

53rd PCA General Assembly Overtures

Public Grouping and Conflict-Risk Report

A guide to overtures that should be read together because they amend related provisions, assume competing polity principles, or could create internal tension if handled separately.

Prepared for public reading and committee awareness

Date: May 9, 2026

Source base: All Overtures as of May 1, 2026 with TOC; PCA 53rd General Assembly 2026 Overtures Preview; PCA Book of Church Order 2025; prior analytical summaries supplied by Tom Kelley and SempRef.

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How to Use This Report

This report is designed to help readers see related overtures together before they become isolated floor actions. Its purpose is not to decide the merits of any overture, but to identify where the Assembly should avoid piecemeal action.

The report focuses on overtures that directly affect the Book of Church Order (BCO), the Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO), worship practice, or the practical operation of church courts. It intentionally omits presbytery-boundary overtures, ad interim committee overtures, and declarations or special prayers unless they materially relate to BCO, RAO, or worship action.

A note on “constitutional crisis”: in this report, the phrase does not mean that the General Assembly is necessarily in crisis. It means that parallel amendments could create internal inconsistency, duplicated provisions, incompatible assumptions, or confusing ratification instructions if they are sent down separately.

The amendment process matters. BCO amendments approved by the first General Assembly vote are recommended to the Presbyteries; they require the advice and consent of two-thirds of the Presbyteries; then they require approval and enactment by a subsequent General Assembly. That process makes it especially important not to send contradictory amendments to the Presbyteries in parallel. (PCA BCO 26-2, PCA BCO 2025, PDF p. 99.)

Common committee tools for related overtures

- Present related overtures in one workstream so commissioners understand the whole issue before voting.
- Identify a controlling overture and answer similar overtures by reference.
- Recommend a substitute or perfected version that reconciles overlapping proposals.
- Answer an overture in the negative when it cannot be reconciled with the controlling recommendation.
- Delay subordinate recommendations until the Assembly has decided the controlling principle.
- Use explanatory notes so the floor understands when one recommendation makes another unnecessary, duplicative, or inconsistent.

Executive Summary

The 2026 overture packet contains several clusters that should not be handled as unrelated items. The central task is not mere topic sorting. It is constitutional coherence: the Assembly should not unintentionally approve competing amendments to the same constitutional framework.

Highest-priority groupings

G3 — Offices, Titles, Unordained Service, Commissioning, the Diaconate, and Women’s Roles — Priority: Critical

BCO 7, 8, 9, 17A (proposed), and BCO 5-9.e; the boundaries between ordained office, non-ordained service, diaconal ministry, women’s service, and invented ecclesiastical offices.

G11 — Judicial Process, Appeals, Complaints, References, Objections, and Records of the Case — Priority: Critical

BCO 31, 32, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, and proposed 44; judicial and remedial process.

G7 — Floor Nominations, Nominating Committee Process, and Proportionate Presbytery Representation — Priority: High

RAO 8-4.i; floor nominations, deadlines, presbytery-nomination requirements, and representation.

G9 — Review of Presbytery Records: Reporting, Minority Reports, and Debate Restrictions — Priority: High

RAO 16; RPR reporting, RPR minority reports, and RPR members' participation in debate.

G10 — Committee/Agency Governance, Coordinator/Stated Clerk Elections, and Electronic Meetings — Priority: High

RAO 4-9, 4-21, and 14-3; coordinator and Stated Clerk elections/terms, committee manuals, agency reporting, and electronic meetings.

G1 — Consent of the Governed, Pastoral Authority, and Assistant/Associate Pastoral Relations — Priority: High

BCO 5, 12, 13, 22, 23, and 25; consent of governed and who may call, retain, or submit to pastoral authority.

G2 — Mission Churches, Assisted Churches, and Churches Without a Governing Body — Priority: High

BCO 5 and the constitutional status, rights, governance, and pastoral/diaconal administration of mission or otherwise dependent churches.

G4 — Lord's Supper Administration, Distribution of the Elements, and GA Worship — Priority: High

BCO 58-5 and RAO 1-1; who distributes/serves the elements and what elements must be available at General Assembly.

Bottom line

The Committee should first resolve the controlling principles in the highest-risk clusters, especially the diaconate/offices cluster, judicial-process cluster, floor-nominations cluster, RPR-process cluster, and committee/agency-governance cluster. Where amendments conflict, the Committee should avoid sending multiple inconsistent texts to the Presbyteries.

Recommended Order of Consideration

This order is not a proposed docket. It is an analytical sequence for avoiding conflicts while the Committee works.

1. Gating structure and map issues

Consider BCO restructuring, renumbering, and BCO 21 restructuring early enough that other amendments do not refer to obsolete sections. Key overtures include 23, 25, 12, 21, 22, 24, and 84.

2. Offices, titles, commissioning, and the diaconate

Address the largest theological/polity collision before subordinate wording choices. Key overtures include 14, 34, 36, 37, 38, 48, 52, 71, and 74.

3. Consent of the governed and dependent-church governance

Handle pastoral authority, assistant-pastor rules, mission churches, assisted churches, and churches without governing bodies in relation to one another. Key overtures include 1, 2, 17, 18, 19, 20, 39, 51, 55, 71, and 82.

4. Worship and Lord’s Supper administration

Resolve who may distribute/serve the elements under BCO 58-5 before treating any GA-specific worship element requirement. Key overtures include 31, 60, and 81.

5. Judicial process and discipline-adjacent matters

Map all filing deadlines, remedies, records, appeals, complaints/inquiries, references, and objections together. Key overtures include 3, 15, 16, 28, 29, 35, 54, 56, 65, 67, 69, 75, 85, and 86, with 46 and 59 as adjacent matters.

6. RAO process and agency governance

Handle floor nominations, omnibus/in-gross process, RPR reporting, committee/agency governance, electronic meetings, and coordinator/Stated Clerk election reforms as related RAO process reforms.

