

PCA 53rd General Assembly Overtures

Full Generative Summary of Attached Overture Packet — Presbytery Boundary Overtures Excluded

This is a working generative summary for downstream content development such as reviews, podcasts, videos, teaching aids, and briefing documents. It is not an ecclesiastical judgment, official digest, or substitute for reading the overture text itself.

Boundary-related overtures intentionally excluded from the substantive summary: Overture 10, Overture 44, Overture 62, Overture 70, and Overture 87. Overture 2025-49, referred by the 52nd General Assembly to the 53rd, is included because it appears in the packet and does not concern Presbytery boundaries.

Executive Overview

The packet presents a large and unusually wide-ranging set of overtures. The dominant themes are institutional accountability, General Assembly efficiency, the shape and authority of ordained office, the role of women and unordained workers in diaconal and ministry structures, judicial-process safeguards, and the consent of congregations in pastoral authority. Several overtures attempt to tighten constitutional language where past practice, committee procedure, or court decisions have exposed ambiguity. Others pursue broader declaratory or study-committee actions concerning complementarianism, the 250th anniversary of the United States, critical theory, and artificial intelligence.

A recurring procedural concern is that the PCA's General Assembly has become too large and too complex for older parliamentary assumptions. Overtures on omnibus procedure, floor nominations, Review of Presbytery Records, electronic meetings, and printing of constitutional documents all try to reduce friction, increase transparency, or prevent last-minute decisions from functioning as de facto governance.

A second major current is the tension between local flexibility and constitutional uniformity. This appears especially in overtures on assistant pastors, mission churches, diaconates, non-ordained ministry, women serving in diaconal functions, congregational consent, and the use of titles such as pastor, elder, deacon, minister, shepherd, and deaconess.

A third major current is judicial regularity. Several overtures seek to define deadlines, records, appeal procedures, complaints, confessions without process, representation in trial, dismissal of charges, and BCO 40-5 citations. Taken together, these reflect concern that PCA courts need clearer, more reviewable processes in order to protect parties, lower courts, and the Church's peace and purity.

Major Thematic Clusters

- GA governance, reporting, and committee accountability: Overtures 5–9, 11, 32–33, 40–43, 45, 53, 63, 68, 73, 77–79, 88 focus on how GA committees, agencies, nominations, RPR, AC, coordinators, and Assembly procedure should function.
- Ordained office, titles, and non-ordained ministry: Overtures 13–14, 34, 36–38, 48, 52, 60–61, 71–74, 83–84 address offices, titles, ordination, diaconal practice, commissioning, and the doctrinal/ecclesial implications of men and women serving in church functions.
- Pastoral relations and congregational consent: Overtures 1–2, 12, 18, 21–25, 39, 55, 64, 82 address calls, assistant and associate pastors, ministerial credentials, retired teaching elders, mission churches, and congregational consent to authority.
- Judicial process and constitutional remedies: Overtures 3, 15–16, 27–30, 35, 46, 54, 56, 59, 65, 67, 69, 75, 85–86 refine process, deadlines, appeals, complaints, objections, records, confessions, and member removal.
- Worship, thanksgiving, public declarations, and study committees: Overtures 4, 31, 50, 66, 76, 80–81, and 2025-49 concern Assembly prayer, fasting, the Lord's Supper, public declarations, critical theory/CRT, and artificial intelligence.

Summary Table

Overture	Source	Subject	One-sentence summary
1	Potomac	BCO 23-1: Associate/assistant pastors succeeding senior pastor	Would lower the threshold for a congregation and Presbytery to permit an associate or assistant pastor to succeed a senior pastor after determining the prior pastoral dissolution was in Christian love and good order.
2	Wisconsin	BCO 5-4: Mission church consent in calling pastor	Requires existing mission-church members to consent by majority vote before Presbytery calls a minister to serve that mission church as pastor.
3	New York State	BCO 32-20/32-21: Dismissing charges	Makes dismissal of charges more procedurally rigorous, requiring consideration of gravity, evidentiary degradation, witness memory, a hearing, and recorded reasons.
4	Pacific Northwest	Prayer of thanksgiving for adult professions of faith	Asks GA to docket thanksgiving for reported adult professions of faith in the PCA, using presbytery-level data as an encouragement to mission.
5	Pacific Northwest	RAO 5-1.a: AC members from different Presbyteries	Would prevent the eleven elected AC members from including more than one member from the same Presbytery.
6	Pacific Northwest	RAO omnibus procedure: 10% to remove item	Requires one-tenth of commissioners to vote to remove an item from an omnibus package for separate debate.
7	Pacific Northwest	RAO 16: RPR reporting	Would make most RPR exception work committee action rather than GA floor action, while preserving GA action for unsatisfactory second responses and BCO 40-5 issues.
8	Pacific Northwest	RAO 8-4.i: earlier floor-nomination deadline	Moves floor-nomination deadline earlier and makes nominations electronic, with implementation delayed until 2027.
9	Hills and Plains	RAO 8-4.i: floor nominations and proportionate representation	Requires floor nominations to include Presbytery information and explain how the nomination contributes to proportionate representation.
11	Ohio	RAO 4-21.d: MNA assessment data	Requires MNA's GA report to include annual assessment-center data and downstream church-plant outcomes tied to assessment ratings.
12	Chesapeake	BCO 21-4.a: alternatives to bachelor's degree	Allows associate-degree plus experience or GED plus longer vocational experience as alternatives to a bachelor's degree while retaining theological education

