

1 **OVERTURE 4** from The Presbytery of the Blue Ridge (to CCB and OC)  
2 "Amend *BCO 57-5* to Make Profession of Faith Declarations Mandatory"  
3

4 **Whereas** **Communing** Members are defined in *BCO 6-2* and *6-4* as those having made "a  
5 profession of faith in Christ," and  
6

7 **Whereas** the questions contained in *BCO 57-5* (which are frequently referred to as  
8 "Membership Vows") are in fact simply "declarations" to which individuals making  
9 an initial profession of faith are asked to give assent, and  
10

11 **Whereas** the wording of *BCO 57-5* makes the use of these declarations optional by the use  
12 of the language "the minister may then address . . ." and,  
13

14 **Whereas**, for the assurance of consistency **throughout our** churches, **that** all individuals  
15 making a profession of faith, **and are thus admitted by the Session to the Lord's**  
16 **Table**, give assent to the same declarations,  
17

18 **Therefore**, The Presbytery of the Blue Ridge, acting at their Stated Meeting on October 13,  
19 2007, hereby overtures the 36th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in  
20 America, meeting in Dallas, Texas, to approve on first reading and send to the  
21 Presbyteries for their approval, the following amendment to *The Book of Church*  
22 *Order*:  
23

24 Change the language of the sentence in the 5th paragraph [of *BCO 57-5*] to read as  
25 follows:  
26

27 "the minister ~~may~~ shall address those making a profession in the following terms:"  
28

29 *Adopted by The Presbytery of the Blue Ridge at its Stated Meeting, October 13, 2007*

30 *Attested by /s/ TE Don K. Clements*