Master Grouping Matrix

Group	Priority	Overtures	Core issue	Recommended handling
G1 — Consent of the Governed, Pastoral Authority, and Assistant/Associate Pastoral Relations	High	1, 2, 18, 39, 55, 82	BCO 5, 12, 13, 22, 23, and 25; consent of governed and who may call, retain, or submit to pastoral authority.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.
G2 — Mission Churches, Assisted Churches, and Churches Without a Governing Body	High	2, 17, 18, 19, 20, 51, 71	BCO 5 and the constitutional status, rights, governance, and pastoral/diaconal administration of mission or otherwise dependent churches.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.
G3 — Offices, Titles, Unordained Service, Commissioning, the Diaconate, and Women’s Roles	Critical	14, 34, 36, 37, 38, 48, 52, 71, 74	BCO 7, 8, 9, 17A (proposed), and BCO 5-9.e; the boundaries between ordained office, non-ordained service, diaconal ministry, women’s service, and invented ecclesiastical offices.	Do not separate; require harmonized recommendation.
G4 — Lord’s Supper Administration, Distribution of the Elements, and GA Worship	High	31, 60, 81	BCO 58-5 and RAO 1-1; who distributes/serves the elements and what elements must be available at General Assembly.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.
G5 — Ordination Standards, Examinations, and Officer Attestation	Medium-High	12, 21, 22, 24, 25, 84	BCO 13 and 21; education requirements, examination of ministers, presbytery responsibility, and officer attestation.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.
G6 — General Assembly Representation, BCO 14, Administrative Committee Membership, and Amendment Process	Medium	5, 23, 26, 49, 68, 88	BCO 14, BCO 26-2, RAO 5-1.a, and BCO formatting; General Assembly composition, Administrative Committee membership, ruling elder representation, and mechanics of constitutional amendment/publication.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.
G7 — Floor Nominations, Nominating Committee Process, and Proportionate Presbytery Representation	High	8, 9, 45, 47	RAO 8-4.i; floor nominations, deadlines, presbytery-nomination requirements, and representation.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.
G8 — Omnibus/In-Gross Procedure and Rights of Objectors	High	6, 63	RAO 14-9, 15-8, 16-7.h, and 19-4; omnibus/in-gross presentation, removal for separate debate, and recognition of objectors.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.
G9 — Review of Presbytery Records: Reporting, Minority Reports, and Debate Restrictions	High	7, 33, 53	RAO 16; RPR reporting, RPR minority reports, and RPR members’ participation in debate.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.
G10 — Committee/Agency Governance, Coordinator/Stated Clerk Elections, and Electronic	High	11, 32, 40, 41, 43, 73, 77, 78, 79	RAO 4-9, 4-21, and 14-3; coordinator and Stated Clerk elections/terms, committee manuals, agency reporting, and electronic meetings.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.

Meetings				
G11 — Judicial Process, Appeals, Complaints, References, Objections, and Records of the Case	Critical	3, 15, 16, 28, 29, 35, 54, 56, 65, 67, 69, 75, 85, 86	BCO 31, 32, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, and proposed 44; judicial and remedial process.	Do not separate; require harmonized recommendation.
G12 — Records, Clerks, Minutes, Transfers, and Congregational Meeting Records	Medium	30, 57, 58, 72	BCO 10-4, 12-8 (proposed), 13-9, 25-5, and 46-6; who keeps records and what must be recorded.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.
G13 — Public Allegations, Ninth Commandment, and Discipline-Adjacent Public Speech	Medium	46, 59	BCO 29-5 (proposed) and 38-3.a; public allegations without prior reporting, and non-punitive removal from rolls.	Hear together; if conflicting, consolidate or answer by reference.

Detailed Group Analysis

Group 1 — Consent of the Governed, Pastoral Authority, and Assistant/Associate Pastoral Relations

Priority: High. Constitutional/RAO center: BCO 5, 12, 13, 22, 23, and 25.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
1	Potomac Presbytery	Amend BCO 23-1 on Associate/Assistant Pastors Succeeding Senior Pastor	AO pp. 8-9	Same issue family or cross-reference.
2	Wisconsin Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-4 for Consent of Mission Church Members in Calling a Pastor	AO pp. 10-11	Same issue family or cross-reference.
18	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-4 to Allow a Mother Church to Call a Church Planter	AO pp. 48-49	Same issue family or cross-reference.
39	Central Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO to Affirm the Consent of the Governed for Assistant Pastors	AO pp. 105-110	Same issue family or cross-reference.
55	Southwest Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO 22-3 and 23-1 Concerning the Tenure of Assistant Pastors	AO pp. 141-143	Same issue family or cross-reference.
82	Rocky Mountain Presbytery	Amend BCO 12, 13, and to Clarify the Right of the Congregation to Give Consent to those who Exercise Authority Over Them	AO pp. 210-216	Same issue family or cross-reference.

How the overtures are related

These overtures should be read together because they address who may call, retain, submit to, or approve those who exercise pastoral authority. Some overtures focus on assistant pastors, some on associate/assistant succession, and others on the right of mission churches or congregations to consent to pastoral leadership. The shared question is whether the BCO should strengthen congregational consent, sessional/presbyterial authority, or some defined balance between them.

Why separate consideration could create problems

If separated, the Assembly could create a patchwork in which BCO 22 speaks one way about assistant pastors, BCO 23 another about succession, BCO 5 another about mission-church calls, and BCO 12/13/25 another about congregational consent. The danger is not simply duplication; it is inconsistent assumptions about whether a congregation's consent is required before pastoral authority is exercised over it.

Recommended handling

Present these overtures as one “consent of the governed and pastoral authority” workstream. Identify the controlling principle first: whether the Assembly wants to strengthen congregational consent, preserve present sessional/presbyterial mechanisms, or make targeted changes only. Then answer subordinate or overlapping overtures by reference or with conforming language.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Does the BCO need a general principle of congregational consent, or only targeted changes to assistant-pastor rules?
- Should an assistant pastor remain fundamentally a session-called position, or should congregational call/renewal be required?
- If assistant-pastor succession is eased, should tenure or congregational consent rules be strengthened at the same time?

Group 2 — Mission Churches, Assisted Churches, and Churches Without a Governing Body

Priority: High. Constitutional/RAO center: BCO 5.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
2	Wisconsin Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-4 for Consent of Mission Church Members in Calling a Pastor	AO pp. 10-11	Same issue family or cross-reference.
17	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-2 Regarding the Dissolution of Mission Churches	AO p. 47	Same issue family or cross-reference.
18	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-4 to Allow a Mother Church to Call a Church Planter	AO pp. 48-49	Same issue family or cross-reference.
19	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-8 to Include Ecclesiastical Government	AO p. 50	Same issue family or cross-reference.
20	Westminster Presbytery	Add to BCO a Section 'C. Churches Without a Governing Body'	AO pp. 51-52	Same issue family or cross-reference.
51	Mississippi Valley Presbytery	Amend BCO to add a Section on 'Assisted Churches'	AO pp. 134-135	Same issue family or cross-reference.
71	Northern California Presbytery Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-9.e, 9-2, and 9-7 to Allow Session to Directly Administer Diaconal Ministry	AO pp. 181-182	Same issue family or cross-reference.

How the overtures are related

This group concerns the constitutional status and governance of mission churches, assisted churches, churches without a governing body, and related pastoral/diaconal arrangements. Several proposals alter BCO 5 from different angles. Some emphasize member consent; others clarify dissolution, ecclesiastical status, mother-church authority, or new categories of church dependency.

Why separate consideration could create problems

Because multiple overtures would reconstruct adjacent parts of BCO 5, separate votes could create overlapping categories with unclear relationships. One overture may assume a mission church lacks one type of governing structure while another creates a different structure for that same situation. Overture 71 also links BCO 5 to diaconal administration, connecting this group to the broader diaconate/offices cluster.

Recommended handling

Work these together before presenting any BCO 5 amendment to the floor. If one overture supplies the best framework, use it as the lead overture and answer the others by reference or conform them. Do not let BCO 5 be rebuilt by unrelated floor actions.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- How many dependent-church categories should the BCO recognize?
- What rights should members of mission or assisted churches have in calling pastors and preserving membership rights?
- How does BCO 5 interact with diaconal administration under BCO 9?