			requirements.
13	Great Lakes	BCO 15-2: Session commissions	Clarifies that a Session commission must have at least two elders, in any combination of teaching or ruling elders.
14	Southwest Florida	BCO 7/9: titles and offices for unordained people	Tightens restrictions on titles and role-designations for unordained persons and strengthens requirements concerning ordained deacons.
15	Southwest Florida	BCO 42/43 filing deadlines	Clarifies deadlines for filings in appeals and complaints, especially when courts or clerks communicate decisions or records.
16	Southwest Florida	BCO 43: circularizing the court	Clarifies that parties must not improperly communicate with a higher court outside the formal complaint process.
17	Westminster	BCO 5-2: dissolution of mission churches	Clarifies how a mission church may be dissolved and how oversight should be handled.
18	Westminster	BCO 5-4: mother church calling church planter	Allows a mother church structure to call a church planter in a mission-church context.
19	Westminster	BCO 5-8: include ecclesiastical government	Adds ecclesiastical government to required organizational elements for a mission church moving toward particularization.
20	Westminster	BCO 5: churches without a governing body	Adds a section for churches without a governing body, creating a category for oversight and regularization.
21	Westminster	BCO 13-6: exams for ministers from another denomination	Clarifies examination requirements for ministers received from outside the PCA.
22	Westminster	BCO 13-8: churches from outside PCA	Clarifies that BCO 13-8 applies to churches coming into the PCA from outside the denomination.
23	Westminster	BCO 14 restructuring	Restructures and rennumbers BCO 14 for clarity and ease of reference.
24	Westminster	BCO 15-2: Presbytery itself must conduct ordination exams	Clarifies that Presbytery, not a commission, must conduct ordination examinations.
25	Westminster	BCO 21-1 through 21-4 restructuring	Restructures and amends BCO 21 on licensure, internship, and ordination for clarity and consistency.
26	Westminster	BCO 26-2: count only Presbyteries submitting votes	Changes amendment-vote calculation so only Presbyteries submitting votes are counted.
27	Westminster	BCO 34-1: GA assuming original jurisdiction	Adjusts language governing when GA may assume original jurisdiction.
28	Westminster	BCO 41-7: complaint after Presbytery acts on reference	Provides a right of complaint when Presbytery acts on a reference.
29	Westminster	BCO 42: verbal vs written notice of appeal	Clarifies the distinction between verbal notice and written appeal materials.
30	Westminster	BCO 46-6: record reception of	Requires recording when a

		one dismissed to another Presbytery	person dismissed to another Presbytery is received.
31	Westminster	BCO 58-5: ruling elders distribute elements	Specifies that ruling elders shall distribute the Lord's Supper elements.
32	Westminster	RAO 14-3: review standing rules/manuals	Requires permanent committees and agencies to submit standing rules or manuals to Committees of Commissioners along with minutes.
33	Westminster	RAO 16-7.h: RPR minority reports	Limits RPR minority reports to members who voted in the minority on the relevant Presbytery report.
34	Savannah River	BCO 9-2: expectation of diaconate	Clarifies that churches should not ordinarily persist without ordained deacons and that deacon duties devolve on ruling elders when qualified deacons cannot be secured.
35	Illiana	BCO 31-2: deadline for indictment	Requires a prosecutor to file an indictment within sixty days after the court determines process should be instituted.
36	Catawba Valley	BCO 8-11/9-8: duties and authority of elder/deacon	Adds provisions restricting elder and deacon duties and authority to ordained men and preventing circumvention by unordained persons.
37	Pacific	BCO 9-3: women as ordained deacons	Permits Sessions to choose qualified women as deacons, arguing this fits Scripture, Reformed precedent, and complementarian liberty.
38	Metro Atlanta	BCO 7-3/9-8: flexibility regarding diaconate	Allows Sessions more flexibility in organizing diaconal ministry, including women serving in diaconal roles where the Session judges Scripture permits it.
39	Central Florida	BCO 22: consent for assistant pastors	Requires congregational consent or election in relation to assistant pastors because they exercise ministerial authority.
40	Savannah River	RAO 4-9: calendar-year terms for stated clerk/coordinators	Sets terms so transitions do not occur abruptly at GA, reducing vocational volatility and floor-pressure dynamics.
41	Savannah River	RAO 4-9: 2/3 to elect Stated Clerk and coordinators	Requires a two-thirds majority to elect or re-elect the Stated Clerk and program coordinators.
42	Northern California	BCO 29-1: restore Westminster Standards reference	Restores a reference to the Westminster Standards at the end of BCO 29-1.
43	Pacific Northwest	RAO 4-9: coordinators elected to 4-year terms	Moves coordinators from annual election to four-year terms.
45	Covenant	RAO 8-4.i: floor nominees from prior Presbytery nominees	Restricts floor nominations for committees/agencies to persons previously submitted through Presbytery nomination processes.
46	New York State	BCO 29-5: public allegations	Treats public allegations not

		and Ninth Commandment	first reported to the court of jurisdiction as probable Ninth Commandment violations.
47	Suncoast Florida	RAO 8-4.i: floor nominees from prior Presbytery nominees	Parallel proposal restricting floor nominations to previously submitted Presbytery nominees.
48	Northwest Georgia	BCO 7-2/7-3: commissioning and titling unordained persons	Restricts commissioning and titles for unordained persons so they do not imply church office or office-like authority.
49	Northwest Georgia	BCO 13-1/14-2: increase ruling elder representation	Increases ruling elder representation at Presbytery and GA.
50	Mississippi Valley	Day of fasting and prayer	Calls the PCA to fasting and prayer for revival and renewal of the Church.
51	Mississippi Valley	BCO 5: assisted churches	Creates a category for assisted churches needing support or oversight without being mission churches.
52	Mississippi Valley	BCO 7-4: prohibit new ecclesiastical offices	Adds a prohibition on inventing ecclesiastical offices beyond elder and deacon.
53	Great Lakes	RAO 16: RPR members and GA debate	Prohibits RPR members from participating in GA debate on the RPR report.
54	Hills and Plains	BCO 42-2: contumacious person's remedy	Clarifies that a person judged contumacious has the right of complaint, not appeal.
55	Southwest Florida	BCO 22-3/23-1: assistant pastor tenure	Addresses assistant pastor tenure and the relation of assistant pastors to pastoral calls and dissolution.
56	Southwest Florida	BCO 32-19: representation in judicial process	Limits representatives in judicial process to church officers.
57	South Texas	BCO 12/13/25: congregational minutes in Session records	Requires minutes of congregational meetings to be included in Session records.
58	Calvary	BCO 10-4: clerks must be elders	Specifies that court clerks must be elders.
59	Calvary	BCO 38-3.a: non-punitive removal from membership roll	Recognizes a non-punitive process for removing persons from membership rolls.
60	Calvary	BCO 58-5: ordained men distribute elements	Specifies that only lawfully ordained men may distribute the Lord's Supper elements.
61	Calvary	Danvers Statement	Asks GA to declare the Danvers Statement biblically faithful.
63	South Texas	RAO 19-4: recognition preference for omnibus objector	Gives preference in recognition to the commissioner who objected to an in-gross/omnibus motion.
64	Canada West	BCO 23-2: associate membership for retired TEs	Creates a local-church associate-membership pathway for honorably retired teaching elders while preserving Presbytery membership.
65	Canada West	BCO 38-1: confessions and cases without process	Clarifies that judgments without process require an intentional confession approved in writing by the accused and the court.
66	Philadelphia	Thanksgiving for USA 250th	Issues a declaration of

