

1 **OVERTURE 1** from Missouri Presbytery

(to CCB, OC)

2 “Amend *BCO 37-7* regarding Removal of Censure for Persons
3 Who Have Relocated”
4

5 **Whereas**, the purpose of *BCO 37-7* as currently worded, is to allow that a person disciplined
6 by the church, but now repentant, who has moved to a location outside the
7 jurisdiction of the original court, shall have his case transferred to the Session (or
8 Presbytery) having jurisdiction over the new residence; and
9

10 **Whereas**, the current wording of *BCO 37-7* is problematic in that the referent “the country”
11 of “shall remove to a part of *the country*” is ambiguous (the U.S. or Canada), and the
12 phrase assumes that the person has remained in the person’s country of origin; and
13

14 **Whereas**, the current wording does not address a situation in which the person has moved
15 somewhere beyond PCA geographical jurisdiction;
16

17 **Therefore, be it resolved**, that *BCO 37-7* be amended (strike-through for deletions; bold for
18 addition) to read:
19

20 **37-7.** When a person under censure shall remove to a ~~part of the country~~
21 **location** remote from the court by which he was sentenced, and shall
22 desire to profess repentance and obtain restoration, it shall be lawful for
23 the court, if it deems it expedient, to transmit a certified copy of its
24 proceedings to the Session (or Presbytery) where the delinquent resides,
25 which shall take up the case and proceed with it as though it had
26 originated with itself.
27

28 **Rationale:**
29

30 “Location” covers the entire world, thus removing the ambiguity of the current wording.
31

32 Even if the person has moved somewhere beyond PCA geographical jurisdiction, the
33 Session (or Presbytery) would be free to transfer the case to an equivalent court of a
34 corresponding or sister denomination, for example one with which MTW Missionaries
35 cooperate.
36

37 *Adopted by Missouri Presbytery at the stated meeting on April 15, 2008.*

38 *Attested by: /s/ TE David R. Stain, Stated Clerk*