the Constitution of our church and justice would be delayed (see **2016, p. 78, 44-44, III.3**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Recording Ministerial Calls in Presbytery Minutes

2014, p. 19, 42-15. The Assembly adopted **Recommendation VII.1** to insert a new *RAO* item *RAO 16-3.e.6* [inserted between the current 16-3.e.5 and the renumbered 16-3.e.7] stating that minutes of presbytery relating to ministerial calls shall record that the specific arrangements (*BCO 20-1*) and the call were found to be in order (see **2014, p. 461, App. Q**).

2011, p. 25, 39-19. The Committee on Review of Presbytery Records recommended that the Assembly amend *RAO 16-3.e.5* to require that presbytery minutes record ministers' and ministerial candidates' stated differences with our standards "in their own words," in addition to one of the four categories (*a* through *d*) of *RAO 16-3.e.5*. An amendment was also proposed to the recommended amendment to add "and licensure candidates" to *RAO 16-3.e.5* alongside ministers and ministerial candidates. Upon advice of the CCB that this proposed amendment to the amendment (i.e. to add "and licensure candidates") was in conflict with the Constitution, the Assembly proceeded to defeat it. The Assembly then approved the initial recommendation of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records (see also **2011, p. 17, 39-10** and **2011, p. 24, 39-18**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Ministerial Calls in Presbytery Minutes

2014, p. 19, 42-15. Upon recommendation of the Committee of Review of Presbytery Records, the Assembly amended **RAO 16-3.e** by inserting a new item **16-3.e.6**: “Minutes of presbytery relating to ministerial calls shall record that the specific arrangements (**BCO 20-1**) and the call were found to be in order” (see 2014, p. 461, App. Q, VII.1).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Proper Procedure for Reporting Exceptions of Substance by the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records

2014, p. 19, 42-15. The Assembly adopted **Recommendation VII.2** to amend **RAO 16-6.c.1** by adding the phrase “and any non-compliance with **RAO 16-3.e.5**” regarding the reporting of exceptions of substance.

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Non-Compliance with the RAO as an Exception of Substance

2014, p. 19, 42-15. The Assembly approved an amendment to **RAO 16-6.c.1** which stated that “any non-compliance with **RAO 16-3.e.5**” should be reported as an exception of substance (see 2014, p. 461, App. Q, VII.2).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Minority Reports by Members of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records

2018, p. 19, 46-12. The Assembly adopted **Recommendation V.18** to amend the **RAO** by adding **RAO 16-7.h** stating that any member of the Review of Presbytery Records committee may indicate an intention to file a minority by giving notice to the chairman, and requiring that any minority report from at least six (6) members of the committee must be filed with the committee chairman and office of the Stated Clerk of the PCA not more than seven (7) days after the adjournment (see 2018, p. 364, App. Q, V.18).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Presbyteries Taking Note of and Responding to Exceptions of Substance Taken by the General Assembly

2013, p. 17, 41-10. The Assembly adopted **Recommendation VI.2** which added new language to **RAO 16-10.a** specifying that presbyteries

shall note in their minutes exceptions of substance taken by the Assembly, and that presbyteries' responses should normally be adopted in the same calendar year as the exceptions were taken by the Assembly; regardless, responses must be filed no less than one month prior to General Assembly (see **2013, p. 414, App. Q, VI.2**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Refining Language Regarding Responses from Presbyteries to Exceptions of Substance

2018, p. 19, 46-12. The Assembly adopted Recommendation V.20 to amend *RAO 16-10.c* by adding “or” in addition to “and” regarding a presbytery’s response to exceptions of substance, which will make the Committee on the Review of Presbytery Records better able to judge the response based on the record and actions of the Presbytery (see **2018, p. 365, App. Q, V.20**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Committee on Constitutional Business, Relationship to the Standing Judicial Commission

2014, p. 56, 42-35. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 9 from Southwest Presbytery to amend *RAO 17-1* to allow the Committee on Constitutional Business to take exception to Standing Judicial Committee case decisions (see **2014, p. 60, 42-38, IV.9** and **2014, p. 802, App. W**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Requirements for Rehearing SJC Cases

2017, p. 24, 45-15. The Assembly amended *RAO 17-4* to state that rehearings must be granted when requested by a voting member of the judicial panel or by at least seven members of the SJC as a whole (see **2017, p. 554, App. T, IV.1**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Final Speech in Debate

2006, p. 74, 34-22. Upon the recommendation of the Strategic Planning Committee, the Assembly adopted an amendment to *RAO 17-4.b* [**now 14-9.h**], making explicit the applicable cases pertaining to the

representative of any Committee or Agency making the final speech in debate (see **2006, p. 583 & 611, App. O, VI.2.b**).

The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Changes to the RAO), Rules Governing Debate on Minority Reports at the Assembly

2009, p. 56, 37-11. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 2 from Potomac Presbytery to amend **RAO 19-4.d, 14-9.h, and 15-8.g** to allow for a total of 60 minutes of debate when there is a minority report (unless extended by a simple majority), and to allow each commissioner to speak for five (5) minutes on the same question, unless granted more by the Assembly. In so doing, the Assembly recognized that the time limitations of 10 minutes on speeches of commissioners, enacted by the 2006 GA, did not offer ample opportunity for careful argument or counter-argument in cases where a minority report was offered. Language was added to **RAO 19-4.d** to make 19-4 more consistent with proposal as set forth in 14-9.h and 15-8.g.

Ecclesiastical Commissions (BCO 15) (Sessions and Presbyteries), Presbytery Commissions Appointed as Interim Sessions

1999, p. 162, 27-44, III.4. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 10 from Pittsburgh Presbytery, to amend **BCO 15-1** to clarify the difference between a Presbytery commission appointed as an interim Session and other Presbytery commissions.

2000, p. 57, 28-12, Item 2. The Presbyteries having approved the amendment to **BCO 15-1**, the Assembly approved the amendment.

Ecclesiastical Commissions (BCO 15) (Sessions and Presbyteries), Quorum for Presbytery Commissions

2010, p. 71, 38-17. The Assembly approved the request of the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records to amend **BCO 15-2** to define the quorum for a presbytery-appointed commission as one more than half its membership, unless otherwise determined by the Presbytery (see **2010, p. 73, 38-17, V.9**).

2011, p. 16, 39-9, Item 6. The presbyteries having voted 72-1 for the amendment to **BCO 15-2**, the Assembly adopted the amendment (see **2011, p. 112, App. A**).

Ecclesiastical Commissions (BCO 15) (Sessions and Presbyteries), A Session's Power to Appoint a Commission

2016, p. 68, 44-40. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 25 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery, which would have amended *BCO 15-1* and *15-2*, and added a new *BCO 15-4* and renumbered the subsequent paragraphs, on the grounds that the amendment was not necessary, as the power to appoint a commission is a power that is inherent to a session (see **2016, p. 79, 44-44, III.8**).

Ecclesiastical Commissions (BCO 15) (Standing Judicial Commission), Amendments to the Standing Judicial Commission Manual [now Operating Manual of the Standing Judicial Commission (OMSJC)]

[Listed in chronological order according to year of change]

1999, p. 91, 27-22, VI.1-4. The Assembly adopted several **amendments to the OMSJC**, regarding due diligence on contacting parties (*OMSJC 19.10c*) [**now 18.10**], the language of the SJC documents (**19.11**) [**now 18.11**], notifying the parties to a case that the OMSJC is printed as an appendix to the *BCO* (*OMSJC 8.3b* [**now 7.3b**]), and what constitutes grounds for disqualification from voting by a commission member (**6.2d**) [**now 2.3.d**].

2001, p. 242, 29-44, III.22. In answer to Overture 35 from Western Carolina Presbytery, the Assembly directed the SJC to draft and present to the 30th GA procedures, to be placed in the *OMSJC* for examining concurring and dissenting opinions, which ensure that such opinions are in temperate language before they are added to SJC reports (22.b). The Assembly answered in the negative the request to remove a Concurring Opinion in **SJC Case 1999-01** (22.a), and ruled out of order the recommendation to remove the first Concurring Opinion.

2002, p. 176, 30-30, V. The Assembly granted the SJC another year to study the matter of concurring and dissenting opinions, and to complete its work.

2003, p. 68, 31-23. The Assembly adopted **amendments to the OMSJC** dealing with temperate language in concurring and dissenting opinions, adding a new section **20.12** [**now 18.12**], and amending **21.2.f, 13.10, 14.7, 15.7, and 19.8.k** [**now see 10.10, 11; 12.10; 13.7; 14.7; 15.9, 17.8.k**]. The amendments ensured that the full commission will review concurring and dissenting opinions, to determine whether they are couched in temperate language (see **2003, p. 124, 31-35, IV**).

2003, p. 168, 31-57. In reference to amendments made by the SJC to the *OMSJC* (**2003, p. 68**), the Assembly answered in the negative Overture 9 from Central Carolina Presbytery, which sought to amend *BCO* 15-5.b by granting the Assembly, upon a 2/3 vote, the ability to strike concurring or dissenting opinions from the minutes (see **2003, p. 198, 31-57, III.10**).

2002, p. 107, 30-30. The Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** by adding a new chapter **16** [now see *OMSJC* **15**], “Procedures for Hearing a Memorial” (*BCO* 40-5 [the term “memorial” was removed from the *BCO* in 2006]), and by amending **13.8** [now **12.8**] and adding a new chapter inserted as **18** [now *OMSJC* **16**], “Procedures for Assuming Original Jurisdiction Over a Minister (*BCO* 34-1).” Because of the adoption of these amendments, Overture 28 from Westminster Presbytery to reject *OMSJC* changes and remove memorials from the SJC was declared moot (see **2002, p. 172, 30-30, IV.A-B** and **2002, p. 275, 30-53, III.19**).

2003, p. 92, 31-35. In response to Overture 13 from Central Carolina Presbytery, the Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** to specify when SJC decisions become public, by adding the words “and shall then be public” to the end of **19.8.j** [now **17.8.j**] (see **2003, p. 125, 31-35, IV**).

2004, p. 45, 32-12. The Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** at **11.7.b** and **12.3.b** to allow for electronic notification and acknowledgement for setting the time and place for hearings (see **2004, p. 45, 32-12, 1**).

2004, p. 45, 32-12. The Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** at **3-1** to allow for the annual stated meeting of the SJC to be held via a conference call meeting if deemed prudent (see **2004, p. 47, 32-12, 2** and **2004, p. 113, 32-31** for a dissenting opinion to this recommendation).

2007, p. 65, 35-17. The Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** by adding a new **21.3.b** [now **19.3.b**] to make the briefs available by electronic means or by inclusion in the Commissioner Handbook.

2009, p. 130, 37-28. The Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** at several places to allow for electronic means of communications (*OMSJC* **3.2** [now **4.2**], **8.4.a**, **8.4.b** [now **7.4.c,d**], **13.10** [now **12.10**], **14.7** [now **13.7**], **15.7** [now **14.7**], **19.7.a**, **19.7.c** [now **17.7.a,d**], **11.10**, **11.11.a** [now **10.10**; **10.11.a**], **19.6** [now **17.6**], and **20.6** [now **18.6**]). The Assembly also amended *OMSJC* **16** [now **15**] substantially, renaming it

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“Procedure for Hearing a Report Arising out of General Review and Control” to reflect the removal of the term “memorials” from the *BCO* in 2006 (see **2009, p. 200, 37-28, IV**; for the removal of memorials, see below, *BCO 15, 2005, p. 184*).

2010, p. 64, 38-10. The Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** by adding a new Chapter 2, “Conduct of Commission Members” and striking Chapters 6 (“Eligibility for Voting”) and 7 (“Conduct of Members”). The Assembly also amended several other sections by striking and adding language to **3.1 [now 4.1]**, **17.1-2 [now 10.8.a,b]**, **11.8 (replaced by then 17.1-2; 13.8 [now 12.8], 14.2 [now 13.2], 15.2 [now 14.2], and 19.5 [b]**. An amendment to section **11.7**, which would have made panel hearings by telephone conference call the normal practice, was not approved (see **2010, p. 252, 38-31, IV**).

2012, p. 29, 40-39. The Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** at several places, regarding concurring and dissenting opinions (**18.12**), preliminary briefs (**8.1** and **8.4.b**), and executive and closed sessions (**18.13**) (see **2012, p. 582, App. T, IV**).

2013, p. 17, 41-11. The Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** at several places, regarding the duties of the Assistant Secretary (**3.7**), the persons who shall determine whether a case is administratively in order (**9.1**), and electronic conferences (**10.7**) (see **2013, p. 617, App. T, V**).

2016, p. 31, 44-28. The Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** by clarifying and refining language regarding how oral arguments are to take place (**10.9**), striking redundant language (**7.2.b**), and adding text to correct a lack of specific direction as to how a hearing is to proceed (**7.4.d**). A new subsection (**7.4.b**) was added to *OMSJC 7.4*, which required that “deletions or additions” be recorded in the minutes of the hearing body and be reported to the parties. The Assembly also answered in the affirmative Overture 2 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend *OMSJC 18.12* by making it possible to call a special meeting of the SJC with 14 days’ notice, in order to discuss concurring and dissenting opinions (**2016, p. 556, App. T, IV.A-E**).

2017, p. 24, 45-15. The Assembly **amended the *OMSJC*** in five ways (Items 1-5). Item 2 amended *OMSJC 8.2* to state that “in the event of a rehearing before the full commission, each party may file a supplemental brief in accord with a briefing schedule” established by the officers of

the commission. Items 1 and 3 amended *OMSJC 17.4* and *10.11.a.6* to replace the words “dissenting member” with “voting member” *OMSJC 10.11.a.7* was also amended by the addition of a cross reference regarding a request for rehearing. Item 4 amended *OMSJC 17.5* and *17.7* to allow for electronic or postal delivery of decisions and clarify confusion as to the exact standard and mechanism for obtaining a rehearing of a case (see **2017, p. 554, App. T, IV.2-5**).

2018, p. 30, 46-27. The Assembly amended the *OMSJC* in six ways (Items 1-5). Item 1 amended five sections of the *OMSJC* to clarify that concurring and dissenting opinions not only need to use temperate language, but must also conform to the full requirements of *OMSJC 18.12*. Item 2 amended *OMSJC 4.1* by moving the first stated meeting of the Commission from March to February. Item 3 amended *OMSJC 10.11.a.2.I* to allow for a separate Case Summary as part of the summary of the facts. Item 4 amended *OMSJC 19.2.f* to make explicit the relatively new possibility of an SJC answer to a concurring or dissenting opinion. Item 5 amended *OMSJC 18.12.c* to restrict who may vote on the adoption of an Answer to a dissenting or concurring opinion. Item 6 amended *OMSJC 18.10.b* to clarify that filings may be sent by “priority” mail, not just “certified, registered or express mail” (see **2018, p. 589, App. T, Items 1-6**).

