

**OVERTURE 14** from North Texas Presbytery

(to CCB, OC)

“Amend *BCO* 25 by adding Section 25-12 regarding Giving Notice to Presbytery of Intention to Withdraw from the PCA”

**Whereas**, unity and being in accord is a hallmark of a Christian and is especially incumbent upon a Christian leader (John 17; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:5); and

**Whereas**, ministers of the PCA are required to take a vow to guard the peace and unity of a local church over which they have been made a Shepherd (Vow 6); and

**Whereas**, with increasing frequency ministers of the PCA are involved in actually leading local congregations out of the denomination rather than seeking unity and reconciliation with the same. Congregations may vote to leave “for reasons which seem to it sufficient” (*BCO* 25-11). Ministers may not. Ministers are under the jurisdiction of a presbytery and can be charged with schism; and

**Whereas**, ministers participating in, instigating, and leading congregations out of the denomination are not being faithful to the Scriptures or their ordination vows. If they can no longer remain in the denomination then they should seek their own dismissal without seeking to create schism and take a church as well.

**Therefore, to make this clear and unequivocal, be it resolved** that *BCO* 25 be amended to add a new 25-12 and re-number accordingly. Amend with the following:

**25-12.** While particular churches need remain in association with any court of this body only so long as they themselves desire, such is not the case with teaching elders. Teaching elders remain under the jurisdiction of the presbytery of which they are members and are subject to the vows they took to guard the peace and unity of the church. Therefore, teaching elders shall give reasonable advanced notice to the Presbytery of the intentions of the local church to withdraw. Presbytery through its appointed representatives shall assist the local church in making an orderly withdrawal provided the church follows the other provisions of this chapter. It should always be the desire of a faithful minister of Christ to effect reconciliation between all bodies of Christians but especially those of his own denomination (See *BCO* Appendix I, Conflict Resolution).

*Adopted by North Texas Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 6, 2009*

*Attested by /s/ RE T. John Mulkey, stated clerk*