

1 **OVERTURE 13** from Nashville Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 Revise *BCO* 14-1.11 and the Corporate Bylaws of the PCA Article VI.1, ¶4;
3 VI.2, ¶1; VI.3, ¶1, ¶2; VI-4, ¶1, ¶2; and VI-5, ¶3 to Allow Women to Serve
4 on Boards of Agencies”
5

6 **Whereas**, the 45th General Assembly adopted recommendation 3 of the Report of the Ad
7 Interim Committee on Women Serving in the Ministry of the Church, which calls for
8 “sessions, presbyteries and the General Assembly to strive to develop, recognize, and
9 utilize the gifts, skills, knowledge, and wisdom of godly women in the local, regional,
10 and national church;” and
11

12 **Whereas**, that same recommendation called for the consideration of overtures “that would
13 allow qualified women to serve on appropriate committees and agencies within the
14 church;” and
15

16 **Whereas**, service on the Boards of Agencies established by the Corporate Bylaws of the
17 Presbyterian Church in America is among the appropriate places for godly women to
18 exercise their gifts in the national church; and
19

20 **Whereas**, with such changes provision should be made to maintain proper representation of
21 church officers on the Boards of those Agencies;
22

23 **Therefore**, Nashville Presbytery overtures the 46th General Assembly to amend the Corporate
24 Bylaws of the Presbyterian Church in America as follows (~~strike through~~ for deletions,
25 underlining for new wording):
26

27 Article VI.1, fourth paragraph

28 The Board of Directors of RBI shall be twelve (12) in number, divided
29 into four (4) classes of three (3) ~~men~~ members each serving for four-(4-)year
30 terms. Directors will be eligible for re-election to a second four-year term
31 after which there must be a one-year interval before further re-election. The
32 Board may make requests to the Presbyteries to nominate specific ~~men~~
33 members to the Board and may submit to the General Assembly Nominating
34 Committee letters of recommendation concerning particular nominees from
35 the Presbyteries. The General Assembly shall elect at each Assembly a class
36 of Directors to begin service immediately following the conclusion of the
37 Assembly. Each member of the Directors must be a member in good standing
38 in a church or Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in America. Two-thirds
39 (8) of the Directors must be either a Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder, or Deacon
40 in the Presbyterian Church in America. Directors who have not been ordained
41 to one of those offices must affirm the questions proposed to Ruling Elders
42 or Deacons at the time of their ordination and installation (*BCO* 24-6) with
43 the exception that in the fourth question, the phrase “the office of ruling elder
44 (or deacon, as the case may be) in this church” be replaced with “the position
45 of Director of RBI,” and the phrase “of which God has made you an officer”

1 at the end of that question be deleted. The Directors are not subject to the
2 provisions of the *BCO*, Chapter 14, relating to proportionate representation of
3 all Presbyteries or for equal representation of Teaching and Ruling Elders. A
4 vacancy on the Board of Directors because of death, resignation, removal,
5 disqualification, or otherwise may be filled by the directors for the unexpired
6 portion of the term subject to the approval of the next General Assembly.

7
8 Article VI.2

9 The Board of Trustees of Covenant College shall consist of twenty-eight
10 members each elected to a four-year term. The Board is divided into four
11 classes of seven ~~men~~ members each such that the terms of one-fourth of the
12 Board members expire each year. Any member in good standing in a church
13 or Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in America or a member of a
14 denomination with which the PCA is in ecclesiastical fellowship may be
15 elected a Trustee. At least three-fourths (21) of the Trustees must be PCA
16 Teaching or Ruling Elders. Trustees who have not been ordained to one of
17 those offices must affirm the questions proposed to ruling elders or deacons
18 at the time of their ordination and installation (BCO 24-6) with the exception
19 that in the fourth question, the phrase “the office of ruling elder (or deacon,
20 as the case may be) in this church” be replaced with “the position of Trustee
21 of Covenant College,” and the phrase “of which God has made you an
22 officer” at the end of that question be deleted. There is no required formula
23 for dividing the members of a class between teaching and ruling elders. A
24 Trustee shall be eligible at the end of any full four-year term for re-election
25 to a second four year term, after which there must be a one-year interval
26 before reelection. The General Assembly of the PCA may choose to elect
27 Trustees to fill unfinished terms of Trustees who vacated their office before
28 their term expired.