Group 3 — Offices, Titles, Unordained Service, Commissioning, the Diaconate, and Women's Roles

Priority: Critical. Constitutional/RAO center: BCO 7, 8, 9, proposed BCO 17A, and BCO 5-9.e.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
14	Southwest Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO 7-3, 7-4, 9-2, and 9-7 Regarding Titles and Offices for Unordained People	AO pp. 36-41	Same issue family or cross-reference.
34	Savannah River Presbytery	Amend BCO 9-2 Regarding the Expectation of the Establishment of a Diaconate	AO pp. 92-93	Same issue family or cross-reference.
36	Catawba Valley Presbytery	Add BCO 8-11 and 9-8 Regarding the Exercise of the Duties and Authority of Elder and Deacon	AO pp. 95-96	Same issue family or cross-reference.
37	Pacific Presbytery	Amend BCO 9-3 to Allow Women to Serve as Ordained Deacons	AO pp. 97-101	Substantively conflicts with restrictive diaconate/office overtures.
38	Metro Atlanta Presbytery	Amend BCO 7-3 and add 9-8 to Allow Sessions Flexibility Regarding the Diaconate	AO pp. 102-104	Same issue family or cross-reference.
48	Northwest Georgia Presbytery	Amend BCO 7-2 and 7-3 Regarding Commissioning and Titling of Unordained Persons	AO pp. 128-129	Same issue family or cross-reference.
52	Mississippi Valley Presbytery	Add BCO 7-4 Prohibiting the Creation of Ecclesiastical Offices	AO pp. 136-137	Same issue family or cross-reference.
71	Northern California Presbytery Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-9.e, 9-2, and 9-7 to Allow Session to Directly Administer Diaconal Ministry	AO pp. 181-182	Same issue family or cross-reference.
74	Eastern Carolina Presbytery Presbytery	Add a New Chapter BCO 17A 'Of Commissioning for Non-Ordained Ministry'	AO pp. 188-190	Same issue family or cross-reference.

How the overtures are related

This is the most constitutionally volatile cluster. Overture 37 proposes allowing women to serve as ordained deacons. Several other overtures proceed in a different direction or regulate adjacent practices: titles for unordained persons, the exercise of elder/deacon authority, sessional flexibility regarding diaconal ministry, commissioning, and formal recognition of non-ordained ministry. Overture 74 would create an entire new chapter on commissioning for non-ordained ministry.

Why separate consideration could create problems

If handled separately, the Assembly could approve language that simultaneously permits, restricts, redefines, commissions, or prohibits the same functional practices. This is the clearest conflict-risk group: one proposal could authorize a role or title that another proposal forbids; one could permit women to be ordained as deacons while another uses assumptions about male-only office; one could permit direct sessional administration of diaconal ministry while another strengthens the expectation of a diaconate.

Recommended handling

Do not present these as independent, unrelated actions. The Committee should first determine the controlling polity/theological question: What offices exist in the church, who may hold them, what may unordained persons be called, and what authority may they exercise? If harmonization is impossible, the Committee should present the controlling question first, then answer inconsistent overtures in the negative, by reference, or with conforming substitute language.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Will the BCO continue to recognize only the ordained offices of elder and deacon, or create/recognize additional commissioned categories?
- What titles may be used for unordained persons serving in mercy, shepherding, or ministry roles?
- Does diaconal ministry ordinarily require an elected diaconate, or may the Session administer it directly as a normal alternative?
- How would any change to women's diaconal service affect adjacent language about office, authority, ordination, and titles?

Group 4 — Lord’s Supper Administration, Distribution of the Elements, and GA Worship

Priority: High. Constitutional/RAO center: BCO 58-5 and RAO 1-1.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
31	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 58-5 to Specify that Ruling Elders Shall Distribute the Elements	AO pp. 87-88	Amends same BCO section.
60	Calvary Presbytery	Amend BCO 58-5 to Specify that Only Men Lawfully Ordained Shall Distribute the Elements	AO pp. 153-154	Amends same BCO section.
81	Potomac Presbytery	Amend RAO 1-1 to Require Serving Wine and Grape Juice for the Lord’s Supper at General Assembly	AO pp. 208-209	Same issue family or cross-reference.

How the overtures are related

Overtures 31 and 60 both amend BCO 58-5 and both address who may distribute or serve the Lord’s Supper elements. Overture 31 points specifically to ruling elders assisting the minister, apart from extraordinary circumstances. Overture 60 uses the broader category of lawfully ordained men as elders or deacons, with a deacon qualification when insufficient elders are present. Overture 81 concerns the elements served at General Assembly worship by amending RAO 1-1.

Why separate consideration could create problems

The principal textual risk is that Overtures 31 and 60 amend the same BCO provision with different standards. One may exclude deacons from the ordinary distribution of elements; the other may permit ordained deacons under defined conditions. This group also touches the diaconate/offices cluster: if the Assembly changes who may serve as deacon, that affects how the Assembly understands “ordained” assistance in sacramental administration.

Recommended handling

Hear Overtures 31 and 60 together. Decide the controlling rule for BCO 58-5 before considering any GA-specific worship practice under RAO 1-1. If Overture 81 proceeds separately, identify that it governs GA practice and does not by itself resolve who may assist in distribution under BCO 58-5.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Should BCO 58-5 name ruling elders specifically, or ordained officers more broadly?
- Should ordained deacons be permitted to assist in distribution under any circumstances?
- Should GA worship requirements be governed in RAO while local worship rules remain in BCO 58?

Group 5 — Ordination Standards, Examinations, and Officer Attestation

Priority: Medium-High. Constitutional/RAO center: BCO 13, 15, and 21.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
12	Chesapeake Presbytery	Amend BCO 21-4.a to Allow Alternatives to a Bachelor’s Degree for Ordination	AO pp. 33-34	Same issue family or cross-reference.
21	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 13-6 to Clarify Exams for Ministers from Another Denomination	AO pp. 53-54	Same issue family or cross-reference.
22	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 13-8 to Apply Only to Churches from Outside the PCA	AO pp. 55-56	Same issue family or cross-reference.
24	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 15-2 to Clarify that Presbytery Itself Must Conduct Ordination Exams	AO pp. 68-69	Same issue family or cross-reference.

25	Westminster Presbytery	Restructure and Amend BCO 21-1 through 21-4 for Clarity, Consistency, and Ease of Reference	AO pp. 70-79	Same issue family or cross-reference.
84	Northwest Georgia Presbytery	Amend BCO and to Require Annual Attestation of Officer's Views	AO pp. 218-220	Same issue family or cross-reference.

How the overtures are related

These overtures concern qualifications, education alternatives, transfer examinations, who conducts ordination examinations, restructuring of the ordination chapter, and annual attestation of officers' views. Overture 25 is especially important because it restructures and renumbers BCO 21. That creates a practical sequencing issue for any overture that amends current BCO 21 numbering.

Why separate consideration could create problems

The committee should avoid sending down amendments that refer to section numbers that another overture renumbers or restructures. For example, an overture that amends current BCO 21-4.a should be considered in light of any overture that would move, rename, or restructure that provision. This is a "map before directions" problem: the Assembly should decide the structure before editing cross-referenced provisions.

Recommended handling

Treat restructuring/renumbering proposals as gating items for BCO 21-related amendments. If the restructuring overture advances, adjust or answer by reference any overtures that amend sections affected by renumbering. Preserve the substantive examination and attestation questions, but do not let them rely on obsolete section references.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Should BCO 21 be restructured before other BCO 21 amendments are considered?
- What minimum education or examination standards must be preserved for ordination?
- Should annual attestation of views be handled as a constitutional requirement or through existing presbytery processes?

