

1 **OVERTURE 9** from Ascension Presbytery (to CCB, OC)

2 “Amend *BCO* 13-6 to Require that Men Coming from Other Denominations  
3 Must Declare and Have Judged by Presbytery Any Differences with *The*  
4 *Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*”

5  
6 **Whereas**, *BCO* 21-4 was amended in 2003 to require that a candidate for ordination must state  
7 for his Presbytery “the specific instances in which he may differ with *The Confession*  
8 *of Faith* and *Catechisms* in any of their statements and/or propositions;” and

9  
10 **Whereas**, this same amendment also added the requirement that the court must judge whether  
11 or not the candidate’s declared difference is out of accord with any fundamental of  
12 our system of doctrine; and

13  
14 **Whereas**, part of the reasoning behind the overture(s) seeking to add the above language to  
15 *The Book of Church Order* was that “the purity and unity of our church require her to  
16 establish that her officers sincerely receive and adopt the Westminster Standards as  
17 containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures, and for those officers  
18 to declare if at any time they find themselves out of accord with any of the  
19 fundamentals of this system (*BCO* 21-5; *WCF XXXI.2*)” (*M30GA* p. 219. See also  
20 the rationales offered in support of the overtures noted on the pages following); and

21  
22 **Whereas**, that concern for the purity and unity of the church and the need for officers to  
23 declare their accord with the system of doctrine should apply not only to men  
24 seeking ordination but also to men coming from other denominations; and

25  
26 **Whereas**, the current language of *BCO* 13-6 and 21-4 does not require that men coming from  
27 other denominations must state any differences with the statements and/or propositions  
28 of the *Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms*, nor does it require the receiving Presbytery  
29 to make any judgment about any possible difference; and

30  
31 **Whereas**, it is right and proper to seek to ensure that men coming from other denominations  
32 have the same orthodoxy of views as men being ordained in the PCA;

33  
34 **Therefore be it resolved** that the Presbytery of the Ascension hereby overtures the 37<sup>th</sup>  
35 General Assembly to begin the process of amending *BCO* 13-6 to add a new last  
36 sentence to the end of that paragraph to read as follows:

37  
38 **Presbyteries shall also require ordained ministers coming from other**  
39 **denominations to state the specific instances in which they may differ with the**  
40 ***Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* in any of their statements and/or**  
41 **propositions, which differences the court shall judge in accordance with *BCO***  
42 **21-4 (see para. 7).**

43  
44 *Adopted by the Presbytery of the Ascension at its stated meeting, November 8, 2008*

45 *Attested by /s/ RE Frederick R. Neikirk, stated clerk*