Ecclesiastical Commissions (BCO 15) (Standing Judicial Commission), Proposed Amendments to BCO 15, Attempts to Abolish the Standing Judicial Commission

2002, p. 243, 30-53. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 6 from Westminster Presbytery, which proposed to revise *BCO 15-4* and *15-5* to abolish the Standing Judicial Commission. The Assembly stated that the “SJC remains the best means to handle judicial cases at the Assembly level. The proposed remedy suffers from the defects so evident in the former system, defects which the SJC was created to, and has in large measure, overcome” (see **2002, p. 254, 30-53, III.8**. and **2002, p. 100, 30-29, III**).

Ecclesiastical Commissions (BCO 15) (Standing Judicial Commission), Proposed Amendments to BCO 15, Membership on the Standing Judicial Commission

2004, p. 152, 32-48. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 10 from Nashville Presbytery, which requested that the Assembly amend

BCO 15-4 to allow one TE and one RE from the same presbytery to serve on the Standing Judicial Commission (see **2004, p. 171, 32-48, III.7**). See also above, *BCO 14* (Changes to the *RAO*), **2016, p. 69, 44-40**.

Ecclesiastical Commissions (BCO 15) (Standing Judicial Commission), Proposed Amendments to BCO 15, Cases Handled by Standing Judicial Commission

2005, p. 184, 33-45 and 33-48. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Administrative Committee to amend the first sentence of **BCO 15-4** to make clear that not just “judicial cases,” but all matters of discipline, except for the annual Review of Presbytery Records, are to be referred to the SJC. The Assembly also altered language of **BCO 40-5** to remove reference to judicial “memorials,” substituting a new first paragraph to simplify the language and allow for the use of a lower court’s commission to answer an appellate court’s citation of the lower court for alleged delinquency or unconstitutional proceedings (see **2005, p. 186, 33-48, III.8 and 2005, p. 340, App. C, XV**).

2006, p. 52, 34-8. The presbyteries having voted 49-16 for the amendment to **BCO 15-4**, and 54-11 for the amendment to **BCO 40-5**, the Assembly approved the amendments (see **2006, p. 55, 34-8, Items 2 and 3**).

Ecclesiastical Commissions (BCO 15) (Standing Judicial Commission), Proposed Amendments to BCO 15, Term limits on the Standing Judicial Commission Members

2006, p. 197, 34-57. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 15 from James River Presbytery to add a sentence to the end of **BCO 15-4**, instituting term limitations for the SJC (see **2006, p. 205, 34-57, III.5**).

2007, p. 55, 35-10, Item 1. The Presbyteries voted 50-11 in favor of the amendment to **BCO 15-4**, but the Assembly defeated the proposed change.

Ecclesiastical Commissions (BCO 15) (Standing Judicial Commission), Proposed Amendments to BCO 15, Finality of Standing Judicial Commission Judgments

2014, p. 57, 42-38. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 13 from Southwest Florida Presbytery to revise **BCO 15-1** and **15-5.a and b** to allow the General Assembly to vote on the judgments handed down by the Standing Judicial Commission. The Assembly gave as its grounds several problems that would arise from such a change: delays,

insufficient familiarity with the cases, no debate allowed, and a faulty understanding of the nature of commissions (see 2014, p. 61, 42-38, IV.13 and 2014, p. 809, App. W).

See also above, *BCO 14* (Changes to the *RAO*), 2016, p. 69, 44-40.

Ecclesiastical Commissions (*BCO 15*) (Standing Judicial Commission), Proposed Amendments to *BCO 15*, Judicial Commission Minority Reports

2016, p. 68, 44-40. The Assembly referred back without prejudice Overture 3 from Chesapeake Presbytery, which would have amended *BCO 15-3* to allow judicial commission minority reports, in order to perfect the language (see 2016, p. 78, 44-44, III.2).

Ecclesiastical Commissions (*BCO 15*) (Standing Judicial Commission), Proposed Amendments to *BCO 15*, General Assembly Giving Direction to SJC Decisions

2016, p. 69, 44-40. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 5 from Pittsburgh Presbytery to amend *BCO 15-5.a* and *RAO 17-1, Para. 4*, to allow the General Assembly to give directions to the SJC in judicial decisions and reasoning and opinions, on the grounds that the overture would undermine the judicial process established by the Constitution of our church and justice would be delayed (see 2016, p. 78, 44-44, III.3).

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 11 from Chesapeake Presbytery to change *BCO 15-3* to allow judicial commission minority reports, on the grounds that options already exist for appeal, complaint, or trying a case (see 2017, p. 51, 45-41, III.11).

Church Orders & Vocation (*BCO 16-25*)

Church Orders (*BCO 16* and *17*) (Vocation and Ordination), Teaching Exceptions to the Standards

1999, p. 169, 27-44, III.9. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 15 from North Georgia Presbytery, which sought to clarify further the conditions under which exceptions to the PCA Confessional Standards may or may not be taught by someone who takes exceptions and who is nevertheless approved by his Session or Presbytery for the ministry. The Assembly referred the matter back to the Presbytery to

propose proper language necessary for changes to the *BCO*. See ***BCO 16; 21.***

2000, p. 286, 28-72, III.10. The Assembly answered in the negative an overture from Cherokee Presbyterian Church, forwarded by North Georgia Presbytery, which would have added a new paragraph to ***BCO 16***, making explicit Presbytery's authority to require a man not to teach his exception. North Georgia Presbytery had previously rendered a negative vote upon its consideration of the overture. The Assembly declined to approve the proposed amendment on the grounds that "the powers of the Presbytery with respect to this issue are well defined in the Constitution (e.g., *BCO 13-9.d, 13-9.f*) and have been carefully and consistently construed by the General Assembly in judicial cases" (e.g., **1986, p. 125, 14-52, Item 13; 1990, p. 205; and 1992, p. 163, 20-69, III. 4.**)

For ***BCO 16***, see also **2004, p. 152, 32-48.**

Doctrine of Ordination (*BCO 17*)

For who is and is not subject to ordination, see ***BCO 9, 2010, p. 379.***

Candidates for the Gospel Ministry (*BCO 18*), Removal from the Care of Presbytery

2014, p. 56, 42-35. The Assembly voted to amend ***BCO 18-7***, requiring that in all cases of a removal or withdrawal of a candidate from the care of Presbytery, the sufficient reason for the action shall be recorded in the minutes of Presbytery (see **2014, p. 67, 42-38, IV.49** and **2014, p. 853, App. W**).

2015, p. 24, 43-14. The presbyteries having voted 64-1 in favor of the change to ***BCO 18-7***, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2015, p. 112, App. A, Item 3**).

Licensure of Candidates (*BCO 19*), Licentiates and Differences with Standards

2012, p. 56, 40-53. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 1 from Western Carolina Presbytery to amend ***BCO 19-2*** to require Licentiates to state their differences with the Westminster Standards, and require presbyteries to rule on the nature of the differences (see **2012, p. 63, 40-57, III.1** and **2012, p. 682, App. W**).

2013, p. 17, 41-9. The presbyteries having voted in favor of amending *BCO 19-2* by a vote of 67-2, the Assembly adopted the amendment (see **2013, p. 105, App. A, Item 1**).

Licensure of Candidates (BCO 19), Internship Transfer and Examinations

2011, p. 65, 39-57. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 4 from Nashville Presbytery to amend *BCO 19-11* to specify requirements for the examination of an intern who is transferring his internship from one presbytery to another (see **2011, p. 66, 39-57, III.2** and **2011, p. 617, App. V**).

2012, p. 18, 40-10. The presbyteries having approved the amendment by a vote of 63-0, the Assembly adopted the amendment (see **2012, p. 90, App. A, Item 2**).

Election of Pastors (BCO 20), Role of a Pulpit Committee

1999, p. 56, 27-12, Item 3. In response to Overture 2 from Potomac Presbytery at the 26th GA, the presbyteries voted 42-9 in favor of the amendment to *BCO 20-2*. The Assembly thereby approved the amendment to *BCO 20-2*, paragraph 2, by adding a new concluding sentence further describing the role of the pulpit committee in the process of calling a pastor (see also **1998, p. 200, 26-55, III.7**).

2006, p. 197, 34-57. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 9 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery to approve an appendix to the *BCO* that would have given a “suggested process for calling a pastor” (see **2006, p. 200, 34-57, III.2**).

Election of Pastors (BCO 20), A Senior Pastor's Involvement in Calling an Assistant or Associate Pastor

2001, p. 190, 29-44, III.3. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 3 from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery to amend *BCO 20-2* to automatically include the senior pastor as a member of the search committee for an assistant or associate pastor, on the grounds that “it is not wise to mandate a specific *BCO* procedure regarding senior pastor involvement in calling an assistant or an associate pastor.”

Election of Pastors (BCO 20), Moderators of Congregational Meetings for the Election of TEs and REs

2012, p. 56, 40-53. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 11 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend *BCO 20-3, 24-2, and 25-4* to allow an RE to moderate a congregational meeting of a church not his own (see **2012, p. 71, 40-57, III.9** and **2012, p. 694, App. W**).

2013, p. 16, 41-9. The Presbyteries having voted 69-0 in favor of amending *BCO 20-3, 24-2, and 25-4*, the Assembly adopted the amendments (see **2013, p. 108, App. A, Item 2**).

See also *BCO 24-2, and 25-4*.

Ordination and Installation of Ministers (BCO 21), Subscription of TEs to the Westminster Standards

2002, p. 212, 30-47 and 30-50. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 10 from Ohio Valley Presbytery to amend *BCO 21-4* by adding two explanatory paragraphs. Overture 10, along with seven other overtures answered with reference to Overture 10 (Overtures 3, 11, 12, 24, 29, 31, and 32), sought to clarify that the PCA does not require its ministers to subscribe to every detail of the Westminster Standards and that presbytery has the right to determine which of the candidate's differences with the Standards are allowable. A Minority Report (p. 236) recommending that the overtures be referred to an ad interim committee was debated and defeated. Negative votes on the main motion were recorded by 127 men (see **2002, p. 218, 30-50, III.2**).

2003, p. 50, 31-11. The presbyteries having voted 45-19 in favor of the amendment to *BCO 21-4*, the Assembly adopted the amendment by a vote of 816-545. Seventy (70) commissioners registered their negative votes on the adoption of the amendment to *BCO 21-4* (see **2003, p. 54, 31-11, Item 2**).

2002, p. 213, 30-50. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 4 from Ohio Valley Presbytery, which would have added two new paragraphs to *BCO 21-4* and required presbytery to decide how the candidate would be allowed to handle his exception in his private life and public ministry (see **2002, p. 238, 30-50, III.3**).

Ordination and Installation of Ministers (BCO 21), TE Ordination Vows

2002, p. 243, 30-53. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 1 from Western Carolina Presbytery to amend **BCO 21-5**, by adding the words “and unity” to the sixth ordination question after the words “the purity and peace.” The Bills and Overtures Committee had recommended against this change (see **2002, p. 244, 30-53, III.6**).

2003, p. 56, 31-11, Item 3. The Presbyteries having voted 58-6 in favor of the amendment, the Assembly adopted the amendment to **BCO 21-5**.

2003, p. 213, 31-59. The Assembly received a protest to the Assembly’s adopting the amendment to **BCO 21-4** from a TE (along with 93 other men who joined him), arguing that the PCA had forsaken its historical practice of full or strict subscription and had adopted essentially the same position as the PCUSA in 1927.

2003, p. 157, 31-53. The Assembly adopted as the main motion a Minority Report to answer in the negative Overture 16 from Western Carolina Presbytery, which requested that the Assembly appoint a study committee on doctrinal subscription. The Assembly answered Overture 8 from Mississippi Valley Presbytery with reference to its action on Overture 16. The Minority Report (**2003, p. 190**), which recommended “living with Good Faith subscription for a few years and then...we can see if there really is interest in convening a new study committee,” was adopted by a vote of 530-477. One TE recorded a negative vote (see **2003, p. 185, 31-57, III.6**).

2004, p. 152, 32-48. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 9 from Grace Presbytery to delete the two paragraphs in **BCO 21-4** adopted by the 31st GA (see above **2003, p. 50, 31-11**), and in their place to add a new **Preliminary Principle #5** and a new paragraph in **BCO 16**. Though the Assembly affirmed that the overture raised and thoughtfully addressed important issues regarding subscription and the taking of exceptions, which the PCA “may have to face at some point,” yet it found some of the proposed language cumbersome. Later in the Assembly a motion to reconsider this vote was defeated (see **2004, p. 166, 32-48, III.6** and **2004, p. 203, 32-52**).

2005, p. 191, 33-51. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 9 from Ascension Presbytery to amend **BCO 21-4** to require that those elders who are granted exceptions, when they preached or taught their

exception, must also present the teaching of the Westminster Standards. The Assembly declared that the language was “too restrictive of the responsibility and judgment of Presbyteries and Sessions,” and possibly in conflict with *WCF* 20.2, and that it “incorrectly impl[ied] that *BCO* 21-4 mandates permission to teach and preach exceptions” (see **2005, p. 198, 33-51, III.5**).

2006, p. 197, 34-57. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 17 from Ascension Presbytery, which would have added a sentence to *BCO* 21-4, paragraph 7, specifying conditions under which a minister’s or licentiate’s exceptions to the Standards might be taught or preached. The Committee concurred with the opinion of the CCB that this overture violated Preliminary Principle 1 and *WCF* 20. A substitute motion (**2006, p. 208, 34-57**) to answer the overture in the affirmative with an amendment elaborating on the conditions was defeated (see **2006, p. 207, 34-57, III.7** and **2006, p. 81, 34-34, II.F**).

2007, p. 146, 35-52. The Assembly answered in the negative, without prejudice, Overture 15 from Potomac Presbytery to add to *BCO* 21-4, paragraph 7, a sentence with stipulations concerning how a TE should present declared differences from the Westminster Standards in the course of his teaching. Anticipating future opportunity to address this matter, the Assembly commended the matter to the Church for further study, debate, and perfection (see **2007, p. 166, 35-52, III.12**).

Ordination and Installation of Ministers (BCO 21), The Right of Presbytery to Decline Church’s Call

2007, p. 146, 35-52. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 4 from Westminster Presbytery, which sought to amend *BCO* 21-1 to make explicit a Presbytery’s right to deny the call of a church to a pastor. In a minute explanatory, the Assembly stated that the PCA constitution already gives that right to Presbytery under certain conditions (*BCO* 21-1, 20-10) (see **2007, p. 150, 35-52, III.3**).

Ordination and Installation of Ministers, (BCO 21)

See also Moral and Theological Issues, Sabbath **2016, p. 22, 44-19**.

Pastoral Relations (BCO 22), The Calling of Assistant Pastors

2005, p. 195, 33-51, III.4. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 7 from Chesapeake Presbytery to amend *BCO* 22-4 by listing

specific ways in which an assistant pastor might exercise his ministerial gifts in relation to a congregation. Citing *BCO* 22-4, the Bills and Overtures Committee stated that “the relationship of an Assistant Pastor to a congregation is best left to the Session” (see **2005, p. 195, 33-51, III.4**).