Group 6 — General Assembly Representation, BCO 14, Administrative Committee Membership, and Amendment Process

Priority: Medium. Constitutional/RAO center: BCO 14, BCO 26-2, RAO 5-1.a, and BCO formatting.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
5	Pacific Northwest Presbytery	Amend RAO 5-1.a to Stipulate that AC Members Elected by GA Must Be from Different Presbyteries	AO pp. 17-18	Same issue family or cross-reference.
23	Westminster Presbytery	Restructure and Renumber BCO for Clarity and Ease of Reference	AO pp. 57-67	Same issue family or cross-reference.
26	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 26-2 to Only Count Presbyteries Who Submit Votes	AO p. 80	Same issue family or cross-reference.
49	Northwest Georgia Presbytery	Amend BCO 13-1 and 14-2 to Increase Ruling Elder Representation at Presbytery and GA	AO pp. 130-131	Same issue family or cross-reference.
68	Catawba Valley Presbytery	Amend BCO 14-1 to Make AC Members Appointed by Committees and Agencies Nonvoting Members	AO pp. 175-176	Same issue family or cross-reference.
88	Siouxlands Presbytery	Instruct the AC to Format the BCO for Ease of Printing	AO p. 230	Same issue family or cross-reference.

How the overtures are related

This group concerns General Assembly composition, Administrative Committee membership, ruling elder representation, the mechanics of constitutional amendment consent, and publication/formatting of the BCO. The overtures do not all amend the same section, but they share a representation-and-process theme.

Why separate consideration could create problems

The main risk is cumulative procedural reform without a clear theory of representation. One overture may increase ruling elder participation; another may change who counts in constitutional-amendment returns; another may alter Administrative Committee composition. Taken together, these affect how the denomination's courts and committees represent presbyteries and ruling elders.

Recommended handling

Hear these in one process-governance workstream. They may not require one consolidated recommendation, but the Committee should identify how changes to representation, AC membership, and amendment returns interact.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Should ruling elder representation be increased constitutionally or by administrative encouragement?
- Should only presbyteries that submit votes be counted in BCO amendment calculations?
- Do BCO formatting and numbering proposals need to precede other BCO amendments?

Group 7 — Floor Nominations, Nominating Committee Process, and Proportionate Presbytery Representation

Priority: High. Constitutional/RAO center: RAO 8-4.i.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
8	Pacific Northwest Presbytery	Amend RAO 8-4.i to Set the Deadline for Floor Nominations Hours Earlier	AO pp. 27-28	Same issue family or cross-reference.
9	Hills and Plains Presbytery	Amend RAO 8-4.i to Highlight Proportionate Representation of Presbyteries by Floor Nominations	AO pp. 29-30	Same issue family or cross-reference.
45	Covenant Presbytery	Amend RAO 8-4.i to Require that Floor Nominations for Committees and Agencies Come from Previously Submitted Presbytery Nominees	AO pp. 121-123	Parallel or near-duplicate proposal.
47	Suncoast Florida Presbytery	Amend RAO 8-4.i to Require that Floor Nominations for Committees and Agencies Come from Previously Submitted Presbytery Nominees	AO pp. 126-127	Parallel or near-duplicate proposal.

How the overtures are related

These overtures all address floor nominations. Overture 8 moves the deadline earlier. Overture 9 requires attention to proportionate presbytery representation. Overtures 45 and 47 are parallel or near-duplicate proposals requiring floor nominations for committees and agencies to come from previously submitted presbytery nominees.

Why separate consideration could create problems

If treated separately, the Assembly could adopt a rule that moves deadlines earlier, another that requires representational explanation, and another that restricts eligible floor nominees, without clearly explaining how all three operate together. The practical danger is not constitutional contradiction alone; it is a nomination process that becomes confusing or effectively unavailable to commissioners.

Recommended handling

Present these together. If Overtures 45 and 47 are substantially duplicative, one should be the lead item and the other answered by reference. If the Assembly adopts an earlier deadline, conform any representational-explanation requirement to that deadline.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Should floor nominations remain a broad floor right, or be limited to persons already nominated through presbyteries?
- How should the Assembly weigh proportional representation of presbyteries?
- Is the proposed deadline early enough for order and late enough to permit informed commissioner action?

Group 8 — Omnibus/In-Gross Procedure and Rights of Objectors

Priority: High. Constitutional/RAO center: RAO 14-9, 15-8, 16-7.h, and 19-4.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
6	Pacific Northwest Presbytery	Amend RAO 14-9, 15-8, and add 16-7.h to Require Commissioners to Remove from an Omnibus	AO pp. 19-22	Same issue family or cross-reference.
63	South Texas Presbytery	Amend RAO 19-4 to Establish Preference in Recognition for an Objector to an In Gross Motion	AO pp. 162-163	Same issue family or cross-reference.

How the overtures are related

Overture 6 changes thresholds and procedures for removing items from omnibus or in-gross handling. Overture 63 establishes a recognition preference for an objector to an in-gross motion. Both concern how routine or bundled business may be separated for debate and how objecting commissioners are treated on the floor.

Why separate consideration could create problems

Separate action could produce a process in which one rule makes removal from omnibus/in-gross more difficult while another gives objectors floor preference after the threshold has already been raised. These are not necessarily contradictory, but they are tightly related: the right to object is affected by the threshold needed to make the objection effective.

Recommended handling

Hear together and explain the whole process in one place: how an item is placed in omnibus or in gross; who may object; what threshold applies; and whether the objector receives recognition.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- What threshold best balances efficiency and the right of commissioners to debate?
- Should an objector have preference in recognition?
- Does a higher removal threshold require stronger floor-protection language?

Group 9 — Review of Presbytery Records: Reporting, Minority Reports, and Debate Restrictions

Priority: High. Constitutional/RAO center: RAO 16 and RPR process.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
7	Pacific Northwest Presbytery	Amend RAO Regarding RPR's Reporting on Presbytery Records	AO pp. 23-26	Same RAO article / same committee report process.
33	Westminster Presbytery	Amend RAO 16-7.h Regarding Minority Reports from RPR	AO pp. 90-91	Same RAO article / same committee report process.
53	Great Lakes Presbytery	Amend RAO to Prohibit Members of RPR from Participating in GA Debate on the RPR Report	AO p. 138	Same RAO article / same committee report process.

How the overtures are related

These overtures address how RPR reports are handled: what RPR reports to the Assembly, whether minority reports are permitted, and whether RPR committee members may participate in debate on the RPR report.

Why separate consideration could create problems

RPR is already procedurally complex. If one overture changes reporting or first-response handling, another changes minority-report availability, and another restricts participation in debate, the Assembly needs a single explanation of the revised RPR ecosystem. Otherwise commissioners may not know whether a particular issue is being decided by committee, report, minority report, or floor debate.

Recommended handling

Present these together as an RPR process package. The Committee should clearly distinguish efficiency reforms from deliberative-rights restrictions.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Should RPR handle more matters without full floor debate?
- Should minority reports remain available under the proposed reporting structure?
- Should members of RPR be restricted from participating in debate on the RPR report?