		anniversary	thanksgiving for God's providence on the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding.
67	Potomac	BCO 40-5: two determinations before citing lower court	Requires a higher court to make two preliminary determinations before citing a lower court for delinquency or unconstitutional proceedings.
68	Catawba Valley	BCO 14-1: agency-appointed AC members nonvoting	Makes AC members appointed by committees/agencies nonvoting to clarify accountability to GA.
69	Southwest Florida	BCO 32-18/42-5: record of the case	Clarifies contents, assembly, and transmission of the Record of the Case in judicial cases.
71	Northern California	BCO 5-9.e/9-2/9-7: Session-administered diaconal ministry	Allows Sessions to administer diaconal ministry directly and use assistants even where ordained deacons are not present.
72	Ascension	BCO 12-8: record Session and diaconate members	Requires Sessions to record members of Session and diaconate in Session minutes.
73	TE Cody Hooper	RAO 4-9: 2/3 after 3 consecutive years	Requires two-thirds approval for Stated Clerk/coordinator election after three consecutive years of service.
74	Eastern Carolina	BCO 17A: commissioning for non-ordained ministry	Creates a chapter for public commissioning to non-ordained ministry without conferring church office.
75	Central Florida	BCO 42: filing an appeal	Clarifies appeal filing as a three-step process and refines deadlines and notices.
76	Calvary	Thanksgiving for USA 250th anniversary	Alternative declaration of thanksgiving for the United States on the 250th anniversary.
77	Southeast Alabama	RAO 4-9: 4-year terms for coordinators/Stated Clerk	Moves coordinators and Stated Clerk to four-year terms.
78	Southeast Alabama	RAO 4-21: electronic meetings	Authorizes most GA committees and commissions to meet electronically, with exceptions.
79	Calvary	RAO 4-21: electronic meetings	Similar to Overture 78, but with different exceptions and wording concerning called meetings.
80	Calvary	Ad interim committee on Critical Theory and CRT	Erects a study committee on Critical Theory and Critical Race Theory in relation to Scripture and the Standards.
81	Potomac	RAO 1-1: wine and grape juice at GA Lord's Supper	Requires both wine and grape juice at the Lord's Supper during General Assembly worship.
82	Rocky Mountain	BCO 12/13/25: congregational consent to authority	Broadly clarifies congregational consent for those who exercise authority over a congregation.
83	Northwest Georgia	Covenant courses taught by ordained elders	Asks that Scripture and doctrine courses at Covenant College and Seminary be taught only by ordained teaching or ruling elders.

84	Northwest Georgia	BCO 12/13: annual attestation of officers' views	Requires annual officer attestation concerning theological views and stated differences.
85	Northwest Georgia	BCO 44: objections	Creates an objections procedure for those without voting rights on appeals or complaints.
86	Grace Covenant Session	BCO 43: rename complaints as inquiries	Renames complaints as inquiries to reduce confusion with charges and disciplinary accusations.
88	Siouxlands	8.5x11 printable BCO and free digital packets	Directs AC to format constitutional documents for standard printing and make change packets free as digital downloads.
2025-49	Pacific Northwest	Ad interim committee on artificial intelligence	Referred overture erecting a study committee on AI and its implications for anthropology, ecclesiology, ministry, discipline, education, vocation, medicine, ethics, and agency policy.

Detailed Generative Summary by Overture

Overture 1: BCO 23-1: Associate/assistant pastors succeeding senior pastor

Source / origin: Potomac.

This overture treats the current restriction on associate or assistant pastors succeeding a senior pastor as a prudential rule rather than a strict biblical requirement. It preserves heightened scrutiny but lowers the threshold, allowing a congregation by secret ballot and Presbytery by a two-thirds vote to approve succession when the previous pastoral relation ended in Christian love and good order. The practical issue is whether churches should have more liberty to call a known shepherd without an intervening ministry field.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 2: BCO 5-4: Mission church consent in calling pastor

Source / origin: Wisconsin.

This overture applies the principle of consent of the governed to mission churches that already have members. If members have been received under BCO 5-5, they would need to approve by majority vote at a congregational meeting before Presbytery calls a minister as pastor under BCO 5-4.a. The proposal aims to keep mission-church practice aligned with particular-church practice as far as possible.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 3: BCO 32-20/32-21: Dismissing charges

Source / origin: New York State.

This overture tightens the dismissal of charges. It changes discretionary language to mandatory language and adds a new provision requiring a hearing at which both parties may argue for or against dismissal. If dismissal depends on witness memory, the court must interview each witness and rule on ability to recall relevant facts. Any dismissal must be accompanied by recorded reasons, making the decision more reviewable.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 4: Prayer of thanksgiving for adult professions of faith

Source / origin: Pacific Northwest.

This overture asks the Assembly to give thanks publicly for reported adult professions of faith across the PCA. It includes statistical tables naming, by Presbytery, the church reporting the highest number of adult professions and the total reported within each Presbytery. The overture functions as a pastoral and missional reminder that denominational deliberation should include thanksgiving for conversion and evangelistic fruit.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 5: RAO 5-1.a: AC members from different Presbyteries

Source / origin: Pacific Northwest.