The Dissolution of the Pastoral Relation and The Procedure for Honorable Retirement (*BCO* 23)

No GA Actions, 1999-2018

Election . . . of Ruling Elders and Deacons (*BCO* 24), Process

2000, p. 275, 28-72. The presbyteries having voted 40-13 in favor of the amendment, the Assembly approved the amendment to *BCO* 24-1, first and second paragraphs, by substituting sentences to clarify the procedure for electing persons to the offices of RE and Deacon (see **2000, p. 54, 28-12, Special Item**). This amendment had been initially approved by the 26th GA (see **1998, p. 208, 26-55, III.14**), but an insufficient number of presbyteries reported to the 27th GA (see **1999, p. 58, 27-12, Item 4**). Therefore, the matter was deferred until the 28th GA.

Election, Ordination. . . of Ruling Elders and Deacons (*BCO* 24), Women, Holding Office in the PCA

2002, p. 243, 30-53. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 14 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery, thereby declining to amend *BCO* 24-1 by changing the word “should” in “...each prospective officer should be an active male member...” to “shall.” The Assembly declared that the word “should” in this context is equivalent to “ought to,” expressing duty or obligation (see **2002, p. 259, 30-53, III.10**).

2002, p. 243, 30-53. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 15 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery, thereby declining to change the word “persons” to “men” in the first line of *BCO* 24-1. “In this context,” the Assembly declared, “‘persons’ refers to men” and further noted that “the term in question has been in this place since the original constitution of the PCUSA in 1788, so there can be no suggestion of unwholesome contemporary influence in its employment” (see **2002, p. 260, 30-53, III.11**).

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 4 from Northwest Georgia Presbytery to add *BCO* 24-11, which would have specified that males only may be ordained as Elders and Deacons, on the grounds that the *BCO* is already clear on this matter (see **2017, p. 50, 45-41, III.4**).

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 9 from Grace Presbytery to amend *BCO 9-7* regarding assistants to deacons or deaconesses, and to amend *BCO 24-11* by adding a new 24-11 regarding women officers (see **2018, p. 36, 46-29, IV.9**).

Election, Ordination. . . of Ruling Elders and Deacons (BCO 24), Ordination Requirements, Elders and Deacons

2004, p. 152, 32-48. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 1 from Heritage Presbytery to add “knowledge of the holy Scriptures” to the requirements for ordination of elder and deacon in *BCO 24-1*, on the basis that knowledge of the Holy Scripture was already implied in the present requirements (see **2004, p. 152, 32-48, III.1**).

2005, p. 191, 33-51. The Assembly, reversing the previous Assembly’s decision, (see **2004, p. 152**), answered in the affirmative Overture 10 from Ascension Presbytery to amend *BCO 24-1*, by adding a new item, “b. knowledge of Bible content.” This new requirement would only apply to those officers ordained after the adoption of this measure, though all officers presently ordained were exhorted to be diligent in their mastery of the Bible (see **2005, p. 200, 33-51, III.6**).

2006, p. 52, 34-8, Item 1. The presbyteries having voted 64-1 in favor of the change to *BCO 24-1*, the Assembly approved the amendment.

Election . . . of Ruling Elders and Deacons (BCO 24), Handling Highly Divided Votes

2004, p. 152, 32-48. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 2 from Eastern Canada Presbytery to correct a numbering mistake in relation to *BCO 24-3* and add a new item to *BCO 24 (BCO 24-5)* giving explicit direction regarding highly divided votes for elders and deacons (see **2004, p. 154, 32-48, III.2**).

2005, p. 49, 33-8, Item 1. The presbyteries having voted 55-8 for the amendments to *BCO 24-3* and *24-5*, the Assembly approved the amendments.

Election . . . of Ruling Elders and Deacons (BCO 24), Emeritus Status, Age Requirements

2004, p. 152, 32-48. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 8 from North Texas Presbytery to amend *BCO 24-9* to broaden the allowable circumstances for requesting emeritus status from seventy (70) years of age to “by reason of age or infirmity” (see **2004, p. 163, 32-48, III.5**).

2005, p. 49, 33-8. The Presbyteries having voted 63-0 for the amendment to *BCO 24-9*, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2005, p. 52, 33-8, Item 2**).

Election . . . of Ruling Elders and Deacons (BCO 24), Sabbatical for Officers of the Church

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 9 from Suncoast Florida Presbytery to amend *BCO 24-7* to allow for the provision of a sabbatical to officers of the church (see **2017, p. 51, 45-41, III.9**).

Congregational Meetings (BCO 25), Quorum for Withdrawal from the PCA

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 16 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend *BCO 25-3* to specify that the quorum “at any meeting where there will be a vote to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church in America...shall be one-half (1/2) of the resident communing members” (see **2017, p. 52, 45-41, III.16**).

Congregational Meetings (BCO 25), Thirty-Days’ Notice for Churches to Withdraw from the PCA

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 10 from Evangel Presbytery to amend *BCO 25-11* to require thirty-days’ notice to withdraw from the PCA (see **2018, p. 36, 46-29, IV.10**). Overture 12 from Eastern Canada Presbytery and Overture 17 from Western Canada Presbytery were answered in reference to the action taken in Overture 10 (see **2018, p. 38, 46-29, IV.12** and **2018, p. 39, 46-29, IV.17**).

Amendments to the Constitution (BCO 26)

Amending the Constitution (BCO 26), Extra-Constitutional Methods of Amendment

2002, p. 243, 30-53. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 9 from Louisiana Presbytery, which asked the Assembly to forbid Freemasons from holding office in the PCA, by stating that determining in the abstract how lower courts are to interpret the Constitution (in this case, how they judge the qualifications of candidates) is essentially to amend the Constitution by extra-constitutional methods. The Constitution itself provides the remedy for perceived failures by courts of original jurisdiction (e.g. *BCO* 33-1, 34-1, 40 and 43) (see **2002, p. 257, 30-53, III.9**).

2002, p. 243, 30-53. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 27 from Eastern Canada, declining to amend *BCO 26-1* by adding procedural language for dealing with alleged conflicts between Scripture and the Constitution of the PCA, and asserting that the proposed procedure “would vitiate all the benefits of settled law by allowing a temporary supermajority to overrule the Constitution” (see **2002, p. 273, 30-53, III.18**).

2010, p. 346, 38-54. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 5 from Covenant Presbytery, which sought to amend *BCO 26-2* to specify that all sections of the *BCO*, whether constitutionally binding or not, must be amended by the procedure in *BCO 26-2*. Such an amendment, the Assembly stated, would have appeared to grant most of the chapters of the “Directory for Worship” and the appendices constitutional authority they do not have (see **2010, p. 347, 38-54, III.1**).

Amending the Constitution (BCO 26), Threshold for Amending the Westminster Standards

2001, p. 205, 29-44, III.10. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 10 from Evangel Presbytery to amend *BCO 26-3* by decreasing the threshold for amending the Westminster Standards from three-fourths (3/4) to two-thirds (2/3), holding that the three-fourths (3/4) requirement was appropriate for amending the Westminster Standards.

Amending the Constitution (BCO 26), Making BCO 59 Constitutional See *Moral and Theological Issues, Marriage*: 2017, p. 48, 45-41.

II. THE RULES OF DISCIPLINE (*BCO 27-45*)

Discipline: Description and Parameters (*BCO 27-28*)

No GA Actions, 1999-2018

Offenses Defined (*BCO 29*)

No GA Actions, 1999-2018

Church Censures (*BCO 30*), Avoiding Discipline by Renouncing the Jurisdiction of the PCA

2007, p. 98, 35-32. The Assembly received an objection to the decision of the SJC in **Case 2006-07**, which, according to the objection, undercut “biblical church discipline” [*BCO 30-3, 34-4, 37, 38-3.a*] “because it provide[d] a precedent whereby a member of the Presbyterian Church in America can avoid proper disciplinary process and/or censure by taking the step of renouncing the jurisdiction of the PCA.” Sixty-seven commissioners joined the objection.

Church Censures (*BCO 30*), Definite Suspension of a Minister

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered Overture 20 from Philadelphia Presbytery to amend *BCO 30-3* and *37-1* to amend and clarify language regarding suspension from sacraments and suspension from office by dividing the question. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Part A to amend *BCO 30-1* to treat the censure of indefinite suspension and excommunication as separate. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Part B to amend *BCO 30-3* and *37-1* to give presbyteries more control in determining whether or not a confessed or convicted minister demonstrating initial signs of repentance is ready to be restored to office (see **2018, p. 39, 46-29, IV.20**).

The Parties in Cases of Process (*BCO 31*)

See **Digest PART II, Constitutional Advice on *BCO 31*, p. 160**

General Provisions – Cases of Process (*BCO 32*), The Number of Meetings of a Court in Judicial Process

2001, p. 206, 29-44, III.11. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 13 from Central Carolina Presbytery to amend *BCO 32-3*, by adding a separate “arraignment hearing” to the judicial process between the indictment meeting and the trial.

2002, p. 60, 30-10. The presbyteries having approved the amendment to *BCO 32-3* by a vote of 48-3, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2002, p. 64, 30-10, Item 3**).

General Provisions – Cases of Process (BCO 32), The Manner of Delivering Indictments and Citations

2001, p. 206, 29-44, III.11. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 14 from Central Carolina Presbytery to amend *BCO 32-4*, by adding instructions regarding the delivery and compliance requirements for indictments and citations, in order to ensure that a record exists of the date a citation is received.

2002, p. 60, 30-10. The presbyteries having approved by a vote of 48-3 the amendment to *BCO 32-4*, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2002, p. 64, 30-10, Item 3**).

General Provisions and Special Rules – Cases of Process (BCO 32-34), Definition of “Contumacy” and the Court’s Duty to Act with Regard to It

1999, p. 60, 27-12, Item 5. The 26th GA approved amendments to *BCO 32-6*, *BCO 33-2* and *3*, and *BCO 34-4*, which specified that “contumacy includes refusal to cooperate with lawful proceedings of a court” and that “the court is to act immediately upon a finding of contumacy.” The amendments also brought into uniformity the language of various provisions for dealing with contumacy. The presbyteries approved the amendments by a vote of 47-4 after their initial approval by the 26th GA.

General Provisions – Cases of Process (BCO 32), The Use of Professional Counsel in Appeals or Complaints

2000, p. 288, 28-72, III.12. The Assembly answered in the affirmative, as amended by Bills and Overtures, Overture 4 from James River Presbytery to amend *BCO 32-19* to clarify the use of professional counsel in cases of process and permit an accused person to be “represented before the courts of this church by counsel, who shall have the right to be heard by oral and/or written argument.” Certain restrictions were included, including that any such counsel “shall be a communing member” of the PCA.

2001, p. 51, 29-12, Item 2. An insufficient number of presbyteries having voted, the Assembly deferred to the 30th GA action on the amendment to *BCO 32-19*.

2002, p. 60, 30-10. The vote to amend *BCO 32-19* having not received the concurrence of 2/3 of the presbyteries, the amendment failed (see **2002, p. 60, 30-10, Item 1**).

General Provisions - Cases of Process (BCO 32), Counsel Permissible for Judicial Processes before Session and Presbytery

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 3 from South Florida Presbytery amending **BCO 32-19** to allow counsel by any communing member of that Presbytery for judicial process before a Session, and by any member of the PCA for judicial process before a Presbytery or the SJC (see **2018, p. 34, 46-29, IV.3**).

Special Rules Pertaining to Process Before Sessions (BCO 33)

See **Special Rules Pertaining to Process Against a TE** (below, **2001, p. 202, 29-44, III.9**).

Special Rules Pertaining to Process Against a TE (BCO 34)

See **Changes to the OMSJC (BCO 15)**, **2002, p. 172, 30-30, IV.A-B**.

For **BCO 34-4**, see above **General Provisions and Special Rules – Cases of Process (BCO 32-34), Definition of “Contumacy,” 1999, p. 60, 27-12, Item 5**.

Special Rules Pertaining to Process Against a TE (BCO 34), General Assembly Assuming Original Jurisdiction

2000, p. 238, 28-47, Case 1999-01. The Standing Judicial Commission ruled administratively out of order, and therefore not properly before the Assembly, requests from Western Carolina Presbytery, Calvary Presbytery, and Ascension Presbytery to assume original jurisdiction (per **BCO 34-1**) in the matter of a TE whom they alleged allowed women to fill the pulpit in a PCA church. See **SJC Case 1999-01** and **2000, p. 68, 28-19, III.Ref. 1**.

2000, p. 214, 28-46. In answer to Overture 22 from Louisiana Presbytery, the Assembly did not “condemn” the judgment of the 27th GA in accepting the SJC’s decision to rule administratively out of order the request for assumption of original jurisdiction in the Tennessee Valley Presbytery case regarding a TE (see **SJC Case 1999-01** and **2000, p. 239, 28-47**). Instead, the Assembly adopted a resolution (**2000, p. 275, 28-72, III.1**) stating that since “there is no provision specifying that a request for the Assembly to take original jurisdiction under **BCO 34-1** is to be heard and determined by the SJC,” the resolutions of

Western Carolina, Calvary, Ascension, and James River Presbyteries should be treated as timely filed overtures and referred to the Committee of Commissioners on Bills and Overtures for recommendation to this Assembly as to whether the Assembly should assume original jurisdiction as so requested, and refer the case for hearing before the SJC. In response to a petition, the Assembly had sent to the Committee on Constitutional Business as a constitutional inquiry the matter of Overture 21 and 22 (2000, p. 214; cf. 28-19, p. 78). The Assembly defeated a Minority Report, which moved that Overture 22 be answered in the negative and that the CCB's response to the constitutional inquiry in response to the majority report recommendation be referenced (see 2000, p. 258, 28-60; 2000, p. 277; p. 259, 20-63).

2000, p. 310, 28-72, III.24. The Assembly referred as overtures to the Committee on Bills and Overtures resolutions of Western Carolina, Calvary, Ascension, and James River Presbyteries, requesting that the Assembly assume original jurisdiction in the case of Dr. John Wood (SJC Case 1999-01). Upon recommendation from Bills and Overtures, the Assembly answered in the affirmative the overtures from Western Carolina, Calvary, and Ascension, and answered the overture from James River by reference to the former three. The Assembly also directed the SJC "to draft procedures for the handling of future matters under *BCO 34-1* to be proposed to the 29th GA."

2001, p. 70, 29-27, III.99-1. The Assembly, having assumed original jurisdiction of "the John Wood Matter" at the 28th GA's mandate, received the report of the SJC (SJC Case 1999-01), which ruled that the investigation did not result in a strong presumption of guilt on the part of TE Wood in connection with a woman speaking in worship at Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church, or with regard to his expressed views regarding women and preaching.

2001, p. 200, 29-44, III.8. The Assembly declined to condemn the action of the SJC in regard to the John Wood matter (SJC Case 1999-01), answering Overture 8 with reference to a communication from Western Carolina Presbytery, which called for purity, peace, and unity in the denomination (see 2001, p. 198, 29-44, III.7). Forty-three commissioners recorded their votes disagreeing with the Assembly's decision.