Group 10 – Committee/Agency Governance, Coordinator/Stated Clerk Elections, and Electronic Meetings

Priority: High. Constitutional/RAO center: RAO 4-9, 4-21, and 14-3.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
11	Ohio Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-21.d to Require Assessment Data from MNA	AO p. 32	Same issue family or cross-reference.
32	Westminster Presbytery	Amend RAO 14-3 for the Review of Committee and Agency Standing Rules and Manuals	AO p. 89	Same issue family or cross-reference.
40	Savannah River Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-9 to Set Calendar Year Terms for Stated Clerk and Coordinators	AO pp. 111-112	Same RAO 4-9 office election/term system.
41	Savannah River Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-9 to Require 2/3 Majority to Elect Stated Clerk and Coordinators	AO pp. 113-114	Same RAO 4-9 office election/term system.
43	Pacific Northwest Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-9 so that Coordinators of Committees are Elected to 4-year Terms	AO pp. 117-118	Same RAO 4-9 office election/term system.
73	TE Cody Hooper Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-9 to Require 2/3 Majority to Elect Stated Clerk and Coordinators after 3 Consecutive Years of Service	AO pp. 185-187	Same RAO 4-9 office election/term system.
77	Southeast Alabama Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-9 so that Coordinators and the Stated Clerk are Elected to 4-year Terms	AO pp. 196-197	Same RAO 4-9 office election/term system.
78	Southeast Alabama Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-21 to Authorize Electronic Meetings for GA Committees and Commissions	AO pp. 198-199	Parallel or near-duplicate proposal.
79	Calvary Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-21 to Authorize Electronic Meetings for GA Committees and Commissions	AO pp. 200-201	Parallel or near-duplicate proposal.

How the overtures are related

This group includes proposals on MNA assessment reporting, review of committee/agency manuals, coordinator and Stated Clerk election terms and vote thresholds, and electronic meetings. Several overtures amend RAO 4-9, and two are parallel proposals on electronic meetings under RAO 4-21.

Why separate consideration could create problems

The highest risk is multiple inconsistent amendments to RAO 4-9. The Assembly could adopt different term lengths, different supermajority rules, or overlapping election standards for the same offices. Electronic-meeting proposals should also be coordinated so the RAO uses one standard, not two overlapping authorizations.

Recommended handling

Divide into subgroups: (1) RAO 4-9 elections/terms/thresholds; (2) RAO 4-21 electronic meetings; (3) oversight/reporting items. Present each subgroup with a controlling recommendation and answer duplicates by reference.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Should coordinators and the Stated Clerk serve annual, four-year, or other terms?
- Should election require a simple majority or supermajority, and if so when?
- Should electronic meetings be authorized for committees and commissions under one uniform standard?

Group 11 — Judicial Process, Appeals, Complaints, References, Objections, and Records of the Case

Priority: Critical. Constitutional/RAO center: BCO 31, 32, 38, 40, 41, 42, 43, and proposed 44.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
3	New York State Presbytery	Amend BCO 32-20 and 32-21 Regarding Dismissing Charges	AO pp. 12-13	Same issue family or cross-reference.
15	Southwest Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO 42-4 and 43-3 to Clarify the Deadline for Filings	AO pp. 42-44	Same issue family or cross-reference.
16	Southwest Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO to Clarify Circularizing the Court	AO pp. 45-46	Same issue family or cross-reference.
28	Westminster Presbytery	Add BCO 41-7 to Provide a Right to Complain when a Presbytery Acts on a Reference	AO p. 83	Same issue family or cross-reference.
29	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO to Clarify Between Verbal and Written Notice of Appeal	AO pp. 84-85	Same issue family or cross-reference.
35	Illiana Presbytery	Amend BCO 31-2 to Establish a Deadline for the Issuing of an Indictment	AO p. 94	Same issue family or cross-reference.
54	Hills and Plains Presbytery	Amend BCO 42-2 to Clarify that a Person Judged Contumacious has the Right of Complaint Not Appeal	AO pp. 139-140	Same issue family or cross-reference.
56	Southwest Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO 32-19 to Limit Representation in Judicial Process to Officers	AO pp. 144-146	Same issue family or cross-reference.
65	Canada West Presbytery	Amend BCO 38-1 re Confessions and Cases without Process	AO pp. 166-168	Same issue family or cross-reference.
67	Potomac Presbytery	Amend BCO 40-5 to Clarify a Court Shall Make Two Determinations before Citing a Lower Court	AO pp. 172-174	Same issue family or cross-reference.
69	Southwest Florida Presbytery Presbytery	Amend BCO 32-18 and 42-5 to Clarify the Contents of the Record of the Case in Judicial Cases	AO pp. 177-179	Same issue family or cross-reference.
75	Central Florida Presbytery Presbytery	Amend BCO to Clarify the Process for Filing an Appeal	AO pp. 191-193	Same issue family or cross-reference.
85	Northwest Georgia Presbytery	Add BCO on Objections	AO pp. 221-223	Same issue family or cross-reference.
86	Session of Grace Covenant Church Presbytery	Amend BCO to Rename Complaints as Inquiries	AO pp. 224-228	Same issue family or cross-reference.

How the overtures are related

This is a large judicial-process cluster. The overtures address dismissal of charges, filing deadlines, circularizing the court, references, appeal notice, indictment deadlines, contumacy, representation, confessions/cases without process, citations of lower courts, records of the case, appeals, objections, and renaming complaints as inquiries.

Why separate consideration could create problems

The risk is procedural incoherence across the BCO's judicial chapters. A change in one chapter may affect the rights, deadlines, or remedies in another. If the Assembly adopts isolated revisions, courts may face mismatched filing periods, unclear distinctions between appeals and complaints/inquiries, conflicting rules on records, and uncertainty about what remedy is available after a particular action.

Recommended handling

This group requires a judicial-process workstream. The Committee should map every affected BCO chapter before recommending individual amendments. If several overtures are technical clarifications, consider a consolidated technical substitute. If a proposal changes a party's remedy or deadline, identify downstream effects on the rest of the judicial process.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Do the proposed changes preserve the distinction between appeals, complaints, references, objections, and judicial process?
- Are deadlines and notices consistent across BCO 31, 32, 38, 40, 41, 42, and 43?
- Would renaming complaints as inquiries require broader conforming changes?

Group 12 — Records, Clerks, Minutes, Transfers, and Congregational Meeting Records

Priority: Medium. Constitutional/RAO center: BCO 10-4, 12-8 (proposed), 13-9, 25-5, and 46-6.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
30	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 46-6 to Require the Recording of the Reception of One Dismissed to Another Presbytery	AO p. 86	Same issue family or cross-reference.
57	South Texas Presbytery	Amend BCO 12-7, 13-9, and 25-5 to Explicitly Require Minutes of Congregational Meetings Be Included in Session Records	AO pp. 147-148	Same issue family or cross-reference.
58	Calvary Presbytery	Amend BCO 10-4 to Specify that Clerks Must Be Elders	AO pp. 149-150	Same issue family or cross-reference.
72	Presbytery of the Ascension Presbytery	Add a new BCO 12-8 to Require Recording of Session and Diaconate Members in Session Minutes	AO pp. 183-184	Same issue family or cross-reference.

How the overtures are related

These overtures concern who may serve as clerk, what must be included in records, and how transfers or congregational meeting actions are recorded. They are administrative, but records are the constitutional memory of the courts.