This overture would prevent more than one of the eleven GA-elected Administrative Committee members from coming from the same Presbytery. The stated concern is proportionate representation and the unique influence of the AC over budgets, Assembly arrangements, administrative fees, and coordination of GA work. The proposal parallels SJC membership limits and aims to prevent concentrated Presbytery influence.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 6: RAO omnibus procedure: 10% to remove item

Source / origin: Pacific Northwest.

This overture changes omnibus procedure so that one commissioner may request removal of an item, but removal occurs only if ten percent of commissioners vote to remove it. The rationale is efficiency: in an Assembly of more than 2,000 commissioners, a single commissioner should not automatically force separate debate on a recommendation already judged appropriate for omnibus treatment. The proposal tries to preserve minority access while preventing excessive docket consumption.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 7: RAO 16: RPR reporting

Source / origin: Pacific Northwest.

This overture substantially reframes Review of Presbytery Records reporting. RPR would continue to approve minutes, cite exceptions of form or substance, and require Presbytery responses, but routine exceptions would not all require GA approval as separate recommendations. GA floor action would be reserved chiefly for second responses judged unsatisfactory and for BCO 40-5 matters. The overture is designed to reduce large RPR reports from overwhelming the Assembly while preserving review-and-control mechanisms.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 8: RAO 8-4.i: earlier floor-nomination deadline

Source / origin: Pacific Northwest.

This overture moves floor nominations earlier, setting the deadline at 4:30 p.m. on the day the Assembly convenes, and makes submission electronic. It delays implementation until 2027. The goal is to provide commissioners more time to review supplemental nominations before voting and to adapt the process to current electronic filing rather than older on-site paper practices.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 9: RAO 8-4.i: floor nominations and proportionate representation

Source / origin: Hills and Plains.

This overture requires floor nominations to include the nominee's Presbytery and an explanation of how the nomination contributes to proportionate representation among Presbyteries. It does not forbid floor nominations but makes them accountable to the same representative concern that guides Nominating

Committee work. The proposal addresses concern that floor nominations can unintentionally undermine geographic breadth.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 11: RAO 4-21.d: MNA assessment data

Source / origin: Ohio.

This overture requires the MNA report to GA to include assessment-center data: total assessments, counts by final rating category, and outcomes for mission churches started, particularized, or dissolved with assessed planters, correlated with assessment rating. It also requires MNA minutes to show that the data were reviewed. The overture seeks more meaningful Assembly oversight of church-planting assessment practices.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 12: BCO 21-4.a: alternatives to bachelor's degree

Source / origin: Chesapeake.

This overture permits alternatives to a bachelor's degree for ordination candidates: an associate degree plus at least three years of full-time vocational experience, or a GED plus at least ten years of full-time vocational experience, each demonstrating maturity, leadership, and communication skills. It retains the theological seminary or equivalent theological-study requirement and Presbytery examinations. The rationale is access for second-career and non-traditional candidates without lowering theological standards.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 13: BCO 15-2: Session commissions

Source / origin: Great Lakes.

This overture clarifies the constitution of Session commissions. It requires at least two elders, in any combination of teaching or ruling elders, with quorum being the greater of two elders or one-half of the commission. It responds to uncertainty over whether Session commissions must mirror Presbytery commissions and recognizes that Sessions vary in composition.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 14: BCO 7/9: titles and offices for unordained people

Source / origin: Southwest Florida.

This overture aggressively restricts the use of ordained-office titles or office-like titles for unordained persons. It forbids unordained people from being titled pastor, elder, deacon, minister, shepherd/shepherdess, eldress, pastress, deaconess, or similar designations that imply office or authority. It also strengthens expectations for ordained deacons and prohibits assistants to deacons where there are no ordained deacons. The overture is one of the packet's most comprehensive attempts to close perceived loopholes in office, title, and function.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 15: BCO 42/43 filing deadlines

Source / origin: Southwest Florida.

This overture seeks to clarify filing deadlines in appeals and complaints. Its aim is to reduce confusion over when deadlines begin, what must be filed, and how court communication affects the parties' obligations. It belongs to a broader set of overtures concerned with making judicial remedies procedurally predictable and reviewable.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 16: BCO 43: circularizing the court

Source / origin: Southwest Florida.

This overture addresses circularizing the court in complaint matters. The concern is that parties or interested persons may attempt to influence members of a court outside the prescribed process. The overture seeks to protect orderly process, confine communications to proper filings and court procedures, and prevent informal advocacy from compromising judicial integrity.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 17: BCO 5-2: dissolution of mission churches

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture clarifies BCO 5-2 regarding dissolution of mission churches. The practical concern is how a Presbytery or governing body should end a mission-church work, account for members, and preserve orderly oversight. It fits with other Westminster overtures attempting to make BCO 5 more complete and administratively usable.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 18: BCO 5-4: mother church calling church planter

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture allows a mother church to call a church planter in connection with a mission church. It addresses the common church-planting reality in which a particular church, not only Presbytery, initiates and supports a plant. The proposal tries to place mother-church church planting on clearer constitutional footing.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 19: BCO 5-8: include ecclesiastical government

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture amends BCO 5-8 to include ecclesiastical government among the matters to be addressed in organizing a mission church. The underlying concern is that mission churches should be formed not only around membership and worship but also around clear church-government structures as they move toward particularization.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 20: BCO 5: churches without a governing body

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture adds a BCO 5 section on churches without a governing body. It appears designed to regularize situations where a congregation exists but lacks a functioning Session or permanent governing body. The proposal would give courts a clearer constitutional category for supervision, care, and transition.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 21: BCO 13-6: exams for ministers from another denomination

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture clarifies examination requirements for ministers coming from another denomination. It responds to potential uncertainty about how much of the PCA's normal licensure/ordination examination process applies to received ministers. The aim is to safeguard standards while making transfer procedures clearer.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 22: BCO 13-8: churches from outside PCA