2001, p. 68, 29-24. The SJC's report to the 29th GA included a response to the 28th GA's direction that the SJC "draft procedures for the handling of future matters under *BCO* 34-1" (see **2000, p. 310, 28-72, III.24, C**). The Assembly amended ***RAO* 15-2 [now 17-2]** to specify which legal proceedings would be assigned to the Standing Judicial Commission, which would, if the case were found in order, proceed to adjudicate the case" (see **2001, p. 126**). Proposed amendments to the *SJC Manual* (see **2001, p. 126**) were postponed until the 30th GA so that concerned presbyteries and individuals might send suggestions and concerns to the SJC (see **2001, p. 69, 29-27**).

2001, p. 202, 29-44, III.9. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 9 from Evangel Presbytery, which sought to amend ***BCO* 33-1** and **34-1**, to address the meaning of the phrase "refuses to act" and the way original jurisdiction is assumed by a higher court. The details of the proposed administrative procedures, the Assembly noted in its grounds, might "produce more difficulties than benefits in dealing with spiritual problems."

Special Rules Pertaining to Process Against a TE (*BCO* 34), Threshold for Presbyteries to Request the Assembly to Assume Original Jurisdiction

2002, p. 212, 30-47. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 5 from Ohio Valley Presbytery to amend ***BCO* 34-1**, changing the words "two other Presbyteries" to "at least ten percent of all the Presbyteries" for the Assembly to assume original jurisdiction over a minister (see **2002, p. 213, 30-50, III.1**).

2003, p. 50, 31-11. The presbyteries having voted 40-24 in favor of the amendment, the amendment to ***BCO* 34-1** did not receive the concurrence of two-thirds of the presbyteries and so was not brought before the Assembly (see **2003, p. 51, 31-11, Item 1**).

2009, p. 255, 37-43. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 3 from Central Carolina Presbytery to amend ***BCO* 34-1** by increasing the number of presbyteries required for assumption of original jurisdiction from two to five (coupled with the deletion of the phrase, "refuses to act"), on the grounds that the overture, though identifying a real problem (namely, the prevalence of conflicting interpretations of the provisions in question), proposes a solution which would likely protract the matter

interminably and raises the problem of “double jeopardy” (see **2009, p. 262, 37-43, III.3**).

2012, p. 62, 40-57. The Assembly answered in the negative without prejudice Overture 18 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend **BCO 34-1** by increasing the threshold for assumption of original jurisdiction from two presbyteries to seven percent of the other presbyteries, on the grounds that greater refinement and discussion among the presbyteries was needed on what the Committee deemed an important and difficult aspect of our polity (see **2012, p. 74, 40-57, III.14**).

2013, p. 64, 41-51. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 16 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend **BCO 34-1** and **33-1** to increase the threshold for the assumption of original jurisdiction, this time from two presbyteries to five percent of the other presbyteries. The Assembly again answered the overture in the negative, this time on the grounds that “the need for this particular set of modifications has not been demonstrated” (see **2013, p. 68, 41-51, III.16**).

Special Rules Pertaining to Process Against a TE (BCO 34), Threshold for Removing the Censure of Deposition

2013, p. 64, 41-51. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 13 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend **BCO 34-8** and **37-6**, specifying that the removal of deposition requires a three-fourths vote of the court inflicting the censure or of the court “to which the majority of the original court delegates that authority” (see **2013, p. 67, 41-51, III.13**).

2014, p. 17, 42-9. The Presbyteries having voted in favor of amending **BCO 34-8** and **37-6** by a vote of 67-3, the Assembly adopted the amendments (see **2014, p. 90, App. A, Item 1**).

Special Rules Pertaining to Process Against a TE (BCO 34), Restoration of a Deposed Minister (BCO 34-8 and 37-8)

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly referred back without prejudice Overture 8 from Tennessee Valley Presbytery to revise **BCO 34-8** and **37-8** regarding the restoration of a deposed ministers (see **2018, p. 35, 46-29, IV.8**).

Evidence (BCO 35), Electronic Recording of Testimony in a Trial
2001, p. 209, 29-44, III.12. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 15 from Central Carolina Presbytery to amend **BCO 35-7** and **32-18** by requiring the recording of all testimony whether by transcription or electronic means, and making provision for transcription requirements and division of costs.

2002, p. 60, 30-10. The presbyteries having approved the amendment to **BCO 35-7** and **32-18** by a vote of 46-5, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2002, p. 67, 30-10, Item 4**).

Evidence (BCO 35), Requiring Church Officers to Testify in Judicial Cases

2015, p. 66, 43-49. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 7 from the Session of New Hope PCA, Fairfax, VA, to amend **BCO 35-1**, which would have required an officer to testify in judicial cases, particularly regarding matters of doctrine. The Overtures Committee had recommended that the Assembly answer the overture in the affirmative as amended (see **2015, p. 66, 43-49**). A Minority Report, recommending that the overture be answered in the negative, was adopted as a substitute motion 477-455-15 and adopted as the main motion 519-399-17 (see **2015, p. 79, 43-52, IV.7** and **2015, p. 86, 43-52**).

2016, p. 71, 44-44. Upon adoption of a Minority Report as a substitute motion (**p. 89**), the Assembly answered in the negative Overture 14 from Providence Presbytery regarding the amendment of **BCO 35-1** to require accused officers to testify in cases involving doctrinal issues (see **2016, p. 79, 44-44, III.5**).

Evidence (BCO 35), A Member of a Court Called as a Witness also Sitting as a Judge

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 23 from New York Metropolitan Presbytery to amend **BCO 35-11** not to disqualify automatically a member of a court who was called as a witness from sitting as a judge. However, a member of the court who is the prosecutor in the case is disqualified from sitting as a judge (see **2018, p. 41, 46-29, IV.23**).

Infliction of Church Censures (BCO 36), A Paragraph of Introduction and Pause before the Imposition of Censure

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 21 from Philadelphia Presbytery to amend **BCO 36-5** to add a paragraph of introduction and pause not focusing only on sins committed, but also giving praise to God for his grace and glory, before imposing censure (see **2018, p. 41, 46-29, IV.21**).

Removal of Censure (BCO 37). See above:

- **BCO 30, Avoiding Discipline by Renouncing the Jurisdiction of the PCA**, 2007, p. 98, 35-32.
- **BCO 30, Definite Suspension of a Minister**, 2018, p. 32, 46-29.
- **BCO 34, Special Rules Pertaining to Process Against a TE, Threshold for Removing the Censure of Deposition**, 2013, p. 67, 41-51, III.13 and 2014, p. 16, 42-9.

Removal of Censure (BCO 37), From Those Who Have Relocated

2009, p. 255, 37-43. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 1 from Missouri Presbytery to amend **BCO 37-7**, clarifying the directions concerning those who are under censure and move a significant distance from the court that imposed the censure (see **2009, p. 260, 37-43, III.1**).

2010, p. 58, 38-9. An insufficient number of presbyteries having voted, the Assembly voted to defer action on the amendment to **BCO 37-7** until the 39th GA (see **2010, p. 59, 38-9, Item 1**).

2011, p. 17, 39-9. The presbyteries having voted 69-4 in favor of the amendment to **BCO 37-7**, the Assembly adopted the amendment (see **2011, p. 80, App. A, Item 1**).

Cases Without Process (BCO 38), The Procedure in Cases Without Process

1999, p. 163, 27-44, III.5. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 11 from Pittsburgh Presbytery to amend **BCO 38-1**, which aided in determining when a confession of guilt should be considered as a case without process, stated how the court should proceed in the case of such a confession, and noted the right of the accused to complain against the judgment.

2000, p. 53, 28-12. The presbyteries having approved the amendment to *BCO 38-1* by a vote of 46-4, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2000, p. 59, 28-12, Item 3**).

Cases Without Process (BCO 38 and 42), Appeals in Cases without Process

2016, p. 72, 44-44. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 39 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend *BCO 38-1* and *42-2* to allow an appeal instead of a complaint in a case without process, on the grounds that such an amendment “would introduce process to a judicial case that, by definition, was not intended to have it” (see **2016, p. 82, 44-44, III.14**).

Lower Court Proceedings under Supervision of Higher Courts, Modes of (BCO 39)

For the Authority of Scripture in Disciplinary Matters (*BCO 39-3*), see above, *BCO 14, The General Assembly (Changes to the RAO), 1999, p. 156, 27-44, III.2*.

General Review and Control (BCO 40), Handling Credible Reports of Delinquency or Unconstitutionality

For changes to *BCO 40-5*, see above: *BCO 14, 2005, p. 184, 33-45 and 33-48*.

References (BCO 41)

No GA Actions, 1999-2018

Appeals (BCO 42), The Filing Period for an Appeal to the Next Higher Court

See *BCO 43* below: **2012, p. 72 and 73, 40-57, III.11 and 12**.

Appeals (BCO 42), The Filing Period for Complaints or Appeals to the Next Higher Court

See below, *Complaints (BCO 43), 2012, p. 62, 40-57*.

(BCO 42), Appeals in Cases without Process

See *BCO 38* above, *Appeals in Cases without Process, 2016, p. 72, 44-44*.

Complaints (BCO 43), When a Complaint is in Order

2001, p. 206, 29-44, III.11. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 16 from Central Carolina Presbytery to amend *BCO 43-1*, clarifying terminology and stating that a Complaint is allowed after an Appeal is ruled out of order, withdrawn, or abandoned (see **2001, p. 208, 29-44**).

2002, p. 60, 30-10. The presbyteries having voted 48-3 in favor of the amendment to *BCO 43-1*, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2002, p. 64, 30-10, Item 3**).

Complaints (BCO 43), Review of Complaints by Higher Courts

2016, p. 72, 44-44. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 40 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend *BCO 43-1* to clarify the timing of the review of complaints by higher courts in judicial cases (see **2016, p. 83, 44-44, III.15**).

Complaints (BCO 43), Complaints during the Judicial Process

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly referred Overture 15 to amend *BCO 43-1* on complaints during the judicial process back to Pacific Northwest Presbytery without prejudice, on the grounds that this issue is better dealt with in the context of a broader rewriting of *BCO 43*, with recommendations coming from the presbyteries (see **2017, p. 52, 45-41, III.15**).

Complaints (BCO 43), Against Judicial Commission Judgments

2003, p. 168, 31-57. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 10 from Central Carolina Presbytery, which sought to amend *BCO 43-2* by adding a stipulation that if a complaint is “against the court’s approval of a non-debatable judicial commission judgment (*BCO 15-3*),” it is to be “filed directly with the next higher court.” This overture was rejected because, while it “draws attention to a potential problem, the proposed solution does not solve it. The overture also deprives the presbytery of the opportunity to correct its own problem” (see **2003, p. 201, 31-57, III.11**).

Complaints (BCO 43), The Filing Period for a Complaint to the Original Court

2012, p. 56, 40-53. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 12 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery, amending *BCO 43-2* to increase

the filing period for a complaint to the original court from thirty days to sixty days (see **2012, p. 71, 40-57, III.10**).

2013, p. 17, 41-9. The Presbyteries having voted in favor of amending **BCO 43-2** by a vote of 58-11, the Assembly adopted the amendment (see **2013, p. 112, App. A, Item 4**).

Complaints (BCO 43), The Filing Period for Complaints or Appeals to the Next Higher Court

2012, p. 62, 40-57. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overtures 13 and 14 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery, amending **BCO 43-3** and **42-4** to change the start date of the thirty-day filing period for a complaint (and appeal) to the next higher court. Rather than counting from the meeting of the lower court that denied the complaint, the thirty days would begin once the complainant receives a copy of the lower court's decision on the complaint (see **2012, p. 72 and 73, 40-57, III.11 and 12**).

2013, p. 17, 41-9. The presbyteries having voted in favor of amending **BCO 42-4** by a vote of 67-2, and **BCO 43-3** by a vote of 66-3, the Assembly adopted the amendments (see **2013, p. 110 and 114, App. A, Items 3 and 5**).

Complaints (BCO 43), Procedures for Complaints

2014, p. 56, 42-35. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 37 from James River Presbytery to amend **BCO 43-3, 43-8, and 43-9**, clarifying “the process of adjudicating in a higher court a complaint that has been denied in a lower court” and adding new language regarding the equitable scheduling of hearings (see **2014, p. 65, 42-38, IV.37**).

2015, p. 24, 43-14. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the changes to **BCO 43** by a vote of 62-3, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2015, p. 114, App. A, Item 4**).

Complaints (BCO 43), A Lower Court Defending Itself Against a Complaint Before a Higher Court

1999, p. 162, 27-44, III.3. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 9 from Pittsburgh Presbytery to amend **BCO 43-5** by adding words to clarify that the paragraph refers to a complaint being heard “before the higher court,” as opposed to when a lower court itself is considering the complaint.

2000, p. 53, 28-12. The presbyteries having approved the amendment to **BCO 43-5** by a vote of 49-1, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2000, p. 60, 28-12, Item 4**).

Complaints (BCO 43), References in Cases Where Complaints for Non-Indictment Have Been Sustained

2013, p. 64, 41-51. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 15 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery to amend **BCO 43-10** by requiring a higher court to accept a Reference from the lower court, if the higher court has sustained a complaint against a non-indictment in a doctrinal case or case of public scandal (see **2013, p. 68, 41-51, III.15**).

2014, p. 17, 42-9. The presbyteries having voted to amend **BCO 43-10** by a vote of 65-5, the Assembly adopted the amendment (see **2014, p. 94, App. A, Item 2**).

Dissents, Protests, and Objections (BCO 45)

No GA Actions, 1999-2018

Jurisdiction (BCO 46), Jurisdiction and Shepherding of a Deposed Minister

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 16 from Philadelphia Metro West Presbytery to amend **BCO 46-8** to state that Presbytery be given jurisdiction over a deposed or divested minister until that minister be received by the particular church to which he has been assigned (see **2018, p. 39, 46-29, IV.16**).

III. THE DIRECTORY FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD (*BCO 47-63*)

The Constitutional Status of the Entire “Directory for Worship” (*BCO 47-63*)

2000, p. 280, 28-72, III.3. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 2 from Grace Presbytery, which requested the General Assembly to “rescind the current prefatory statement to the “Directory for Worship,” and in so doing grant the “Directory for Worship” full constitutional status and weight.” The Assembly rejected the overture on the grounds that the “Directory for Worship” cannot be given full constitutional status by a mere vote of the General Assembly but would have to be accomplished according to the proper procedures of *BCO 26*.

Preaching of the Word (*BCO 53*)

For preaching by qualified men only, see above, *BCO 12, 2001, p. 223*.

Admission of Persons to Sealing Ordinances (*BCO 57*), Church Membership and Vows

2004, p. 152, 32-48. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 7 from James River Presbytery that would have added an optional vow to *BCO 57-5* for the congregation to take when a new member joined the church, agreeing “to support [new member name(s)], encouraging and comforting [him/her/them] and urging [him/her/them] to ‘walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him’” (see **2004, p. 162, 32-48, III.4**).