Why separate consideration could create problems

The danger is less dramatic than in the diaconate or judicial groups, but inconsistent record rules create real review problems. One overture may require a particular congregational record to be kept, another may define who must keep it, and another may affect transfer records across presbyteries.

Recommended handling

Hear these as a records-and-clerks group. Seek common terminology and consistent placement in the BCO. If one overture supplies general record principles, use it as a lead item and conform the more specific overtures.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Should clerks be required to be elders in every court?
- What congregational meeting records must be included in Session records?
- How should reception after dismissal to another presbytery be recorded?

Group 13 — Public Allegations, Ninth Commandment, and Discipline-Adjacent Public Speech

Priority: Medium. Constitutional/RAO center: BCO 29-5 (proposed) and BCO 38-3.a.

Overtures in this group

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Source	Why included
46	New York State Presbytery	Add BCO 29-5 on Public Allegations without Prior Reporting to the Court of Jurisdiction as Probable Violations of the	AO pp. 124-125	Same issue family or cross-reference.

		Ninth Commandment		
59	Calvary Presbytery	Amend BCO 38-3.a. to Recognize the Non-Punitive Removal of Individuals from Membership Roll	AO pp. 151-152	Same issue family or cross-reference.

How the overtures are related

Overture 46 proposes a new provision treating public allegations without prior reporting to the court of jurisdiction as probable Ninth Commandment violations. Overture 59 addresses non-punitive removal from the membership roll. Both sit near discipline and speech, though they are not duplicates.

Why separate consideration could create problems

The risk is that churches may confuse public allegation rules, pastoral correction, and non-punitive membership actions. The overtures do not necessarily conflict, but they should be read together because both affect how courts and Sessions respond when conduct is troubling but may not fit a straightforward disciplinary process.

Recommended handling

Hear together as discipline-adjacent speech/membership matters. Clarify whether a proposed rule creates disciplinary process, evidentiary guidance, pastoral warning, or membership administration.

Questions for readers and commissioners

- Does proposed BCO 29-5 create a disciplinary presumption, a pastoral warning, or a court instruction?
- How should public allegations be handled before formal process begins?
- How does non-punitive removal interact with ordinary discipline and pastoral care?

Watch List: Related Items Not Assigned to a Primary Group

The following items were not assigned to a primary conflict group, but should still be watched because they may affect related discussion, drafting, or floor debate.

Overture	Title	Source	Watch reason
13	Amend BCO 15-2 Regarding Session Commissions	AO p. 35	Amends BCO 15-2 on Session commissions; may interact with broader Presbytery/commission governance discussions.
27	Amend BCO 34-1 Regarding GA Assuming Original Jurisdiction	AO pp. 81-82	Amends BCO 34-1 regarding GA assuming original jurisdiction; adjacent to judicial process but not directly duplicative.
42	Restore the Reference to the Westminster Standards at the end of BCO -1	AO pp. 115-116	Restores the reference to Westminster Standards at the end of BCO 29-1; doctrinal/worship significance but no direct competing amendment identified.
64	Amend BCO 23-2 to Establish Associate Membership for Honorably Retired TEs	AO pp. 164-165	Associate membership for honorably retired teaching elders; touches ministerial rolls/status but stands apart from assistant-pastor and transfer overtures.

Watch-list notes

- Overture 13 concerns session commissions and may interact with broader commission-governance discussions.
- Overture 27 concerns General Assembly original jurisdiction and may interact with judicial-process discussion without being directly duplicative.
- Overture 42 restores a Westminster Standards reference at the end of BCO 29-1; it is doctrinally significant but not obviously part of a larger textual collision group.

- Overture 64 concerns associate membership for honorably retired teaching elders and should be watched alongside ministerial-status discussion, though it is not an assistant-pastor overture.

Excluded Overtures and Rationale

These overtures are excluded from the primary grouping analysis because they concern presbytery boundaries, ad interim committees, special declarations/prayers, or other matters outside the report’s BCO/RAO/worship focus. Exclusion does not mean they are unimportant.

Overture	Title	Source	Reason excluded
2025-49	Erect an Ad Interim Committee on AI	AO pp. 6-7	Ad interim committee.
4	Docket a Prayer of Thanksgiving for Adult Professions of Faith	AO pp. 14-16	Prayer/declaration/special observance.
10	Change the Boundaries of Pittsburgh Presbytery and The Ohio Presbytery	AO p. 31	Presbytery boundary/division.
44	Divide Covenant Presbytery into Two Presbyteries	AO pp. 119-120	Presbytery boundary/division.
50	Call for a Day of Fasting and Prayer for Revival and Renewal of the Church	AO pp. 132-133	Prayer/declaration/special observance.
61	Declare the ‘Danvers Statement’ as a Biblically Faithful Declaration	AO pp. 155-158	Declaration on Danvers Statement; not direct BCO/RAO/worship amendment.
62	Divide Tennessee Valley Presbytery into Two Presbyteries	AO pp. 159-161	Presbytery boundary/division.
66	Issue a Declaration of Thanksgiving on the Occasion of the 250th Anniversary of the Nation’s Founding	AO pp. 169-171	Prayer/declaration/special observance.
70	Expand Korean Northwest Boundaries to Include Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington	AO p. 180	Presbytery boundary/division.
76	Issue a Declaration of Thanksgiving for the United States of America (USA) on the 250th Anniversary of the Nation’s Founding	AO pp. 194-195	Prayer/declaration/special observance.
80	Erect Ad Interim Committee on Critical Theory and Critical Race Theory	AO pp. 202-207	Ad interim committee.
83	Require Courses on Scripture and Doctrine at Covenant College and Covenant Seminary Be Taught by Ordained Elders	AO p. 217	Institutional education requirement; not direct BCO/RAO/worship amendment.
87	Change the Boundaries of Pittsburgh Presbytery and the Ohio Presbytery	AO p. 229	Presbytery boundary/division.
89	Issue a Declaration of Thanksgiving for the United States of America (USA) on the 250th Anniversary of the Nation’s Founding	AO pp. 231-232	Prayer/declaration/special observance.

Appendix A: Grouped Overture Source Index

This index preserves the overture title, source page reference in the All Overtures packet, and official source URL where available. It is meant to allow readers to verify the grouping analysis quickly.