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture clarifies that BCO 13-8 applies to churches received from outside the PCA, not ordinary PCA churches moving within the denomination. The proposal prevents misapplication of reception rules and makes Presbytery responsibilities clearer when congregations enter the PCA.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 23: BCO 14 restructuring

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture restructures and renumbers BCO 14 for clarity and ease of reference. It is not chiefly substantive but editorial/organizational, aiming to make the chapter on General Assembly more navigable. Because BCO 14 governs major Assembly structures, clearer organization could aid commissioners, clerks, and committees.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 24: BCO 15-2: Presbytery itself must conduct ordination exams

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture clarifies that Presbytery itself must conduct ordination examinations and may not delegate that duty to a commission. The concern is that ordination exams are a core Presbytery responsibility that should be performed by the court. It protects the constitutional significance of examination before ordination.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 25: BCO 21-1 through 21-4 restructuring

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture restructures and amends BCO 21-1 through 21-4, covering licensure, internship, and ordination. The goal is clarity, consistency, and ease of reference in a complex area of ministerial preparation. It likely has downstream value for candidates, credentials committees, stated clerks, and Presbytery examiners.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 26: BCO 26-2: count only Presbyteries submitting votes

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture changes how Presbytery votes on BCO amendments are counted by counting only Presbyteries that submit votes. The practical effect would be to prevent non-reporting Presbyteries from functioning like negative votes or affecting the denominator. It raises important questions about constitutional amendment thresholds and Presbytery participation.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 27: BCO 34-1: GA assuming original jurisdiction

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture amends BCO 34-1 regarding General Assembly assuming original jurisdiction. It appears to clarify when the highest court may take up a matter initially rather than by ordinary appeal or complaint. The subject is significant because original jurisdiction affects lower-court authority and extraordinary denominational intervention.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 28: BCO 41-7: complaint after Presbytery acts on reference

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture adds BCO 41-7 to provide a right of complaint when a Presbytery acts on a reference. The concern is that when a lower court refers a matter upward and Presbytery acts, affected persons should have an ordinary remedy if they believe the action is wrong. It closes a perceived remedial gap.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 29: BCO 42: verbal vs written notice of appeal

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture clarifies the difference between verbal and written notice of appeal. It aims to prevent confusion over whether an oral statement after a decision is enough or whether written filings with reasons are required. The issue overlaps with Overture 75 and the broader effort to refine appeal procedure.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 30: BCO 46-6: record reception of one dismissed to another Presbytery

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture requires recording the reception of one dismissed to another Presbytery. It addresses record continuity and accountability when persons move between Presbyteries. The concern is that dismissal should not remain open-ended or unverified in the records.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 31: BCO 58-5: ruling elders distribute elements

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture specifies that ruling elders shall distribute the elements in the Lord's Supper. It grounds the distribution of the Supper in the Church's ordained government and the Session's responsibility to admit persons to the sacrament. It is related to Overture 60, which uses broader language of lawfully ordained men.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 32: RAO 14-3: review standing rules/manuals

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture requires permanent committees and agencies to submit standing rules or manuals to Committees of Commissioners along with minutes. The rationale is that minutes alone may not reveal the rules under which committees operate. This would expand review beyond recorded actions to include governing procedures.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 33: RAO 16-7.h: RPR minority reports

Source / origin: Westminster.

This overture limits RPR minority reports to committee members who actually voted in the minority on the Presbytery report as a whole. It follows Robert's Rules principles while adapting them to RPR. The goal is to prevent members who concurred in the majority result from later signing a minority report.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 34: BCO 9-2: expectation of diaconate

Source / origin: Savannah River.

This overture clarifies the expectation that churches should ordinarily establish an ordained diaconate. If deacons cannot be secured because spiritually qualified men are absent, the duties devolve on ruling elders rather than unordained persons. It seeks to reduce confusion about whether a church may indefinitely function without deacons or with unordained substitutes.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 35: BCO 31-2: deadline for indictment

Source / origin: Illiana.

This overture establishes a sixty-day deadline for filing an indictment after a court's investigation raises a strong presumption of guilt and process is instituted. If the prosecutor fails, he is rebuked, dismissed from prosecutorial duties, and replaced. The overture addresses delay, reputational harm, and the need for prompt justice.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 36: BCO 8-11/9-8: duties and authority of elder/deacon

Source / origin: Catawba Valley.

This overture adds BCO provisions specifying that duties and authority belonging to elder and deacon may be exercised only by men ordained to those offices. It is aimed at practices that, in the overture's judgment, allow women or unordained persons to perform office-equivalent functions without title or ordination. It emphasizes complementarian ecclesiology, clarity of office, and non-circumvention.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 37: BCO 9-3: women as ordained deacons

Source / origin: Pacific.

This overture amends BCO 9-3 to permit women to serve as ordained deacons at the discretion of local Sessions. It argues from Romans 16:1, 1 Timothy 3:11, early church history, conservative Reformed voices, NAPARC examples, and Christian liberty. It preserves male eldership while changing PCA diaconal practice.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 38: BCO 7-3/9-8: flexibility regarding diaconate

Source / origin: Metro Atlanta.

This overture takes a flexibility approach to the diaconate, seeking room for Sessions to organize diaconal ministry in ways that include women serving in diaconal roles without necessarily adopting the same framing as Overture 37. It appeals to Reformed restraint: not prohibiting what Scripture permits. It also stresses PCA grassroots polity and the existing BCO 9-7 recognition of women assisting deacons.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 39: BCO 22: consent for assistant pastors

Source / origin: Central Florida.

This overture applies the consent of the governed to assistant pastors. Because assistant pastors preach, administer sacraments, and exercise authority in Presbytery and GA, the overture argues that congregations should not be shepherded by them for years without direct congregational consent. It would revise BCO 22 to give the congregation a formal role.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 40: RAO 4-9: calendar-year terms for stated clerk/coordinators

Source / origin: Savannah River.