2008, p. 178, 36-47. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 2 from Southeast Alabama Presbytery to amend *BCO 57-5*, which would have required affirmation of the Apostles’ Creed for membership and adding additional membership vows, on the grounds that the present vows are both Trinitarian and sufficient (see **2008, p. 181, 36-47, III.2**).

2008, p. 178, 36-47. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 4 from Blue Ridge Presbytery to amend *BCO 57-5*, by encouraging churches to use the membership questions printed in *BCO 57-5* in order

to assure consistency across the denomination, and adding immediately before the questions: “The minister shall then ask the following questions (or alternate questions that communicate their substance):” (see **2008, p. 189, 36-47, III.4**).

2009, p. 54, 37-10. The presbyteries having voted 45-22 in favor of the amendment to **BCO 57-5**, it did not receive the necessary concurrence of two-thirds of the presbyteries and was therefore not before the Assembly (see **2009, p. 54, 37-10, Item 1**).

2012, p. 56, 40-53. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 34 from Southeast Alabama Presbytery to amend **BCO 57-5**, which would have required affirmation of the Apostles’ Creed for membership, on the grounds that the suggested amendments do not improve or clarify the **BCO** (see **2012, p. 78, 40-57, III.24** and **2008, p. 181, 36-47, III.2**).

Administration of the Lord’s Supper (BCO 58), Unleavened Bread in Communion

2001, p. 188, 29-44, III.2. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 2 from New Jersey Presbytery to amend **BCO 58-5**, which would have specified that unleavened bread should be used in the celebration of the Lord’s Supper, on the grounds that “[t]here are no Scriptural grounds sufficient to mandate the exclusive use of unleavened bread in Communion.”

Administration of the Lord’s Supper (BCO 58), The Communion Liturgy

2003, p. 168, 31-57. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 21 from Ascension Presbytery to amend **BCO 58-5** editorially by removing the word “broken” in the communion liturgy (“This is my body which is ~~broken~~ for you”). The CCB had advised that “broken” was a “phantom word, which mysteriously appeared in our **BCO** in 1990 when the NKJV was substituted for the ASV...[and] has never been approved” (**2003, p. 163, 31-56, VI**). The proposed amendment also added a parenthetical statement, which was sent to the presbyteries for voting: “(Some other biblical account of the institution of this part of the Supper may be substituted here)” (see **2003, p. 205, 31-57, III.14**).

2004, p. 43, 32-11. The presbyteries having voted in favor of the amendment to **BCO 58-5** by a vote of 50-0, the Assembly approved the amendment (see **2004, p. 43, 32-11, Item 1**).

Administration of the Lord’s Supper (BCO 58), The Practice of Intinction in the Lord’s Supper

2010, p. 346, 38-54. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 14 from Westminster Presbytery to prohibit the use of intinction at the General Assembly, on the grounds that directions concerning administration of the Lord’s Supper at future General Assemblies should be addressed through changes to the *RAO*, and that the administration of the Lord’s Supper is adequately governed by the Scriptures and *The Book of Church Order* (see **2010, p. 351, 38-54, III.3**).

2012, p. 62, 40-57. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 30 from Savannah River Presbytery to amend *BCO 58-5* by declaring that intinction is “an inappropriate method for observing the Lord’s Supper.” A Minority Report was then adopted, which amended the original overture by adding at the end of the 58-5 that, “as Christ has instituted the Lord’s Supper in two sacramental actions, the communicants are to eat the bread and drink the cup in separate actions” (see **2012, p. 76, 40-57, III.20**).

2013, p. 17, 41-9. The presbyteries having voted by a vote of 23-45 not to amend *BCO 58-5*, the amendment was not before the Assembly (see **2013, p. 116, App. A, Item 6**).

Solemnization of Marriage (BCO 59), Attempts to Give BCO 59 Full Constitutional Authority

2009, p. 255, 37-43. The Overtures Committee recommended that the Assembly answer in the negative Overture 6 from Central Carolina Presbytery, which sought to amend *BCO 59-1* and *59-6*, concerning the institution of marriage and begin the process of granting full constitutional authority to *BCO 59*. The Committee’s recommendation was made on the grounds that the *WCF*, Chapter 24.1-3, clearly speaks to this issue and is a higher standard than the *BCO* (see **2009, p. 272, 37-43, III.5**). The Assembly voted to recommit the recommendation to the Overtures Committee, which came back to the Assembly with the recommendation to answer the overture in the affirmative as amended, by amending *BCO 59-1* and *59-6* to specify that laws regulating marriage be obeyed “insofar as they do not transgress the laws of God” but not beginning the process of granting full constitutional authority to *BCO 59*. The Assembly approved the recommendation with a two-thirds majority (see **2009, p. 301ff., 37-48**).

2011, p. 65, 39-57. The Assembly answered Overture 8 from Iowa Presbytery, which sought full constitutional status for **BCO 59**, by stating that “*WCF 24, WLC 137-139, and WSC 70-72* speak clearly to the Presbyterian Church in America’s understanding of the nature of marriage. As such, they may and should be referenced by any person needing to explain to any civil authority the Presbyterian Church in America’s understanding of marriage. Further, the second ordination vow makes clear that all TEs in the Presbyterian Church in America are bound by *WCF 24, WLC 137-139, and WSC 70-72* even when in the service of the civil magistrate” (see **2011, p. 67, 39-57, III.3**).

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 2 from Calvary Presbytery to approve the submission of **BCO 59** to the presbyteries to be granted full constitutional authority pursuant to the process in *BCO 26-2* (see **2017, p. 49, 45-41, III.2**).

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 24 from Tennessee Valley Presbytery to grant full constitutional status to **BCO 59** regarding the solemnization of marriage. However, Overture 24 was recommitted to the OC of the 46th GA. The Assembly then answered in the affirmative to adopt the OC’s revision to Overture 24 which amended **BCO 59**, among other ways, by adding the phrase “Therefore, ministers in the Presbyterian Church in America who solemnize marriages shall only solemnize marriages between one man and one woman” (see **2018, p. 41, 46-29, IV.24** and **2018, p. 66, 46-36**). Overture 1 from Calvary Presbytery (**2018, p. 34, 46-29, IV.1**), Overture 2 from Grace Presbytery (**2018, p. 34, 46-29, IV.2**), and Overture 5 from Calvary Presbytery (**2018, p. 35, 46-29, IV.5**) were answered by reference to the action taken in Overture 24.

Visitation of the Sick (BCO 60)

No GA Actions, 1999-2018

Burial of the Dead (BCO 61)

No GA Actions, 1999-2018

Days of Fasting and Thanksgiving (BCO 62)

Annually recurring recommendations of Committees and Agencies (C&As) for Days or Months of Prayer have not been given individual entries in this Digest. See C&A Committee of Commissioner recommendations for most years between 1999 and 2018. See also “Fasting and Prayer,” p. 104 in this Digest, under “Moral and Theological Topics.”

Christian Life in the Home (BCO 63), Christian Education and Public Schools

2005, p. 191, 33-51. The Assembly answered in the negative Personal Resolution 1 from seven elders, asking the General Assembly to encourage “all her officers and members to remove their children from the public schools and see to it that they receive a thoroughly Christian education, for the glory of God and the good of Christ’s church.” While affirming “the responsibility of Christian parents to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,” the Assembly declared that “the education of covenant children is best left to the wisdom of Christian parents under the pastoral guidance of local church Sessions” (see **2005, p. 262, 33-51, III.10**). A Minority Report was defeated (see **2005, p. 192 and 263, 33-51, III.10**).

2017, p. 35, 45-32. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 25 from Auburn Road Presbyterian Church, on the grounds that the overture regarding the Biblical necessity of Christian education for covenant children is unnecessary, as “Scripture clearly teaches that parents have the responsibility for the education of covenant children” and “the particular method(s) used by parents to fulfill their scriptural responsibility is a matter of conscience” (see **2017, p. 37, 45-32, III.11**).

IV. MORAL AND THEOLOGICAL TOPICS Listed Alphabetically by Topic

Abortion

see **Human Life, Value of**

Bible Translation

2002, p. 243, 30-53. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Personal Resolution 4 expressing the PCA's "disapproval of the practice of making gender-related or other alterations to the authorially-intended meaning of Scripture in Bible translations" and cautioning "its congregations and members, as well as the larger Christian community, against use of the TNIV [Today's New International Version]" (see **2002, p. 276, 30-53, III.20** and **2002, p. 91, 30-20**). Overture 33 from Central Carolina Presbytery (see **2002, p. 278, 30-53, III.20**) was answered by reference to the Assembly's action with regard to Personal Resolution 4.

2011, p. 60, 39-55. The Assembly adopted a substitute motion from the MTW Committee of Commissioners regarding Overture 9 from Potomac Presbytery, declaring as "unfaithful to God's revealed Word" Bible translations that remove familial references to God the Father and the Son, and authorizing the Moderator to appoint a study committee to report to the 40th GA concerning Insider Movements (see **2011, p. 61, 39-55, 8** and **2011, p. 36, 39-43**).

2012, p. 29, 40-42. The Assembly approved four recommendations from the Insider Movements Study Committee's partial report (Part 1 of 2), including that the 40th GA declare that, "since social familial terms fail to capture the biblical meaning of 'Son' (*huios*) and 'Son of God' (*huios tou theou*) applied to Jesus and 'Father' (*pater*) applied to God, Bibles should always translate divine familial terms using common biological terms." The Assembly extended the Study Committee by one year and approved its budget to allow for completion of its mandate (see **2012, p. 596, App. V** and **2012, p. 60, 40-54, III.31**).

2013, p. 38, 41-34. The Insider Movements Study Committee reported to the Assembly (see **2013, p. 627, App. V**), and recommended that the partial report (Part 2 of 2) be accepted by the Assembly and that the Study Committee be dismissed with thanks. After much discussion pertaining to the Minority Report (see **2013,**

p. 759, App. V), which did “not advocate for all that is represented as Muslim insider ministry, but...contend[ed] that there is a strong biblical basis for some aspects of insider ministries,” the Assembly voted to recommit to the Insider Movements Study Committee the report and all matters related to it.

2014, p. 20, 42-17. After much discussion pertaining to the Minority Report (which was eventually defeated), the Assembly voted to sustain the recommendations of the Insider Movements Study Committee, making available and recommending for study “A Call to Faithful Witness, Part Two: Theology, Gospel Missions, and Insider Movements” to its presbyteries, sessions, and missions committees, and dismissing the Study Committee with thanks (see **2014, p. 593 and 754, App. V**).

For Recommendations of the Study Committee, see **Digest PART IV, Study Committee Reports: Insider Movements**.

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 1 from Southwest Florida Presbytery, which resolved that the General Assembly urge each presbytery to devise a plan to support financially the translation of the Scriptures (see **2017, p. 49, 45-41, III.1**).

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 39 from Southwest Florida Presbytery recommending that each Presbytery devise a plan of its own to support financially the translation of the Bible into one language (see **2018, p. 47, 46-29, IV.39**).

2018, p. 71, 46-42. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 28 from Pittsburgh Presbytery to translate the *BCO* into Portuguese and Spanish, with the proviso that the funds for translation be underwritten by designated gifts to the AC with a budget of \$15,000 (see **2018, p. 76, 46-42, III.29**). Overture 30 from Southern New England Presbytery was answered in reference to the action taken in Overture 28 (see **2018, p. 77, 46-42, III.31**).

Chaplaincy

2004, p. 121, 32-35. The Assembly approved MNA’s recommendation to authorize the PRJC to endorse all non-military chaplains who request endorsement, according to the guidelines in the PRJC “Chaplains Manual” (see **2004, p. 129, 32-35, II.13** and **2004, p. 457, App. H, Attach. F**).

Child Protection in the PCA

2014, p. 56, 42-35. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 6 from Georgia Foothills Presbytery to pass a resolution exhorting church leaders to actively prevent child sexual abuse in the church and to report child sexual abuse “to duly appointed proper representatives of the God-ordained civil authorities, in accordance with local laws.” It also directed the Permanent Committees and Agencies of the General Assembly to review their policies, procedures, and practices in the area of child protection (see **2014, p. 59, 42-38, IV.6**).

Christian Education

See *BCO 63*

See *BCO 14, Committee on Discipleship Ministries, 2016, p. 31, 44-29*.

Creation

1998, p. 103. See *SJC Case 1997-05*.

1998, p. 144. See *SJC Case 1997-13*.

1999, p. 96, 27-26. The 26th GA in 1998 had erected a Creation Study Committee to “study the exegetical, hermeneutical, and theological interpretations of Genesis 1-3 and the original intent of the Westminster Standards phrase ‘in the space of six days,’” and to “report, D. V. to the 27th GA its findings, along with its non-binding advice and counsel, if any.” The 27th GA adopted the recommendation of this Creation Study Committee that it be continued for one year, with a report being made to the 28th GA. The Assembly also directed that a summary of the committee’s work thus far be spread upon the Minutes, including a statement of the Committee’s unanimity on certain foundational issues (see *SJC Case 1998-01, 1999, p. 70, 27-22, V*).

1999, p. 73. See *SJC Case 1998-05*.

1999, p. 179, 27-44, III.15. The Assembly, in answer to a personal resolution from a TE, made a declaration of ten points concerning the historicity and unity of the Genesis 1-2 account of creation, including God’s discrete acts of creation and affirming the immediate creation of Adam from the dust of the ground.

2000, p. 119, 28-38. Three recommendations of the Creation Study Committee were discussed under an adopted procedure for “informal consideration” (see **2000, p. 118, 28-35**). A motion to adopt the three recommendations as a unit failed. Recommendations 1 and 3 were adopted, along with an amended Recommendation 2, which allowed for a diversity of views on the creation days, as long as “the full historicity of the creation account” was accepted (see **2000, p. 184, 28-38, VI**). A failed substitute for the amendment to Recommendation 2 would have required candidates who held views of the six days other than “days of normal duration with evening and morning” to request an exception to “the sense of the confession” (see **2000, p. 120, 28-35**).

2000, p. 213, 28-43. The Assembly defeated a motion to reconsider its action on the Creation Study Committee Report.

2000, p. 245, 28-53. A protest, entered by a TE against the Assembly’s action on the Creation Study Committee, and signed by thirty-two other elders, stated that Assembly’s approval of the Creation Study Committee Recommendation 2 had “bound the consciences of good men,” “created an intolerable situation for those presbyteries which have declared” that the “divergent views” allowed “are in fact exceptions to the Standards,” and have, in effect, modified the Standards “by an unconstitutional method,” obscured “the plain and clear teaching of the Word of God,” and “eviscerated” the “discipline of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.” The Assembly, in answer, noted that by its judgment it “[had] established no such standard, but [had] merely expressed its own opinion in the matter.”

2000, p. 236. See **SJC Case 1998-10**.

2001, p. 98. See **SJC Case 1999-07**.