Overture	Presbytery	Title	Pages	Official source URL
1	Potomac Presbytery	Amend BCO 23-1 on Associate/Assistant Pastors Succeeding Senior Pastor	AO pp. 8-9	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Overture-1_Potomac_23-2.pdf
2	Wisconsin Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-4 for Consent of Mission Church Members in Calling a Pastor	AO pp. 10-11	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Overture-2_Wisconsin_5-4.pdf
18	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-4 to Allow a Mother Church to Call a Church Planter	AO pp. 48-49	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-18_Westminster_5-4.pdf
39	Central Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO to Affirm the Consent of the Governed for Assistant Pastors	AO pp. 105-110	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-39_CFL_22.pdf
55	Southwest Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO 22-3 and 23-1 Concerning the Tenure of Assistant Pastors	AO pp. 141-143	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-55_SWFlorida_22-1.pdf
82	Rocky Mountain Presbytery	Amend BCO 12, 13, and to Clarify the Right of the Congregation to Give Consent to those who Exercise Authority Over Them	AO pp. 210-216	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-82_RMP_1213.pdf
17	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-2 Regarding the Dissolution of Mission Churches	AO p. 47	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-17_Westminster_5-2.pdf
19	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-8 to Include Ecclesiastical Government	AO p. 50	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-19_Westminster_5-8.pdf
20	Westminster Presbytery	Add to BCO a Section ‘C. Churches Without a Governing Body’	AO pp. 51-52	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-20_Westminster_5C.pdf
51	Mississippi Valley Presbytery	Amend BCO to add a Section on ‘Assisted Churches’	AO pp. 134-135	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-51_MSValley_5-11.pdf
71	Northern California Presbytery Presbytery	Amend BCO 5-9.e, 9-2, and 9-7 to Allow Session to Directly Administer Diaconal Ministry	AO pp. 181-182	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-71_NCaL_DiaconalMinistry.pdf
14	Southwest Florida	Amend BCO 7-3, 7-4, 9-2, and 9-7 Regarding Titles and Offices for	AO pp. 36-41	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Overture-

	Presbytery	Unordained People		14_SWFL_Titles-1.pdf
34	Savannah River Presbytery	Amend BCO 9-2 Regarding the Expectation of the Establishment of a Diaconate	AO pp. 92-93	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-34_SavannahRvr_9-2.pdf
36	Catawba Valley Presbytery	Add BCO 8-11 and 9-8 Regarding the Exercise of the Duties and Authority of Elder and Deacon	AO pp. 95-96	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Overture-36_CatawbaValley_8-11.pdf
37	Pacific Presbytery	Amend BCO 9-3 to Allow Women to Serve as Ordained Deacons	AO pp. 97-101	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-37_Pacific_9-3.pdf
38	Metro Atlanta Presbytery	Amend BCO 7-3 and add 9-8 to Allow Sessions Flexibility Regarding the Diaconate	AO pp. 102-104	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-38_MetroAtlanta_7-3.pdf
48	Northwest Georgia Presbytery	Amend BCO 7-2 and 7-3 Regarding Commissioning and Titling of Unordained Persons	AO pp. 128-129	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-48_NWGA_7.pdf
52	Mississippi Valley Presbytery	Add BCO 7-4 Prohibiting the Creation of Ecclesiastical Offices	AO pp. 136-137	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-52_MSValley_7-4.pdf
74	Eastern Carolina Presbytery Presbytery	Add a New Chapter BCO 17A 'Of Commissioning for Non- Ordained Ministry'	AO pp. 188-190	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-74_ECar_17A.pdf
31	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 58-5 to Specify that Ruling Elders Shall Distribute the Elements	AO pp. 87-88	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-31_Westminster_58-5.pdf
60	Calvary Presbytery	Amend BCO 58-5 to Specify that Only Men Lawfully Ordained Shall Distribute the Elements	AO pp. 153-154	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-60_Calvary_58-5.pdf
81	Potomac Presbytery	Amend RAO 1-1 to Require Serving Wine and Grape Juice for the Lord's Supper at General Assembly	AO pp. 208-209	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-81_Potomac_RAO1-1.pdf
12	Chesapeake Presbytery	Amend BCO 21-4.a to Allow Alternatives to a Bachelor's Degree for Ordination	AO pp. 33-34	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Overture-12_Chesapeake_21-4.pdf
21	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 13-6 to Clarify Exams for Ministers from Another Denomination	AO pp. 53-54	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Overture-21_Westminster_13-6.pdf
22	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 13-8 to Apply Only to Churches from Outside the PCA	AO pp. 55-56	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-22_Westminster_13-8.pdf
24	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 15-2 to Clarify that Presbytery Itself Must Conduct Ordination Exams	AO pp. 68-69	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-24_Westminster_15-2.pdf
25	Westminster Presbytery	Restructure and Amend BCO 21-1 through 21-4 for Clarity, Consistency, and Ease of Reference	AO pp. 70-79	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Overture-25_Westminster_21.pdf
84	Northwest Georgia Presbytery	Amend BCO and to Require Annual Attestation of Officer's Views	AO pp. 218-220	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-84_NWGA_1213.pdf
5	Pacific Northwest Presbytery	Amend RAO 5-1.a to Stipulate that AC Members Elected by GA Must Be from Different Presbyteries	AO pp. 17-18	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-5_PNW_RAO5_rev.pdf
23	Westminster Presbytery	Restructure and Renumber BCO for Clarity and Ease of Reference	AO pp. 57-67	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-23_Westminster_14.pdf
26	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 26-2 to Only Count Presbyteries Who Submit Votes	AO p. 80	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-26_Westminster_26-2.pdf
49	Northwest Georgia Presbytery	Amend BCO 13-1 and 14-2 to Increase Ruling Elder Representation at Presbytery and GA	AO pp. 130-131	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-49_NWGA_RE-Representation.pdf
68	Catawba Valley Presbytery	Amend BCO 14-1 to Make AC Members Appointed by Committees and Agencies Nonvoting Members	AO pp. 175-176	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-68_CatawbaVly_14-1-1.pdf
88	Siouxlands Presbytery	Instruct the AC to Format the BCO for Ease of Printing	AO p. 230	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-88_Siouxlands_BCO.pdf
8	Pacific Northwest Presbytery	Amend RAO 8-4.i to Set the Deadline for Floor Nominations Hours Earlier	AO pp. 27-28	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-8_PNW_Nominations_rev.pdf
9	Hills and Plains Presbytery	Amend RAO 8-4.i to Highlight Proportionate Representation of Presbyteries by Floor Nominations	AO pp. 29-30	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Overture-9_HP_Nominations.pdf
45	Covenant Presbytery	Amend RAO 8-4.i to Require that Floor Nominations for Committees and Agencies Come from Previously Submitted Presbytery Nominees	AO pp. 121-123	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-45_Covenant_RAO8-4.pdf
47	Suncoast Florida Presbytery	Amend RAO 8-4.i to Require that Floor Nominations for Committees and Agencies Come from Previously Submitted Presbytery Nominees	AO pp. 126-127	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-47_SuncoastFL_RAO8-4.pdf
6	Pacific Northwest Presbytery	Amend RAO 14-9, 15-8, and add 16-7.h to Require Commissioners to Remove from an Omnibus	AO pp. 19-22	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-6_PNW_Omnibus_rev.pdf
63	South Texas Presbytery	Amend RAO 19-4 to Establish Preference in Recognition for an Objector to an In Gross Motion	AO pp. 162-163	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Overture-63_SouthTexas_RAO19-4.pdf
7	Pacific Northwest Presbytery	Amend RAO Regarding RPR's Reporting on Presbytery Records	AO pp. 23-26	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-7_PNW_RPR_rev.pdf
33	Westminster Presbytery	Amend RAO 16-7.h Regarding Minority Reports from RPR	AO pp. 90-91	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-33_Westminster_RAO16-7.pdf
53	Great Lakes Presbytery	Amend RAO to Prohibit Members of RPR from Participating in GA Debate on the RPR Report	AO p. 138	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-53_GreatLakes_RAO16.pdf
11	Ohio Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-21.d to Require Assessment Data from MNA	AO p. 32	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Overture-11_Ohio_MNA.pdf
32	Westminster Presbytery	Amend RAO 14-3 for the Review of Committee and Agency Standing Rules and Manuals	AO p. 89	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-32_Westminster_RAO14-3.pdf
40	Savannah River Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-9 to Set Calendar Year Terms for Stated Clerk and Coordinators	AO pp. 111-112	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-40_SavannahRiver_RAO4-9.pdf
41	Savannah River Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-9 to Require 2/3 Majority to Elect Stated Clerk and Coordinators	AO pp. 113-114	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-41_SavannahRiver_RAO4-9.pdf
43	Pacific Northwest Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-9 so that Coordinators of Committees are Elected to 4-year Terms	AO pp. 117-118	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-43_PNW_RAO4-9.pdf
73	TE Cody Hooper Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-9 to Require 2/3 Majority to Elect Stated Clerk and Coordinators after 3 Consecutive Years of Service	AO pp. 185-187	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-73_TEHooper_RAO4-9.pdf
77	Southeast Alabama Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-9 so that Coordinators and the Stated Clerk are Elected to 4-year Terms	AO pp. 196-197	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-77_SEAL_RAO4-9.pdf
78	Southeast Alabama Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-21 to Authorize Electronic Meetings for GA Committees and Commissions	AO pp. 198-199	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-78_SEAL_RAO4-21.pdf
79	Calvary Presbytery	Amend RAO 4-21 to Authorize Electronic Meetings for GA Committees and Commissions	AO pp. 200-201	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-79_Calvary_RAO4-21.pdf
3	New York State Presbytery	Amend BCO 32-20 and 32-21 Regarding Dismissing Charges	AO pp. 12-13	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Overture-3_NY-State_32.pdf
15	Southwest Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO 42-4 and 43-3 to Clarify the Deadline for Filings	AO pp. 42-44	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Overture-15_SWFL_FilingDeadlines.pdf
16	Southwest Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO to Clarify Circularizing the Court	AO pp. 45-46	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Overture-16_SWFL_Circularizing.pdf
28	Westminster	Add BCO 41-7 to Provide a Right to Complain when a Presbytery	AO p. 83	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-28_Westminster_41-7.pdf