This overture sets calendar-year terms for the Stated Clerk and coordinators so that GA elections do not create immediate employment disruption. The stated pastoral and administrative concern is that current annual election at GA pressures commissioners and burdens officers and families with abrupt uncertainty. Calendar-year transitions would permit orderly succession.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 41: RAO 4-9: 2/3 to elect Stated Clerk and coordinators

Source / origin: Savannah River.

This overture requires a two-thirds majority to elect the Stated Clerk and program coordinators. It treats these positions as sufficiently influential that simple-majority election is not enough for denominational confidence. It would make re-election more demanding and could strengthen accountability or increase instability depending on perspective.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 42: BCO 29-1: restore Westminster Standards reference

Source / origin: Northern California.

This overture restores the reference to the Westminster Standards at the end of BCO 29-1. The likely purpose is to keep the definition of offenses and discipline explicitly tethered to the constitutional doctrinal standards. It is a concise amendment with symbolic and interpretive significance.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 43: RAO 4-9: coordinators elected to 4-year terms

Source / origin: Pacific Northwest.

This overture moves coordinators to four-year terms. It seeks to reduce annual uncertainty and make leadership transitions more orderly. It is one of several overtures addressing whether denominational executives should face annual votes, longer terms, supermajority thresholds, or calendar-year transitions.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 45: RAO 8-4.i: floor nominees from prior Presbytery nominees

Source / origin: Covenant.

This overture restricts floor nominations for committees and agencies to persons already submitted as Presbytery nominees. It strengthens the Presbytery-based nomination pipeline and reduces spontaneous or late floor-nomination campaigns. It is closely paralleled by Overture 47.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 46: BCO 29-5: public allegations and Ninth Commandment

Source / origin: New York State.

This overture adds BCO 29-5 treating public allegations that have not first been reported to the court of jurisdiction as probable violations of the Ninth Commandment. It aims to channel accusations through proper church courts rather than public platforms. The overture raises issues of due process, reputation, whistleblowing, and the boundary between lawful warning and unlawful public accusation.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 47: RAO 8-4.i: floor nominees from prior Presbytery nominees

Source / origin: Suncoast Florida.

This overture parallels Overture 45 by requiring floor nominations for committees and agencies to come from previously submitted Presbytery nominees. The intent is to maintain orderly representative nomination structures and prevent the floor process from bypassing Presbytery vetting.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 48: BCO 7-2/7-3: commissioning and titling unordained persons

Source / origin: Northwest Georgia.

This overture amends BCO 7-2 and 7-3 concerning commissioning and titling of unordained persons. It seeks to prevent churches from using commissioning language or titles that imply ordained office, spiritual authority, or office-like status. It overlaps with Overtures 14 and 52, though with its own wording.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 49: BCO 13-1/14-2: increase ruling elder representation

Source / origin: Northwest Georgia.

This overture increases ruling elder representation at Presbytery and General Assembly. It reflects concern that Presbyterian parity and the voice of the churches require stronger ruling elder presence in graded courts. Its downstream effect would be a larger or differently weighted representative body.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 50: Day of fasting and prayer

Source / origin: Mississippi Valley.

This overture calls for a day of fasting and prayer for revival and renewal of the Church. It is not a constitutional amendment but a spiritual summons. The overture frames denominational need in terms of repentance, dependence on God, and longing for renewed gospel vitality.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 51: BCO 5: assisted churches

Source / origin: Mississippi Valley.

This overture adds a BCO 5 category for assisted churches. It appears to distinguish churches needing help from mission churches or churches without ordinary structures. The proposal would give Presbyteries a constitutional framework for churches that are particularized but require assistance, oversight, or support.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 52: BCO 7-4: prohibit new ecclesiastical offices

Source / origin: Mississippi Valley.

This overture adds BCO 7-4 to prohibit creation of ecclesiastical offices beyond elder and deacon. It seeks to close the door to new office categories, titles, or structures that function like church offices. It aligns with overtures restricting titles and non-ordained roles.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 53: RAO 16: RPR members and GA debate

Source / origin: Great Lakes.

This overture prohibits members of RPR from participating in GA debate on the RPR report. The aim is to preserve impartiality and prevent committee members from effectively debating their own recommendations on the Assembly floor. It raises practical questions about who may explain RPR work if members are barred from debate.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 54: BCO 42-2: contumacious person's remedy

Source / origin: Hills and Plains.

This overture clarifies that a person judged contumacious has a right of complaint rather than appeal. The distinction matters because appeal and complaint have different standing, objects, and procedures. The proposal seeks to place the remedy in the proper constitutional category.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 55: BCO 22-3/23-1: assistant pastor tenure

Source / origin: Southwest Florida.

This overture addresses the tenure of assistant pastors and related provisions in BCO 22-3 and 23-1. It appears to regularize assistant-pastor service, pastoral relations, and dissolution/succession questions. It overlaps thematically with Overtures 1 and 39 on assistant pastors and congregational authority.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 56: BCO 32-19: representation in judicial process

Source / origin: Southwest Florida.

This overture limits representation in judicial process to officers. It narrows who may serve as representative for parties in ecclesiastical trials. The aim is likely to keep judicial advocacy within accountable church office, though the practical effect would be to reduce access to non-officer advocates.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 57: BCO 12/13/25: congregational minutes in Session records

Source / origin: South Texas.

This overture explicitly requires minutes of congregational meetings to be included in Session records. It touches BCO 12, 13, and 25 and strengthens record review by ensuring that congregational acts are preserved with Session records. It is an administrative accountability proposal.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 58: BCO 10-4: clerks must be elders

Source / origin: Calvary.

This overture specifies that clerks must be elders. It addresses the identity of clerks of church courts and seeks to ensure that clerical recording functions are performed by officers of the court. The proposal has implications for Sessions, Presbyteries, and perhaps commissions depending on wording.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 59: BCO 38-3.a: non-punitive removal from membership roll

Source / origin: Calvary.

