

1 **OVERTURE 49** from Pittsburgh Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
2 “Amend *BCO* 18-7 Regarding Removal of Candidates and Interns”  
3

4 **Whereas** every intern is required to be a candidate for ministry (*BCO* 19-8), and;  
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6 **Whereas** with respect to the candidate “his preparatory training for the ministry he is *under*  
7 *the oversight of the Presbytery*. It shall be the duty of the Presbytery to show a kindly  
8 and sympathetic interest in him” (*BCO* 18-4, emphasis added); and  
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10 **Whereas** “The intern should be *closely supervised* by the Presbytery throughout this trial  
11 period.” (*BCO* 19-7, emphasis added); and  
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13 **Whereas** “For the development of his Christian character, for the service he can render, and  
14 for his more effective training, the candidate, when entering on his theological  
15 studies, should be authorized and encouraged by the Presbytery to conduct public  
16 worship, to expound the Scriptures to the people, and to engage in other forms of  
17 Christian work. These forms of service should be rendered under the direction of  
18 Presbytery” (*BCO* 18-5); and  
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20 **Whereas** this relationship between the candidate and Presbytery does not change when they  
21 become an intern, “Presbyteries should require interns to devote themselves  
22 diligently to the trial of their gifts; and no one should be ordained to the work of the  
23 ministry of the Word until he has demonstrated the ability both to edify and to rule in  
24 the Church.” (*BCO* 19-12); and  
25

26 **Whereas** the candidate or intern can have his status removed. “A candidate shall, at his  
27 request, be allowed to withdraw from the care of the Presbytery. The Presbytery may  
28 also, for sufficient reasons, remove the name of the candidate from its roll of  
29 candidates; but in such a case it shall report its actions and the reasons therefor to the  
30 candidate and to the Session of his church.” (*BCO* 18-7); and  
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32 **Whereas** the Presbytery is required to give sufficient reasons for the candidate’s removal to  
33 the candidate and to the Session of his church (*BCO* 18-7); and  
34

35 **Whereas** Sessions will, at their discretion, request the removal of candidates from the care  
36 of the Presbytery; and  
37

38 **Whereas** the Session of his church is not required to give sufficient reasons or make a report  
39 to Presbytery of its actions; and  
40

41 **Whereas** there is no requirement for the candidate to give sufficient reasons to the  
42 Presbytery for his withdraw from the care of the Presbytery; and  
43

44 **Whereas** we are doing a disservice to these men under our care by allowing them, or their  
45 Sessions, to request to be withdrawn from the care of the Presbytery without

1 reporting sufficient reasons and actions, thereby not giving the Presbytery the  
2 opportunity to “show a kindly and sympathetic interest in him” (BCO 18-4) before  
3 the relationship is severed.  
4

5 **Therefore be it resolved** that the 42nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in  
6 America amend *BCO* 18-7 by adding “or at the request of his Session,... But in such  
7 a case sufficient reasons (and any actions taken) must be reported to the Presbytery.”  
8 Also, “In all cases of a removal or withdrawal of a candidate, the sufficient reason  
9 for the action shall be recorded in the minutes of Presbytery.”

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11 The new 18-7 would thus read (new wording underlined):  
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13 **18-7.** The Presbytery may, upon application of the candidate, give a  
14 certificate of dismissal to another Presbytery. The candidate may be  
15 allowed to retain membership in his home church upon the request of  
16 his Session and the approval of both Presbyteries involved. A  
17 candidate shall, at his request or at the request of his Session, be  
18 allowed to withdraw from the care of the Presbytery. But in such a  
19 case sufficient reasons (and any actions taken) must be reported to the  
20 Presbytery. The Presbytery may also, for sufficient reasons, remove  
21 the name of the candidate from its roll of candidates; but in such a case  
22 it shall report its actions and the reasons therefore to the candidate and  
23 to the Session of his church. In all cases of a removal or withdrawal of  
24 a candidate, the sufficient reason for the action shall be recorded in the  
25 minutes of Presbytery.  
26

27 *Adopted by Pittsburgh Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 25, 2014*

28 *Attested by /s/ TE LeRoy S. Capper, stated clerk*