

2011-2012
BCO AMENDMENTS SENT DOWN TO PRESBYTERIES
BY THE 39th GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FOR VOTING, and for ADVICE AND CONSENT

[NOTE: Additions indicated by underlining; deletions by ~~strike-through~~.

ITEM 1

Amend BCO 12-4 to add a new paragraph as follows, and renumber the following paragraphs:

12-4. If a particular church does not have a sufficient number of elders to constitute a session (BCO 12-1, para 2), the presbytery may, upon the request or concurrence of the congregation, form a temporary system of government by appointing a commission to serve as the interim session of the church (BCO 15-1).

Grounds:

The language clarifies the ability of presbyteries to assist churches with an insufficient number of elders while preserving the rights of congregations under Preliminary Principles 2 and 6, and BCO 12-1, 24, and 25.

ITEM 2

Amend BCO 19-11 (last sentence of first paragraph) to read

“Presbytery ~~shall~~ may repeat any portion of the previous Presbytery’s examination it desires, ~~but it must at least examine the intern on:~~

- ~~a. his Christian experience,~~
- ~~b. his call to the ministry,~~
- ~~c. his views in theology, and~~
- ~~d. church government~~

So that the first paragraph of 19-11 reads:

19-11. When any intern shall have occasion, while his internship is in progress, to remove from the bounds of his own Presbytery into those of another, the latter Presbytery may, at its discretion, on his producing proper testimonials from the former, take up his internship at the point at which it was left, and conduct it to a conclusion in the same manner as if it had been commenced by itself. Presbytery may repeat any portion of the previous Presbytery’s examination it desires.

Grounds:

The “whereas” statements from Nashville Presbytery provide sufficient grounds for this action (p. 43 in Commissioner’s Handbook):

[Note: Continued on next page]

- a) When the 7th General Assembly approved the sections in the *BCO* on internships, every intern was required to be a candidate and a licentiate; and
- b) The 14th General Assembly approved to amend *BCO* 18-2 and 19-8 by changing the relationship between internship and licensure from “must” to “may,” so that from that point in time an intern “must be a candidate and *may* be a licentiate in the Presbytery in which he is seeking to become an intern” (*BCO* 19-8, emphasis added); and
- c) Previous to this amendment, examination for internship was the same as that for licensure (*BCO* 19-2), or if an applicant for internship had already been licensed, he was to “give the Presbytery a written and/or oral statement . . . of his inward call to the ministry of the Word” (*BCO* 19-9); and
- d) After the amendment of *BCO* 18-2 and 19-8, the examination for internship only requires a written and/or oral statement of the applicant’s inward call to the ministry of the Word (in addition to the examination for candidacy on experiential religion and on his motives for seeking the ministry, *BCO* 18-3); and
- e) *BCO* 19-11 states that if an “intern shall have occasion, while his internship is in progress, to remove from the bounds of his own Presbytery into those of another,” then “Presbytery shall repeat any portion of the previous Presbytery’s examination it desires, but it must at least examine the intern on: a. his Christian experience, b. his call to the ministry, c. his views in theology, and d. church government;” and
- f) This requirement creates the strange situation in which the examination upon the transfer of one’s internship is more rigorous than the examination to become an intern;