This overture amends BCO 38-3.a to recognize non-punitive removal from the membership roll. It likely seeks a clearer category for members who are removed for reasons other than censure, such as absence, non-participation, or loss of contact. The proposal helps distinguish discipline from administrative roll maintenance.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 60: BCO 58-5: ordained men distribute elements

Source / origin: Calvary.

This overture specifies that only men lawfully ordained shall distribute the Lord's Supper elements. It is broader than Overture 31's focus on ruling elders and reflects a strict view that sacramental distribution should be performed by ordained men. It connects sacramental administration to office and church discipline.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 61: Danvers Statement

Source / origin: Calvary.

This overture asks GA to declare the Danvers Statement a biblically faithful declaration. The Danvers Statement is a complementarian statement concerning equality of men and women as image bearers, distinct male/female roles, male headship in marriage, and male teaching/governing office in the church. The overture would place GA on record commending its biblical faithfulness.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 63: RAO 19-4: recognition preference for omnibus objector

Source / origin: South Texas.

This overture gives recognition preference to the commissioner who objected to inclusion of an item in an in-gross or omnibus motion. The argument is that the objector is likely the person prepared to explain why separate consideration is necessary. It works in the opposite direction from Overture 6's efficiency proposal but shares concern for orderly omnibus procedure.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 64: BCO 23-2: associate membership for retired TEs

Source / origin: Canada West.

This overture establishes associate membership in a local PCA congregation for honorably retired teaching elders while they retain Presbytery membership. The pastoral issue is that retired ministers need local shepherding, accountability, and congregational belonging. The overture attempts to preserve Presbyterian polity while addressing pastoral care for retired TEs and spouses.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 65: BCO 38-1: confessions and cases without process

Source / origin: Canada West.

This overture clarifies BCO 38-1 on confessions and cases without process. A court may not treat statements as a basis for judgment without process unless the person intends to confess and consents. A written confession, including facts, specific confession, and any repentance, must be approved by the accused and court and appended to minutes. The aim is to prevent informal or ambiguous statements from becoming judgments.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 66: Thanksgiving for USA 250th anniversary

Source / origin: Philadelphia.

This overture issues a declaration of thanksgiving on the 250th anniversary of the nation's founding. It frames the anniversary through providence, gratitude, prayer, and the historical role of Presbyterians during the American founding. It is a public declaration rather than a constitutional change.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 67: BCO 40-5: two determinations before citing lower court

Source / origin: Potomac.

This overture amends BCO 40-5 so a higher court must make two preliminary determinations before citing a lower court: whether the alleged matter would, if true, be important delinquency or grossly unconstitutional proceeding; and whether sufficient evidence from a credible source supports it. This guards lower courts from premature citation while preserving higher-court review.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 68: BCO 14-1: agency-appointed AC members nonvoting

Source / origin: Catawba Valley.

This overture makes AC members appointed by committees and agencies nonvoting. It keeps their reporting and advisory value but removes their vote to clarify that AC authority derives from GA-elected members accountable to the Assembly. It addresses potential conflicts or blurred accountability in the AC's coordinating role.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 69: BCO 32-18/42-5: record of the case

Source / origin: Southwest Florida.

This overture clarifies what belongs in the Record of the Case and how the record is assembled and transmitted in judicial matters. It reconciles BCO 32-18 and 42-5 and specifies inclusion of charges, answers, testimony/proceedings, citations, documents, decisions, and judgments. The purpose is to improve appellate review and prevent disputes over record completeness.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 71: BCO 5-9.e/9-2/9-7: Session-administered diaconal ministry

Source / origin: Northern California.

This overture allows Sessions to administer diaconal ministry directly and appoint assistants even without ordained deacons. It argues that deacons are not always required for church organization and that elders may oversee or administer mercy/property matters when appropriate. It stands in tension with overtures insisting churches should not rely on unordained substitutes.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 72: BCO 12-8: record Session and diaconate members

Source / origin: Ascension.

This overture requires Session minutes to record members of the Session and diaconate. It emphasizes that Christ has given offices to the church and that records should clearly identify who holds those offices. The proposal supports transparency, review, and clarity about ordained leadership.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 73: RAO 4-9: 2/3 after 3 consecutive years

Source / origin: TE Cody Hooper.

This overture requires a two-thirds majority to elect the Stated Clerk and coordinators after three consecutive years of service. It targets long-tenured denominational executives and argues that the influence, compensation, and accountability concerns attached to these offices warrant a higher confidence threshold. It differs from a blanket two-thirds rule by applying after a service threshold.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 74: BCO 17A: commissioning for non-ordained ministry

Source / origin: Eastern Carolina.

This overture creates a new BCO chapter on commissioning for non-ordained ministry. It distinguishes commissioning from ordination: the church may publicly set apart and send people for specific work without conferring office. It aims to provide lawful language and procedure for missionaries, ministry workers, or representatives while avoiding confusion with elder/deacon ordination.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 75: BCO 42: filing an appeal

Source / origin: Central Florida.

This overture clarifies the process for filing an appeal under BCO 42. It argues historically that appeal filing involves the court's decision, a written appeal with reasons within the prescribed time, and then transmission of the Record of the Case. It seeks to remove confusion over whether notice of appeal is a separate step from the written appeal.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 76: Thanksgiving for USA 250th anniversary

Source / origin: Calvary.

This overture is another declaration of thanksgiving for the United States on the 250th anniversary. It resembles Overture 66 in theme, grounding thanksgiving in divine providence and historical reflection. Commissioners would likely compare tone, wording, and theological precision if both are before the Assembly.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 77: RAO 4-9: 4-year terms for coordinators/Stated Clerk

Source / origin: Southeast Alabama.

This overture moves coordinators and the Stated Clerk to four-year terms. It is part of a cluster seeking to reform annual elections for denominational executives. The main concern is continuity, stability, and a more deliberate approach to leadership review.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 78: RAO 4-21: electronic meetings

Source / origin: Southeast Alabama.