2001, p. 193, 29-44, III.5. The Assembly answered in the negative Overtures 7, 20, and 23 from Calvary, New River, and Mississippi Valley Presbyteries pertaining to exceptions for non-calendar-day views of the phrase “in the space of six days.” The overtures from Calvary and Mississippi Valley sought to require candidates to request an exception for any view other than a calendar-day view, while the overture from New River Presbytery sought further clarification regarding the Assembly’s response to the Creation Study Committee report. The Assembly cited as its grounds that “it is the prerogative of the lower courts to determine if a man’s view is an exception to the standards.” A

Minority Report, which was defeated, affirmed a calendar-day view of the creation days and required those who held views different than the calendar-day view to inform their presbytery of their views, so that the presbytery might consider and determine the acceptability of those views.

2001, p. 198, 29-44, III.6. On procedural and theological grounds, the Assembly answered in the negative Overture 30 from North Georgia Presbytery, which requested the Assembly to affirm the position of the 28th GA, allowing a diversity of creation views, and “to explore ways by which the scientific evidence of general revelation can be objectively studied and validated...”

2012, p. 56, 40-53. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 26 from Potomac Presbytery requesting that the Assembly not make *in these* statements on evolution and Adam but instead refer to the actions and opinions of the 10th, 22nd, and 30th Assemblies, on the grounds that the Scriptures and the Westminster Standards already make “sufficiently clear that Adam and Eve are real, historical human beings directly created by God” (see **2012, p. 74, 40-57, III.16** and **2012, p. 721, App. W**). Overture 10 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery and Overture 29 from Savannah River Presbytery, which asked the Assembly to adopt and reaffirm its position on evolution and Adam, were answered in reference to Overture 26. The Assembly defeated a minority report asking that the Rocky Mountain Presbytery overture be answered in the affirmative (see **2012, p. 67, 40-57, III.8** and **2012, p. 75, 40-57, III.19**).

Divorce

2003, p. 107. See SJC Case 2001-32.

2005, p. 118. See SJC Case 2004-02.

2005, p. 131. See SJC Case 2004-05.

2008, p. 108. See SJC Case 2007-04.

2009, p. 193. See SJC Case 2008-09.

2011, p. 535. See SJC Case 2009-22.

2012, p. 525. See SJC Case 2010-24.

2015, p. 572. See SJC Case 2013-10.

2017, p. 514. See SJC Case 2016-05.

Fasting and Prayer

2016, p. 68, 44-40. The Assembly referred Overture 32 back without prejudice to James River Presbytery, on the grounds that the overture provided neither a rationale for a general Day of Prayer and Fasting nor instructions to the Churches concerning its conduct (see **2016, p. 80, 44-44, III.10**).

Federal Vision / New Perspectives on Paul / Soteriology

2005, p. 191, 33-51. The Assembly answered in the negative without prejudice Overture 14 from Mississippi Valley Presbytery requesting that the Assembly distribute to the clerks of the PCA presbyteries the Informational Report of the Presbytery on the “New Perspectives on Paul” and the “Federal Vision” (see **2005, p. 203, 33-51, III.9**). Eighteen elders registered their negative votes on this negative answer. The grounds for the negative answer were “procedural alone.”

2006, p. 197, 34-57. The Assembly answered in the negative without prejudice Overture 26 from Missouri Presbytery, which requested that the Assembly receive and consider Missouri Presbytery’s report on Federal Vision Theology, spread it across the minutes of the General Assembly, and commend it to the Presbyteries and Sessions for study. The Assembly answered that the overture, which had already been distributed to the members of the Assembly, “should suffice to make it generally available” (see **2006, p. 210, 34-57, III.9**).

2006, p. 197, 34-57. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 23 from Central Carolina Presbytery requesting the Assembly to respond to all overtures from all presbyteries concerning Federal Vision and the New Perspectives on Paul, by including a reference to the study conducted by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church. The Assembly gave as its grounds that this study by the OPC had not yet been adopted by its General Assembly (see **2006, p. 227, 34-57, III.10**).

2006, p. 197, 34-57. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 11 from Blue Ridge Presbytery to erect an “Ad Interim Committee on Federal Vision, New Perspectives on Paul, etc.,” on the grounds that the “scope of the proposal is too broad and inadequately defined” (see **2006, p. 228, 34-57, III.11**).

2006, p. 197, 34-57. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 2 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery to erect an ad interim committee “to study the soteriology of the Federal Vision, New Perspective, and Auburn Avenue Theologies, which are causing confusion among our churches.” In so doing, the Assembly had adopted a Minority Report as the main motion (see **2006, p. 229, 34-57, III.12**).

2007, p. 68, 35-20. The Assembly commended the report of the Ad Interim Committee on Federal Vision and the New Perspectives on Paul (see **2007, p. 509, App. O**) for careful consideration and study, and recommended the declarations in the report as faithful expositions of the Westminster Standards. All five recommendations of the Ad Interim Committee were adopted. See also **Digest PART IV, Study Committee Reports: Federal Vision**.

2008, p. 75. See **SJC Case 2006-02**.

2008, p. 113. See **SJC Case 2007-08**.

2010, p. 135. See **SJC Case 2008-14**.

2010, p. 209. See **SJC Case 2009-06**.

2011, p. 578. See **SJC Case 2010-04**.

2013, p. 552. See **SJC Case 2011-06**.

2013, p. 583. See **SJC Case 2012-05**.

2015, p. 528. See **SJC Case 2012-08**.

2018, p. 536. See **SJC Case 2016-16**.

Freemasonry

See **BCO 26** above, **2002, p. 257, 30-53, III.9**.

Holy Spirit

2003, p. 61, 31-14. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Review of Presbytery Records Committee to find unsatisfactory the response of Southern Florida Presbytery to the 30th GA's exception of substance (see **2003, p. 252, 31-63, III.56.e**) regarding the transfer examination of a man who took exception to *Westminster Confession of Faith* II:3 concerning the procession of the Holy Spirit. Later in the Assembly, the language of Assembly's response was refined to delete language which appeared to regard the Holy Spirit as ontologically subordinate to the Father and Son (see **2003, p. 266, 31-64**).

Human Life, Value of

1999, p. 175, 27-44, III.14. The Assembly answered as amended Overture 27 from Philadelphia Presbytery by reaffirming the sanctity of human life under the protection of the Sixth Commandment, and requested the Stated Clerk to remind all the churches and presbyteries of the continuing availability of its published report on the sanctity of Human Life adopted by the 6th GA and to include the report's recommendations in his letter to the churches on the actions of the 27th Assembly. The overture also recommended the appointment of a PCA day of prayer and fasting for the ending of abortion and urged each PCA presbytery to establish a pro-life committee to address the recommendations of the 6th GA (see **1978, p. 71 and 270**). Three elders registered their negative vote on the original overture.

2005, p. 191, 33-51. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 13 from Ohio Valley Presbytery regarding the formation of a Study Committee on the Value of Human Life to advise churches regarding the Sixth Commandment with respect to issues on the sanctity of human life, and to report back to the 35th GA in 2007. The Committee broadened the original overture to include other issues of human life, including stem cell research, human cloning, and euthanasia (see **2005, p. 193, 33-51, III.1**).

2006, p. 64, 34-8. The Assembly dissolved the Ad Interim Committee on the Value of Human Life due to a lack of funding.

2010, p. 346, 38-54. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 28 from South Florida Presbytery to pass a resolution encouraging all members of the PCA to approach professing Christians in all denominations in order to stand together for the sanctity of human

life in six concrete ways, including “acting in solidarity with other denominations in prayer and obedience to God,” offering “pastoral and practical care for those individuals affected by unplanned pregnancies and victimized by abortion,” and “lovingly call[ing] offending parties to repentance in Jesus Christ, and restoration by the Holy Spirit to new obedience” (see **2010, p. 352, 38-54, III.4**).

Independent Press in Church Debates

2000, p. 289, 28-72, III.13. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 7 and Communication 1 from North Florida Presbytery which asked the Assembly to decry the practices of the “Presbyterian and Reformed News,” a publication that reported on Presbytery actions and debated topics within the denomination. In answering the overture, the Assembly stated, among other concerns, that the overture requests action for censurable offenses without due process, and unwisely calls into question the supreme value of an independent press. A Minority Report, which encouraged North Florida Presbytery to bring charges to the courts of original jurisdiction to investigate and take appropriate action, was rejected.

2000, p. 293, 28-72, III.14. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 24 from Southeast Alabama Presbytery regarding the “Presbyterian and Reformed News.” The overture, which requested the Assembly to direct the publication not to disseminate information regarding judicial cases in process, was rejected on the grounds that the Assembly has no power to “instruct all members of the PCA not to publish” such information, and that an independent press should not be discouraged.

2002, p. 58, 30-5. By a vote of 592-524, the Assembly approved a motion to open the areas outside of the Assembly hall to the distribution of non-*PCANews* material.

Insider Movements

See Bible Translation

Marriage (See also Divorce)

2003, p. 168, 31-57. Overture 19 from Philadelphia and Rocky Mountain Presbyteries asked the Assembly to endorse the Marriage Amendment to the US Constitution. The Assembly referred instead to statements from

the *WCF* and from Scripture, and stated that because the church is spiritual in nature, “while it must continue to speak to moral issues, it should ordinarily refrain from endorsing specific legislation. See *WCF* 31.4, *BCO* 3-3, 3-4” (see **2003, p. 203, 31-57, III.13**).

2004, p. 174, 32-52. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 16 from Missouri Presbytery to “humbly call” on governments “to act within their lawful powers...to ensure that marriage is legally defined and interpreted throughout their jurisdictions as existing exclusively between one man and woman.” Grounding this call in Scripture, the resolution declared “the truth that the institution of marriage has been created by [God], from the time of the creation of human beings, and that it is ordained and defined by Him...” The resolution also called upon PCA Presbyteries and Sessions “to strengthen the marriages in their own churches” and “to encourage all men and women, boys and girls within the PCA to live chastely for the sake of the Savior...” Further, it called upon PCA members to be “the salt and light of the earth” in this context by exercising their full responsibilities as citizens, especially in defending the Biblical teaching on marriage (see **2004, p. 175, 32-52, III.8**). Overture 12 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery, James River Presbytery, and Mississippi Valley Presbytery, Overture 13 from North Georgia Presbytery, Overture 14 from Central Carolina Presbytery, Overture 15 from Missouri Presbytery, and Personal Resolutions 1 and 2, were all answered in reference to the amended answer to Overture 16 (see **2004, pp. 180-201, 32-52, III.8**).

2016, p. 68, 44-40. The Assembly referred Overture 7 from Grace Presbytery, which would petition government leaders to insure religious liberty in light of the SCOTUS ruling on same-sex marriage, to the Administrative Committee with instructions to report back to the 45th GA (see **2016, p. 79, 44-44, III.4**).

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 6 from Gulfstream Presbytery to amend and strengthen the proof-texts of the *WCF*, 24:4[h] by the addition of two Scriptural references from Leviticus and Romans regarding marriage (see **2017, p. 50, 45-41, III.6**).

Memorials (to Deceased Elders)

2016, p. 68, 44-40. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 21 from Southwest Florida Presbytery, a Memorial for a deceased Ruling Elder (see **2016, p. 79, 44-44, III.6**).

2016, p. 68, 44-40. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 22 from Southwest Florida Presbytery, a Memorial for a deceased Ruling Elder (see **2016, p. 79, 44-44, III.7**).

2016, p. 68, 44-40. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 26 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery, a Memorial for a deceased Teaching Elder (see **2016, p. 79, 44-44, III.9**).

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly ruled out of order Overture 31 from Calvary Presbytery, a Memorial for a deceased Teaching Elder (see **2018, p. 46, 46-29, IV.31**). Four reasons for the ruling were given, including that the “OC has no means within the present rules to revise ‘whereas’ sections” and that “*RAO* 13-6 as presently written does not specify how to deal with assertions regarding a deceased person’s deficiencies an overture may attribute to him or how to deal with objections regarding errors and alleged violations of the rules of decorum.”

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly ruled out of order Overture 32 from Calvary Presbytery, a Memorial for a deceased Teaching Elder (see **2018, p. 46, 46-29, IV.32**).

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly ruled out of order Overture 36 from Heritage Presbytery, a Memorial for a deceased Teaching Elder (see **2018, p. 46, 46-29, IV.36**).

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly ruled out of order Overture 37 from Central Indiana Presbytery, a Memorial for a deceased Teaching Elder (see **2018, p. 46, 46-29, IV.37**).

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly ruled out of order Overture 38 from Central Indiana Presbytery, a Memorial for a deceased Teaching Elder (see **2018, p. 46, 46-29, IV.38**).

2018, p. 31, 46-29. The Assembly ruled out of order Overture 40 from Chicago Metro Presbytery, a Memorial for a deceased Teaching Elder (see **2018, p. 46, 46-29, IV.40**).

Military

See **Women, In the Military**

See **2004, pp. 121, 129, 32-35, II.13** and **2004, p. 457, App. H, Attach. F** (see above **BCO 14, Committees and Agencies, Mission to North America**).

New Perspectives on Paul

See Federal Vision

Paedocommunion

2005, p. 113. See SJC Case 2003-04.

2008, p. 75. See SJC Case 2006-02.

2008, p. 113. See SJC Case 2007-08.

2008, p. 128. See SJC Case 2007-14.

2011, p. 578. See SJC Case 2010-04.

2013, p. 553. See SJC Case 2011-06.

2016, p. 499. See SJC Case 2014-01.

Papists, Definition of in WCF

2005, p. 191, 33-51. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 1 from Iowa Presbytery to add an annotation to the *Westminster Confession of Faith* defining the term “Papists.” The Assembly expressed its agreement with the Committee on Constitutional Business that there is no constitutional process in place, nor any procedure, for an annotation to the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (see **2005, p. 194, 33-51, III.2**). See **Digest PART II, Constitutional Advice: CCB Advice on the Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF) and Catechisms.**

Preterism (Full)

2000, p. 297, 28-72, III.17. In answer to Overture 1 from Heartland Presbytery, asking the Assembly to declare the view of Full Preterism a heresy by adopting the Presbytery’s position paper on the subject, the Assembly referenced the grounds for a previous overture by answering that the PCA’s constitutional standards give “sufficient testimony to the PCA’s understanding of the doctrines of Scripture with respect to the matter raised in the overture (see *WCF* 8, 32, and 33)” (see also **1994, p. 233, 22-66, IV.5**).

Race Relations and Ethnic Diversity

2002, p. 177, 30-31. In response to Overture 19 from Chesapeake Presbytery requesting the formation of a study committee on ministry amidst ethnic diversity, the Assembly asked the MNA staff to study the issue and report back to the 31st GA with suggestions for meeting the challenges and a statement of biblical commitments in this area of ministry (see **2002, p. 188, 30-31, III.18**).

2003, p. 78, 31-29. The Assembly adopted MNA's response to the Overture 2002-19 from Chesapeake Presbytery, including MNA's recommendation that the working paper, *Ministering Among the People Groups of North America*, be received as information and commended to the churches of the PCA (see **2003, p. 81, 31-29, III.10** and **2003, p. 479, App. H, Attach. D**).