	Presbytery	Acts on a Reference		28_Westminster_41-7.pdf
29	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO to Clarify Between Verbal and Written Notice of Appeal	AO pp. 84-85	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-29_Westminster_42.pdf
35	Illiana Presbytery	Amend BCO 31-2 to Establish a Deadline for the Issuing of an Indictment	AO p. 94	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Overture-35_Illiana_31-2.pdf
54	Hills and Plains Presbytery	Amend BCO 42-2 to Clarify that a Person Judged Contumacious has the Right of Complaint Not Appeal	AO pp. 139-140	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-54_HP_42-2.pdf
56	Southwest Florida Presbytery	Amend BCO 32-19 to Limit Representation in Judicial Process to Officers	AO pp. 144-146	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-56_SWFlorida_32-19.pdf
65	Canada West Presbytery	Amend BCO 38-1 re Confessions and Cases without Process	AO pp. 166-168	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Overture-65_CanadaWest_38-1.pdf
67	Potomac Presbytery	Amend BCO 40-5 to Clarify a Court Shall Make Two Determinations before Citing a Lower Court	AO pp. 172-174	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Overture-67_Potomac_40-5.pdf
69	Southwest Florida Presbytery Presbytery	Amend BCO 32-18 and 42-5 to Clarify the Contents of the Record of the Case in Judicial Cases	AO pp. 177-179	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-69_SWFlorida_ROC.pdf
75	Central Florida Presbytery Presbytery	Amend BCO to Clarify the Process for Filing an Appeal	AO pp. 191-193	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-75_CFL_42.pdf
85	Northwest Georgia Presbytery	Add BCO on Objections	AO pp. 221-223	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-85_NWGA_44.pdf
86	Session of Grace Covenant Church Presbytery	Amend BCO to Rename Complaints as Inquiries	AO pp. 224-228	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-86_GraceCov_43.pdf
30	Westminster Presbytery	Amend BCO 46-6 to Require the Recording of the Reception of One Dismissed to Another Presbytery	AO p. 86	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Overture-30_Westminster_46-6.pdf
57	South Texas Presbytery	Amend BCO 12-7, 13-9, and 25-5 to Explicitly Require Minutes of Congregational Meetings Be Included in Session Records	AO pp. 147-148	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-57_SouthTexas_CongregationalMtgs.pdf
58	Calvary Presbytery	Amend BCO 10-4 to Specify that Clerks Must Be Elders	AO pp. 149-150	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-58_Calvary_10-4.pdf
72	Presbytery of the Ascension Presbytery	Add a new BCO 12-8 to Require Recording of Session and Diaconate Members in Session Minutes	AO pp. 183-184	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Overture-72_Ascension_12.pdf
46	New York State Presbytery	Add BCO 29-5 on Public Allegations without Prior Reporting to the Court of Jurisdiction as Probable Violations of the Ninth Commandment	AO pp. 124-125	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-46_NewYorkState_29-5.pdf
59	Calvary Presbytery	Amend BCO 38-3.a. to Recognize the Non-Punitive Removal of Individuals from Membership Roll	AO pp. 151-152	https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Overture-59_Calvary_38-3.pdf

Appendix B: Procedural Glossary

Answer in the affirmative

The committee recommends that the Assembly approve the overture or take the requested action, subject to any recommended wording or substitute.

Answer in the negative

The committee recommends that the Assembly not approve the overture. A yes vote on the committee recommendation is therefore a vote to say no to the overture.

Answer by reference

The committee believes the overture is sufficiently addressed by another overture or recommendation. The referenced overture becomes the controlling item to watch.

Amend

Change the wording before adopting or recommending the overture.

Substitute

Replace the overture's proposed language with different language that seeks to address the same issue.

Refer

Send the matter to another body, committee, or future process for further study or action rather than deciding the substance immediately.

Recommit

Send the matter back to the committee that brought it, usually for additional work before the Assembly acts.

Minority report

A formal alternative recommendation from members of a committee who disagree with the majority recommendation, when permitted by the rules.

In gross / omnibus

Procedural ways of grouping multiple matters for efficient action. The rules for removing an item for separate debate are important because they protect the Assembly's ability to consider particular matters individually.

Constitutional amendment

An amendment to the BCO or Westminster Standards. BCO amendments follow the BCO 26-2 path: first GA vote, two-thirds presbytery consent, then final GA vote.

Appendix C: Sources Consulted

- All Overtures as of May 1, 2026 with TOC.pdf. Primary source for overture titles, texts, page references, and official overture links.
- PCA 53rd General Assembly 2026 Overtures Preview-2.pdf. Secondary orientation source.
- PCA Book of Church Order 2025. Especially BCO 26-2 on the amendment process.
- Notebook summary report.docx. Used as a comparative summary source.
- bef1d360-e400-4e4e-b199-7d74ff4093bc.docx. Used as a comparative grouping-analysis source.
- 53rd_PCA_GA_Overtures_Grouping_Report.docx. Used as the baseline structured grouping report.

Final Note

This report is intended to help readers see where related overtures should be examined together. It does not decide the merits of the overtures. The useful question is: "If the Assembly adopts this overture, what other overtures become inconsistent, redundant, unnecessary, or in need of conforming language?" That question should guide the work.