This overture authorizes committees and commissions of GA, except the Overtures Committee and Committees of Commissioners, to meet electronically if their rules permit; ad hoc and ad interim bodies may meet electronically at the chair's or convenor's call. It also renumbers related RAO provisions. The proposal formalizes electronic governance practices.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 79: RAO 4-21: electronic meetings

Source / origin: Calvary.

This overture is similar to Overture 78 but excludes the Overtures Committee, Nominating Committee, and Committees of Commissioners and specifies electronic meetings for called meetings. It reflects the same need to authorize remote meetings but with more defined exceptions.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 80: Ad interim committee on Critical Theory and CRT

Source / origin: Calvary.

This overture erects an ad interim committee on Critical Theory and Critical Race Theory. It frames CT/CRT as ideological systems needing confessional assessment, especially in light of concerns about identity-driven, authoritarian, and anti-biblical assumptions. It is also framed as parallel in seriousness to the Assembly's willingness to study Christian Nationalism.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 81: RAO 1-1: wine and grape juice at GA Lord's Supper

Source / origin: Potomac.

This overture requires both wine and grape juice to be served at the Lord's Supper during GA worship. It argues that wine is the biblical and confessional element while recognizing the PCA's accommodation of grape juice at other levels. The overture seeks to model confessional worship while accommodating conscience.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 82: BCO 12/13/25: congregational consent to authority

Source / origin: Rocky Mountain.

This overture broadly clarifies the right of congregations to give consent to those who exercise authority over them. It invokes PCA grassroots polity, Preliminary Principles, and the spiritual/commonwealth character of church power. It likely affects temporary Sessions, commissions, assistant pastors, mission contexts, and other situations where authority is exercised over a congregation.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 83: Covenant courses taught by ordained elders

Source / origin: Northwest Georgia.

This overture asks that courses on the systematic study of Scripture or Bible doctrine at Covenant College and Covenant Seminary be taught only by ordained teaching or ruling elders. It argues from male teaching authority, creation order, and the PCA's examination/ordination safeguards. The overture applies ecclesial complementarian principles to PCA-related educational institutions.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 84: BCO 12/13: annual attestation of officers' views

Source / origin: Northwest Georgia.

This overture requires annual attestation of officers' theological views. It adds mechanisms by which Sessions and Presbyteries may require officers to reaffirm or disclose changes in confessional commitments, rather than relying only on self-reporting. It aims to combat doctrinal drift and strengthen court oversight.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 85: BCO 44: objections

Source / origin: Northwest Georgia.

This overture creates BCO 44 on objections. It gives teaching elders or commissioned ruling elders who lacked a vote on an appeal or complaint a way to record disagreement respectfully. It distinguishes objections from dissents and protests, which belong to voting members of a court.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 86: BCO 43: rename complaints as inquiries

Source / origin: Grace Covenant Session.

This overture renames BCO 43 complaints as inquiries. It argues that the term complaint is often misconstrued as a disciplinary accusation, while BCO 43 is more properly a written representation against an act or decision of a court. The proposal seeks to reduce needless defensiveness and clarify that the remedy addresses court action, not necessarily personal guilt.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Overture 88: 8.5x11 printable BCO and free digital packets

Source / origin: Siouxlands.

This overture directs the Administrative Committee to format the BCO, RAO, OMSJC, Certificate of Incorporation, Corporate Bylaws, and future change packets for standard 8.5-by-11-inch printing and to make them available digitally at no cost. It addresses cost, inefficiency, irregular page size, and binder compatibility.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of GA governance and procedure.

Overture 2025-49: Ad interim committee on artificial intelligence

Source / origin: Pacific Northwest.

This referred overture erects a seven-member study committee on artificial intelligence with an annual budget of \$15,000 funded by gifts to the AC. The committee would report by the 54th GA on biblical and confessional

principles for AI, with applications to pastoral ministry, administration, discipline and evidence, vocation and diaconal care, education, medical ethics, evangelism/apologetics, copyright, energy/water use, simulated relationships, pornography, and agency policy. It also asks GA committees and agencies to report current and proposed AI usage.

- Downstream use note: this overture can be discussed under the theme of offices, polity, or judicial process.

Excluded Boundary Overtures

Overture	Source	Reason excluded
10	Ohio	Change boundaries of Pittsburgh Presbytery and Ohio Presbytery.
44	Covenant	Divide Covenant Presbytery into two Presbyteries.
62	Tennessee Valley	Divide Tennessee Valley Presbytery into two Presbyteries.
70	Korean Northwest	Expand Korean Northwest boundaries to include Alaska, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington.
87	Pittsburgh	Change boundaries of Pittsburgh Presbytery and Ohio Presbytery.

Content Development Hooks

- Podcast episode arc: Open with the question: Is the PCA primarily trying to become more efficient, more constitutionally precise, or more doctrinally guarded? Then move through five clusters: GA procedure, offices/diaconate, judicial process, congregational consent, and public witness/study committees.
- Video explainer arc: Use a map of tensions: local discretion versus constitutional uniformity; efficiency versus minority rights; spiritual authority versus non-ordained service; due process versus public accountability.
- Review document arc: For each overture, evaluate: problem identified, proposed constitutional mechanism, affected courts or agencies, likely procedural burden, likely theological pressure point, and possible unintended consequences.
- Commissioner briefing arc: Highlight overtures likely to consume debate: diaconate/women/title overtures; assistant pastor/congregational consent overtures; RPR/omnibus procedure; coordinator/Stated Clerk election reforms; AI/CRT study committees and national-thanksgiving declarations.

Key Questions for Further Review

- Where does the proposal create enforceable constitutional law rather than offer prudential guidance?
- Does the overture preserve the distinction between ordained office, delegated assistance, employment, and volunteer service?
- Does the overture increase transparency without overwhelming courts, committees, or clerks?
- Does the overture protect minority rights while recognizing the scale of a modern General Assembly?
- Does the proposal align with the Westminster Standards and the BCO's Preliminary Principles?
- Will the wording create unintended conflicts with existing BCO, RAO, OMSJC, committee manuals, or agency bylaws?
- Does the proposal require conforming amendments elsewhere?

End of summary.