2002, p. 243, 30-53. The Assembly answered Overture 20 from Nashville Presbytery regarding racial reconciliation by adopting a statement of confession and repentance for past sins and commitment to strive for racial reconciliation. The Assembly also noted the PCA's participation in the 1977 NAPARC conference on race relations, and the statement that conference adopted. Four men recorded their negative votes on this action of the Assembly (see **2002, p. 261, 30-53, III.14** and **2002, p. 192, 30-32**).

2002, p. 243, 30-53. The Assembly, in answer to Personal Resolution 2, called upon its members "to repent of and renounce any racism and/or class consciousness," and encouraged its local churches to "[welcome] into its membership all who, according to *Book of Church Order* Chapter 57 . . . come with a credible profession of their faith in . . . the Lord Jesus Christ" (see **2002, p. 269, 30-53, III.16** and **2002, p. 85, 30-15**).

2003, p. 157, 31-53. Answering in the affirmative as amended Overture 17 from Nashville Presbytery, the Assembly tasked MNA with drafting a Pastoral Letter setting forth the PCA's position on the issue of gospel and race (see **2003, p. 192, 31-57, III.8**). The letter "would be in a manner consistent with the gospel imperatives for the encouragement of racial reconciliation and gospel outreach to people of every 'tribe and tongue and people and nation (Rev. 5:9 NKJV)." A Minority Report recommending that the overture be answered in the negative was defeated.

2004, p. 121, 32-35. The Assembly adopted with minor editorial amendments the pastoral letter, "The Gospel and Race," presented

by the Committee on Mission to North America in reply to the direction of the 31st GA, which sought “to provide a definition of racism, a theological perspective on racism, pastoral responses to racism, and discussion of pastoral issues related to racism” (see **2004, p. 124, 32-35, III.9** and **2004, p. 427, App. H, Attach. E**). A Minority Report recommending that the Assembly send “The Gospel and Race” to the presbyteries for consideration and discussion was defeated.

2010, p. 180. SJC Case 2008-03.

2010, p. 156, 170. SJC Case 2008-15.

2010, p. 156, 173. SJC Case 2008-16.

2010, p. 156, 174. SJC Case 2008-17.

2010, p. 156, 178. SJC Case 2008-18.

2010, p. 179. SJC Case 2009-01.

2010, p. 182. SJC Case 2009-02.

2015, p. 16, 43-7. The Assembly voted to receive a Personal Resolution on Civil Rights Remembrance from two TEs. The Assembly adopted the Overture Committee’s recommendation to refer the Resolution to the 44th GA on four grounds, including that “a perfected version of the resolution would effect particular denominational, regional, and local church repentance more particularly,” and “time with African American brothers to visit with the Overtures Committee in next year’s Assembly will further perfect the language and allow out repentance to be more heartfelt and accurate.” A Protest, signed by over 200 commissioners, allowed “that more time is needed to adequately work on such a denominational statement,” but also stated “the need for action now” by recognizing and confessing “our church’s covenantal and generational involvement in and complicity with racial injustice” (see **2015, p. 71, 43-52** and **2015, p. 81, 43-52, III**; for debate on this resolution, see **2015, p. 69, 43-52**).

2016, p. 42, 44-36. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 44 from Potomac Presbytery to create a PCA Unity Fund “to help raise up

future generations of godly, reformed African American and other minority Ruling and Teaching Elders” (see **2016, p. 44, 44-36, III.8** and **2016, p. 71, 44-44**).

2016, p. 70, 44-44. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 43 from Potomac Presbytery to “pursue racial reconciliation and the advance of the Gospel” by resolving that the General Assembly “does recognize, confess, condemn and repent of corporate and historical sins, including those committed during the Civil Rights era” and “recommits itself to the gospel task of racial reconciliation.” A dissent to this action was recorded (**p. 71**). Thirty-four overtures were answered in reference to this action (see **2016, p. 74, 44-44, III.1**).

2016, p. 71, 44-44. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 45 from Potomac Presbytery to form a study committee on racial reconciliation (see **2016, p. 84, 44-44, III.16**).

2016, p. 71, 44-44. The Assembly answered Overture 60 from Auburn Road Presbyterian Church, Venice, Florida, by reference to Overture 43. The overture recommended that the 44th GA resolve to “recognize and confess our church’s recent involvement in and complicity with placing current political winds above the Gospel” and that churches “seek to further truth and reconciliation for the gospel’s sake within their own local communities” (see **2016, p. 86, 44-44, III.17**).

2017, p. 68, 45-48. The Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Ad Interim Committee on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation, approved a follow-up study in three years to assess the growth and progress of our denomination in biblical racial reconciliation practice (see **2017, p. 563, App. V**).

2017, p. 68, 45-49. The Assembly extended the Ad Interim Committee on Racial Reconciliation for another year (2017-2018) (see **2017, p. 71, 45-49, III.8**).

2018, p. 23, 46-17. The Assembly adopted the four recommendations of the Ad Interim Committee on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation, including that the 46th GA receive the ad interim committee’s report, that it direct the CDM to publish the report for sale and distribution, and that it direct the Committee on MNA to budget and plan for renewing the

research and report back to the 51st GA in 2023 in order to establish a longitudinal study of our denomination on the issue of racial reconciliation (see **2018, p. 628, App. V**). See also **Digest PART IV, Study Committee Reports: Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation**.

The Sabbath

2016, p. 22, 44-19. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Review of Presbytery Records Committee to find satisfactory the amendments of Philadelphia Metro West Presbytery to approve a TE's exceptions using the prescribed categories of *RAO* 16-3.e.5 regarding his views of the Sabbath that "it is possible that certain circumstances may arise in which a church could consider gathering for weekly corporate worship and resting on a day other than Sunday." A Minority Report to add an exception of substance to this report of presbytery was defeated (see **2016, p. 434, App. Q, 57.d**).

For the Sabbath, see also **The General Assembly (BCO 14) (Covenant College), Covenant College Honoring the Sabbath, 2016, p. 65, 44-39**.

Scripture

See Sexuality

See Bible Translation

Sexuality, Homosexuality, Sexual Identity (See also Marriage)

1999, p. 174, 27-44, III.13. The Assembly answered Overture 22 from Westminster Presbytery by issuing a statement offering pastoral advice to Sessions and congregations regarding how to respond within the church to homosexuality, which included the encouragement to "study the Scriptures, to pray for God's mercy and truth to triumph in the lives of people involved in or affected by homosexuality." The Assembly also referred to the statement of the 5th GA affirming the sinfulness of homosexuality and the impropriety of a practicing homosexual being a member or ordinand in the PCA, and calling on churches to seek to lead homosexuals to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (see **1977, p. 67-68**).

2009, p. 255, 37-43. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 18 from Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery, which requested that the

Assembly make a declaration regarding homosexuals in the military, on the grounds that the proposal failed to meet the standard of *WCF* 31.4 since the case is not extraordinary and no civil magistrate has required such advice (see **2009, p. 283, 37-43, III.12**).

2010, p. 296, 38-45. In response to three overtures (Overture 17 from South Texas Presbytery (**2010, p. 299, 38-45, III.11**), Overture 22 from Savannah River Presbytery (**2010, p. 311, 38-45, III.15**), and Overture 12 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery (**2010, p. 316, 38-45, III.18**)) and Recommendations 9 and 12 (**2010, p. 299 & 304, 38-45, III.9 & 12**), the Assembly approved the request of the Presbyterian and Reformed Joint Commission on Chaplains and Military Personnel to direct the Stated Clerk to humbly petition with a letter The Secretary of Defense, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and certain other military and civilian leaders, including the President of the United States, “for the protection and meaningful continuance of the free exercise of religion within the Armed Forces of the United States” (see **2010, p. 319, 38-45, III.19**).

2018, p. 32, 46-29. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 29 from Pittsburgh Presbytery to form a study committee dedicated to studying the report of the RPCNA report on sexual orientation, on the grounds that, among other things, it seemed inappropriate to erect a study committee and then confine their attention only to the RPCNA Report (see **2018, p. 45, 46-29, IV.29**).

2018, p. 500. See **SJC Case 2016-11**.

Social Security

2017, p. 48, 45-41. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 17 from Pacific Northwest Presbytery for an Assembly statement encouraging theological discussion on opting out of social security, on the grounds that information about this issue can be disseminated through denominational publications and the General Assembly ought not to determine which theological questions a presbytery should ask during an examination (see **2017, p. 52, 45-41, III.17**).

Soteriology

See Federal Vision

Westminster Standards, Exceptions to, Subscription to

See *BCO* 14, Changes to *RAO*. See also specific topics.

2001, p. 98. See **SJC Case 1999-07.**

2008, p. 75. See **SJC Case 2006-02.**

2011, p. 578. See **SJC Case 2010-04.**

2013, p. 583. See **SJC Case 2012-05.**

2013, p. 552. See **SJC Case 2011-06.**

2016, p. 499. See **SJC Case 2014-01.**

2017, p. 478. See **SJC Case 2015-13.**

2018, p. 566. See **SJC Case 2016-17.**

Women, Abuse

2001, p. 85. See **SJC Case 1999-06.**

Women, Civil Legislation Regarding

2000, p. 308, 28-72, III.21. The Assembly answered in the negative a Personal Resolution from a TE requesting that the Assembly to go on record as being opposed to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and to communicate its opposition to the President of the Senate and the Senate Majority Leader. The Assembly reasoned that the proposal failed to meet the standard of *WCF* 31.4 since the matter is not extraordinary and no civil magistrate has required such advice.

Women, Diaconal or Other Unordained Church Ministry

2008, p. 204, 36-52. In response to Overture 9 from Philadelphia Presbytery, the Assembly declined to erect a study committee on women's involvement in diaconal ministry, on the grounds that *BCO* 7-2, *BCO* 9, and especially *BCO* 9-7, provide a sufficient answer to the issues contemplated in the overture, and that presbyteries should work through

the implications in their own local contexts (see **2008, p. 205, 36-52, III.9**). A Minority Report, which sought to answer the overture in the affirmative, was defeated (see **2008, p. 207, 36-52, III.9**). Overture 15 from Western Canada Presbytery (**2008, p. 210, 36-52, III.12**), Overture 17 from Rocky Mountain Presbytery (**2008, p. 211, 36-52, III.13**), Overture 19 from Central Georgia Presbytery (**2008, p. 212, 36-52, III.14**), and Communication 2 from Northern California Presbytery (**2008, p. 213, 36-52, III.15**), were all answered in reference to the action taken on Overture 9.

2009, p. 150. See SJC Case 2007-13.

Women, Funding to Train and Support Pastors' Wives

2018, p. 67, 46-41. The Assembly answered in the affirmative as amended Overture 14 from Nashville Presbytery to recommend that PCA churches and presbyteries budget to provide an intentional ministry of support, encouragement, respite, and continuing education to the wives of pastors, church planters, and missionaries, and that particular consideration be given to funding and implementing the services of Parakaleo (see **2018, p. 69, 46-41, III.6**). Overture 18 from Chesapeake Presbytery was answered in reference to action taken in Overture 14 (see **2018, p. 69, 46-41, III.7**).

Women, Holding Office in the PCA

See *BCO 24-1. 2002, p. 259, 30-53, III.10, 11.*

Women, In the Military

1999, p. 128, 27-42. The Assembly heard the report of the Ad Interim Committee on Women in the Military. After several motions failed, including motions to refer the report back to the committee and to amend one of the recommendations, the Assembly adopted a substitute motion to receive the report as information and to refer it back to the Committee for refinement. The Moderator expanded the Committee by appointing three new members. Three commissioners registered their negative votes. For the report, see **1999, p. 129, 27-42.**

2000, p. 259, 28-64. The Assembly extended the Ad Interim Committee on Women in the Military for another year. A Personal Resolution from an RE, recommending that the GA advise the PRJC

that its chaplains have denominational license to counsel women against enlisting or remaining active in combatant categories of military armed forces, was answered in the negative on the grounds that the Ad Interim Committee had not yet completed its work (see **2000, p. 309, 28-72, III.23**).

2001, p. 258, 29-57. Following the presentation of the report of the Committee on Women in the Military, the Assembly adopted eight of the eleven recommendations proposed by the Committee (**p. 277**). The three recommendations not adopted by the Assembly 1) advised women who volunteer for military service to seek supportive rather than combatant roles, 2) recommended that the Assembly go on record as opposing any conscription of women into military service, and 3) formally opposed the assignment of women to offensive combat roles. Item 3 (**p. 278**) was moved as a substitute for these three recommendations. The Assembly referred the reports to the presbyteries for study before the 30th GA and recommitted the remaining matters (the three recommendations and Item 3) back to the Committee.

2002, p. 283, 30-57. The 30th GA adopted as pastoral counsel four recommendations brought by the Committee on Women in the Military to oppose any policy that would put women of child-bearing potential in harm's way, and condemn the use of women as military combatants or the conscription of women into the armed forces (**p. 285**). A Minority Report, presented as a substitute motion, failed. Seventy-seven commissioners recorded their negative votes on the motion to adopt the Committee's recommendations.

2002, p. 290, 30-60. The Assembly declined to direct the Stated Clerk to send the report of the Committee on Women in the Military to the President of the United States.

2003, p. 168, 31-57. In answer to Overture 1 from Potomac Presbytery asking the Assembly to clarify the 30th GA's statement on women in the military and the implications for church discipline or ordination commitments, the Assembly answered that, "Nothing done by the previous General Assembly compels any court of original jurisdiction to exercise discipline on issues pertaining to the report on the Ad Interim Committee on Women In Military" (see **2003, p. 195, 31-57, III.9**). Overture 3 from Chesapeake Presbytery was answered by reference to the Assembly's action on Overture 1.

2006, p. 68, 34-14. Adopting a recommendation of the Interchurch Relations Committee and in keeping with the statement adopted by the 30th GA in 2002, the Assembly agreed with the statement of NAPARC which affirmed that, “The Word of God gives no warrant expressed or implied that women are to be conscripted into or employed for military combat roles but rather they are to be defended by men and kept from harm’s way that they may fulfill their biblical calling and duties under God” (see **2006, p. 69, 34-14, III.4**).

Women, Ordination to Church Office (See also *BCO 18-21*)

2009, p. 176. See *SJC Case 2008-01*.

2010, p. 235. See *SJC Case 2009-07*.

2014, p. 528. See *SJC Case 2011-14*.

Women, Study Committee on Women Serving in the Church

2016, p. 51, 44-38. The Assembly answered in the affirmative the Administrative Committee’s recommendation to form a study committee on the issue of women serving in the ministry of the church (*RAO 9-1; 9-3*), giving particular attention to the issues including “the biblical basis, theology, history, nature, and authority of ordination” and “clarification on the ordination or commissioning of deacons/deaconesses.” A point of order that the Recommendation was not properly before the Assembly was not well taken, an action to which 173 commissioners registered their disagreement. A substitute motion to answer the Recommendation in the negative was defeated before the Assembly answered the Recommendation in the affirmative (see **2016, p. 58, 44-38, III.3**). A Protest was filed and signed by 28 commissioners (**2016, p. 69, 44-43**).

2017, p. 27, 45-19. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 3 from Westminster Presbytery to declare that the 44th GA erred in the formation of an Ad Interim Committee on the Role of Women as not being properly before the court, and to dismiss the committee with apology (see **2017, p. 638, App. W, V.1**).

2017, p. 29, 45-19. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Ad Interim Committee on the Role of Women that sessions, presbyteries, and the General Assembly recognize that, from the founding of the PCA,

there have been a variety of views and practices regarding the ways in which women may serve the Lord and the church within scriptural and constitutional parameters, without ordination (see **2017, p. 638, App. W, V.2**). A proposed amendment to this recommendation was defeated (**p. 29**).

2017, p. 29, 45-19. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Ad Interim Committee on the Role of Women that sessions, presbyteries, and the General Assembly strive to develop, recognize, and utilize the gifts, skills, knowledge, and wisdom of godly women in the local, regional, and national church, and particularly consider overtures that would allow qualified women to serve on appropriate committees and agencies within the church (see **2017, p. 639, App. W, V.3**). Two proposed amendments to this recommendation were defeated (**p. 29**).

2017, p. 31, 45-19. The Assembly adopted as amended the recommendation of the Ad Interim Committee on the Role of Women that sessions, if possible, establish a diaconate of qualified ordained men (see **2017, p. 639, App. W, V.4**).

2017, p. 32, 45-19. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Ad Interim Committee on the Role of Women that sessions consider how to include non-ordained men and women in the worship of the church so as to maintain faithfulness to Scripture, as well as utilizing the gifts God has poured out on his entire church (see **2017, p. 640, App. W, V.5**). A substitute motion and a proposed amendment to this recommendation were both defeated (**p. 31-32**).

2017, p. 32, 45-19. The Assembly adopted as amended the recommendation of the Ad Interim Committee on the Role of Women that sessions and presbyteries select and appoint godly women and men of the congregation to assist the ordained diaconate (see **2017, p. 641, App. W, V.6**). Two proposed amendments to this recommendation were adopted (**p. 32**).

2017, p. 32, 45-19. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Ad Interim Committee on the Role of Women that presbyteries and the General Assembly consider an overture that would establish formally the right of sessions, presbyteries, and the General Assembly to establish the position of commissioned church worker within the PCA for qualified and gifted unordained men and women (see **2017, p. 642, App. W, V.7**).

2017, p. 33, 45-19. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the Ad Interim Committee on the Role of Women that sessions, presbyteries, and the General Assembly consider how they can affirm and include underprivileged and underrepresented women in the PCA (see **2017, p. 643, App. W, V.8**).

Women, Teaching in Public Ministry Context

1999, p. 118, 27-31, Supplemental III.2. The Assembly directed the MNA Permanent Committee to study the issue of women speaking and teaching in public, and to present clear guidelines to the 28th GA of their application of I Timothy 2:11-12 and other Scriptures when selecting women for such ministry.

2000, p. 101, 28-31, III.9. The Assembly adopted the recommendation of the MNA Permanent Committee to approve its response to Assembly's direction at the 27th GA to study the issue of women speaking and teaching in public. The Committee clarified that its response was "limited to the issue of choosing women for speaking and teaching in seminars, conferences and worship services conducted under the auspices of MNA." As to worship, the recommendation affirmed that "the Scriptures, as interpreted by the subordinate standards, give sufficient standards for the ordering of public worship" and that "the preaching of the Word is conducted by elders." Recognizing that the issue is one of authority, the recommendation posited that speaking and teaching done in contexts other than worship, such as seminars, "is not intended to carry the weight to which the description 'teach or have authority over' (I Timothy 2:11-12) would apply." An amendment to the recommendation was defeated. Sixteen commissioners registered their affirmative vote on the defeated amendment. Twenty commissioners registered their negative votes on the adoption of Recommendation 9.

See above also **The Session (BCO 12), Preaching in Worship, Qualified Men Only (BCO 12-5.d)**, 2000, p. 281, 28-72, III.4; 2001, p. 49, 29-12, Item 1.

Women, Teaching or Preaching in Worship

1999, p. 170, 27-44, III.10. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 16 from Western Carolina Presbytery, declining to advise

Sessions and Presbyteries not to allow women to preach or teach the Scriptures at worship services, on the ground that such violations of I Timothy 2:12 and the Standards “should first be addressed by the lower courts.” 144 commissioners recorded their affirmative votes on a substitute motion that Overture 16 be answered in the affirmative. See also Protests 3 and 4, **1999, p. 211-212, 27-57.**

2001, p. 222, 29-44, III.17. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 25 from Grace Presbytery, declining to affirm “that a woman may not preach or teach in the corporate worship of any church or in the corporate worship conducted by any church court or by any committee, board, and/or agency of a church court,” on the ground that “our constitution addresses the issues sufficiently (*BCO 7-2*), and we do not believe our Assembly should by majority vote make a statement defining constitutional principles.”

2001, p. 70. See **SJC Case 1999-01.**

See above also **The Session (*BCO 12*) above, Preaching in Worship, Qualified Men Only (*BCO 12-5.e*), 2001, p. 223, 29-44, III.18; 2002, p. 71, 30-10, Item 6.**

Worship

2017, p. 33, 45-29. The Assembly adopted as amended a substitute motion adding an exception of substance to the minutes of Northwest Georgia Presbytery regarding a “Worship Guide” which included an apparent representation of the second person of the Trinity and which was distributed to worshipers (see **2017, p. 404, App. Q, VI.52**; for the Minority Report, see **2017, p. 431, App. Q**).

V. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PCA WITH OTHER BODIES

**This section arranged alphabetically according to
Type or Name of Ecclesiastical Body or Issue.
"Denominations" is subdivided by Specific
Denominations.**

Church Union, with NAPARC Denominations

2003, p. 71, 31-26. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 25 from Philadelphia Presbytery, directing the Stated Clerk to “communicate to the General Assemblies and General Synods of the constituent NAPARC Churches that the PCA is desirous of entering into conversations with each of them with a view toward Church union.” The Interchurch Relations Committee was directed “to initiate conversations with equivalent NAPARC Churches’ committees with a view toward Church union” (see **2003, p. 73, 31-26, III.4**). Overture 24 from Ascension Presbytery was answered by reference to Overture 25 (see **2003, p. 75**).

2004, p. 54, 32-19. The Interchurch Relations Committee reported that all but one of the NAPARC denominations offered their opinions that they were not prepared to enter into discussions with the PCA about possible organic union at this time. They were not unwilling to discuss union, but the representatives of these denominations had not been empowered by their denominations to enter into such discussions (see **2004, p. 384, App. G, Item 1**).

2003, p. 71, 31-26. The Assembly instructed its Interchurch Relations Committee to bring to the 32nd GA a statement on church union “from a PCA perspective, including a definition of ‘organic’ union” (see **2003, p. 76, 31-26, III.5**).

2004, p. 53, 32-19. The Assembly adopted the NAPARC approved statement that “Organic union is defined as two or more NAPARC churches joining their diverse gifts, heritage and calling on the basis of scriptural mandate (Ephesians 4:1-16; Acts 15:1-16:5; John 17; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31) to form one church by uniting together in theology, polity and ministry. This would require the eventual integration of church courts and administrative and legal structures” (see **2004, p. 55, 32-19, III.5**).

Denominations, Bible Presbyterian Church (BPC)

2000, p. 266, 28-67, III.11. The Assembly, responding to a communication from the General Synod of the Bible Presbyterian Church, sent the BPC a copy of the PCA's "An Address to All Churches," together with a communication reminding them that the PCA was formed as a result of "long years of struggle and heartache on the part of many of us to return the Church to purity of faith and practice." The BPC had passed a resolution criticizing a press release issued by the 27th GA which referred to the PCA's "cordial relationship" with the PC(USA) but did not mention what the BPC called the "blatant apostasy" in that group (see also **2000, p. 253, 28-57, III.11**).

Denominations, Canadian and American Reformed Churches

2008, p. 60, 36-16. The Assembly approved the admission of the Canadian and American Reformed Churches into the membership of NAPARC (see **2008, p. 61, 36-16, III.3**).

Denominations, Christian Reformed Church (CRC)

2000, p. 62, 28-14. On motion, the Assembly "authorized the Interchurch Relations Committee to move the expulsion of the CRC from NAPARC if the CRC does not rescind its position on the ordination of women" (see **2000, p. 510, App. H, III.B**).

2002, p. 85, 30-18. The Assembly approved the termination of the Christian Reformed Church's membership in NAPARC, on the grounds that the CRC had not reversed, but reaffirmed and approved, the ordination of women to the offices of RE and minister; and that the CRC had acted contrary to the word of God, the *Belgic Confession*, and the NAPARC Constitution (see **2002, p. 86, 30-18, III.4**).

Denominations, Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)

2000, p. 63, 28-14, III.5. The Assembly answered Overture 8 from Illiana Presbytery, which took issue with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church receiving a PCA TE under discipline, by adopting a response decrying the action of the EPC and directing the Stated Clerk and chairman of the Interchurch Relations Committee to meet with their EPC counterparts to "find a way to respect each other's judicial processes. . .for the reputation of Christ and the peace of His Church. . . ." See **SJC Case 1998-09**.

Denominations, Free Reformed Churches of North America

2006, p. 68, 34-14. The Assembly approved the admission of the Free Reformed Churches of North America into the membership of NAPARC (see **2006, p. 69, 34-14, III.3**).

Denominations, Heritage Reformed Congregations

2007, p. 63, 35-14. The Assembly approved the admission of the Heritage Reformed Congregations into the membership of NAPARC (see **2007, p. 64, 35-14, III.4**).

Denominations, Korean Presbyterian Churches, Coalition of

1999, p. 64, 27-16, III.2. The Assembly referred to the MNA Permanent Committee the matter of the Coalition of Korean Presbyterian Churches of the PCA seeking recognition to bring greetings to the PCA General Assembly, instructing MNA to clarify the relationship of the Coalition of Korean Presbyterian Churches to the General Assembly and to report its findings to the 28th GA.

2000, p. 101, 28-31, III.8. The Assembly adopted the recommended response of the MNA Permanent Committee that, since the Coalition is not a court of the church, it was encouraged “to bring to the MNA Permanent Committee, through MNA’s Korean Ministries, any desires the coalition may have for communications with the General Assembly.”

Denominations, L’Église réformée du Québec (Reformed Church of Quebec)

2003, p. 71, 31-26. The Assembly voted to approve L’Église réformée du Québec for membership in NAPARC (see **2003, p. 72, 31-26, III.3**).

2004, p. 53, 32-19. The Assembly voted to enter into fraternal relations with L’Église réformée du Québec (see **2004, p. 55, 32-19, III.3**).

See also **2007, p. 64, 35-14, III.3**.

Denominations, Orthodox Presbyterian Church

2003, p. 135, 31-43. The Assembly authorized the Stated Clerk to confer with the Stated Clerk of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church to produce and publish a “mutually agreeable” edition of the Westminster Standards,

using the proof texts prepared by the OPC, if the way be clear (see **2003, p. 144, 31-43, III.16**).

2004, p. 47, 32-13. The Assembly received a Communication from the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, granting to the PCA permission to use, with proper attributions, its edition of the Westminster Confession of Faith with the proof texts approved by OPC Assemblies (see **2004, p. 51, Communication 3**)

Denominations, Presbyterian Reformed Church

2008, p. 60, 36-16. The Assembly approved the admission of the Presbyterian Reformed Church into the membership of NAPARC (see **2008, p. 61, 36-16, III.4**).

Denominations, United Reformed Churches of North America

2002, p. 85, 30-18. The Assembly approved entering into corresponding relations with the United Reformed Churches of North America (see **2002, p. 86, 30-18, III.3**).

2004, p. 53, 32-19. The Assembly directed the Interchurch Relations Committee, in response to a Communication from the United Reformed Churches of North America (**p. 54**), to review the issue of entering into fraternal relations the URCNA, pending the URCNA's determination to seek membership in, and reception by the membership of NAPARC (see **2004, p. 55, 32-19, III.4**).

2005, p. 61, 32-12. The Assembly approved the admission of the URCNA into the membership of NAPARC and voted to enter into fraternal relations with the URCNA (see **2005, p. 63, 32-12, III.3 and 4**).

Interchurch Relations, Levels of Ecclesiastical Relationship

2000, p. 63, 28-14, III.3. The Assembly established and described two levels of relations with other denominations: fraternal relations and corresponding relations.

NAE (National Association of Evangelicals), NAE Bylaws

2000, p. 63, 28-14, III.4. The Assembly instructed the Interchurch Relations Committee to inform the NAE that the PCA strongly

disapproves of the change in NAE Bylaw B-7, and to ask that the change be rescinded. The amendment allowed evangelical denominations to hold dual membership in the NAE and the National Council of Churches, provided the evangelical denominations affirm the NAE doctrinal statement (see **2000, p. 512, Appendix H, IV.C**).

NAE (National Association of Evangelicals), PCA Participation in 2011, p. 21, 39-15, III.5. The Assembly received Overture 12 from Central Carolina Presbytery to withdraw from the National Association of Evangelicals, and directed the Interchurch Relations Permanent Committee to study the PCA's participation in the NAE and report back to the 40th GA (see **2011, p. 629, App. V**).

2012, p. 18, 40-12. The Assembly answered in the negative Overture 2011-12 from Central Carolina Presbytery, and directed the Permanent Committee on Interchurch Relations to be alert for and report to the General Assembly any action or position taken by the NAE (see **2012, p. 22, 40-15, III.3** and **2012, p. 354, App. N**).

2013, p. 25, 41-23. The Assembly took exception to the Permanent Committee on Interchurch Relations too narrowly construing the directive of the 40th GA by limiting their reporting to the GA only "to any position, or action adopted by the Board of Directors of the National Association of Evangelicals or also implemented by the present staff of the NAE that is contrary to the specific actions of the General Assembly of the PCA," rather than being "alert for and report to the General Assembly any action or position taken of the NAE" (see **2013, p. 25, 41-23, III.6** and **2013, p. 18, 41-17**).

NAPARC (North American Presbyterian and Reformed Council), Concurrent Assemblies with NAPARC Denominations

1999, p. 64, 27-16, III.3. The Assembly answered in the affirmative Overture 8 from Philadelphia Presbytery, thereby directing the Interchurch Relations Committee "to explore the possibility of . . . a general assembly or general national synod that could meet with the NAPARC denominations and/or other churches committed to the Westminster Standards or the Three Forms of Unity every third, fourth, or even fifth year as a step in the direction of a living testimony to the unity of the true church of our Lord Jesus Christ, speaking the truth in love."

See also **Church Union, with NAPARC Denominations**, above.

**Parachurch Agencies, Criteria for General Assembly Endorsement
(BCO 14)**

2003, p. 78, 31-29. The Assembly adopted Mission to North America's recommendation that, through a PCA Permanent Committee, the PCA may endorse agencies based on eight stated criteria (see **2003, p. 80, 31-29, III.6**). The only agency so endorsed as of 2003 was Bethany Christian Services.