29 The Trustee who is elected to fill the unfinished term is eligible, if
30 reelected, to serve one additional successive term, after which a one-year
31 period must elapse before ~~he~~ the Trustee is eligible for re-election.

32 Up to four ~~men~~ members of denominations with which the PCA is in
33 ecclesiastical fellowship may be elected, one to each class. In addition, the
34 Board may make requests to the Presbyteries to nominate specific ~~men~~
35 members to the Board and may submit to the Assembly Nominating
36 Committee letters of recommendation concerning particular nominees from
37 the presbyteries. Furthermore, the Board may recommend one nominee per
38 class from another NAPARC member denomination for consideration by the
39 Assembly Nominating Committee, with a maximum of two such members
40 permitted on the Board at one time.

41
42 Article VI.3

43 The Board of Trustees of Covenant Theological Seminary shall consist of not
44 less than twelve and not more than thirty-two members [currently twenty-
45 four]. The members of the Board of Trustees are each elected to a four-year

1 term. The Board is divided equally into four classes, the terms of one-fourth
 2 of the Board members expiring each year. A Trustee shall be eligible at the
 3 end of any full four-year term for re-election to a second four-year term, after
 4 which there must be a one-year interval before re-election. The General
 5 Assembly of the PCA may choose to elect Trustees to fill unfinished terms of
 6 Trustees who vacated their office before their term expired. The Trustee who
 7 is elected to fill the unfinished term is eligible, if reelected, to serve one
 8 additional successive term, after which a one year period must elapse before
 9 ~~he~~the Trustee is eligible for re-election.

10 Each Trustee shall be a member in good standing of a church or a
 11 Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in America or a member of a
 12 denomination with which the PCA is in ecclesiastical fellowship and elected
 13 by the General Assembly. At least two-thirds of the Trustees must be an
 14 ordained teaching or ruling elders of the Presbyterian Church in America.
 15 Trustees who have not been ordained to one of those offices must affirm the
 16 questions proposed to ruling elders or deacons at the time of their ordination
 17 and installation (BCO 24-6) with the exception that in the fourth question, the
 18 phrase “the office of ruling elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this
 19 church” be replaced with “the position of Trustee of Covenant Theological
 20 Seminary,” and the phrase “of which God has made you an officer” at the end
 21 of that question be deleted. and elected by the General Assembly, except that
 22 ~~u~~Up to two members of each class may be elders members of denominations
 23 with which the PCA is in ecclesiastical fellowship. There is no required
 24 formula for dividing the members of a class between teaching and ruling
 25 elders. In addition, the Board may make requests to the Presbyteries to
 26 nominate specific ~~men~~ members to the Board and may submit to the
 27 Assembly Nominating Committee letters of recommendation concerning
 28 particular nominees from the presbyteries. Furthermore, the Board may
 29 recommend one nominee per class from another NAPARC member
 30 denomination for consideration by the Assembly Nominating Committee,
 31 with a maximum of two such members permitted on the Board at one time.
 32

33 Article VI-4

34 The Directors of Ridge Haven, Inc. shall consist of ten (10) members, divided
 35 into five (5) classes of two (2) ~~men~~ members, each serving five-(5)-year
 36 terms. The General Assembly shall elect at each Assembly a Class of
 37 Directors to begin service immediately following the conclusion of the
 38 Assembly. In addition, the Ridge Haven Board may make request to
 39 presbyteries to nominate specific ~~men~~ members to the Board and may submit
 40 to the Assembly Nominating Committee letters of recommendation
 41 concerning particular nominees from presbyteries.

42 Each member of the Board of Directors must be a member in good
 43 standing of a church or a Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in America.
 44 At least seven (7) members of the Board of Directors must be either a
 45 Teaching or Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church in America. Directors

1 who have not been ordained to one of those offices must affirm the questions
2 proposed to ruling elders or deacons at the time of their ordination and
3 installation (BCO 24-6) with the exception that in the fourth question, the
4 phrase “the office of ruling elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this
5 church” be replaced with “the position of Director of Ridge Haven,” and the
6 phrase “of which God has made you an officer” at the end of that question be
7 deleted. The members of the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven are not
8 subject to the *BCO* Chapter 14 relating to proportionate representation of all
9 Presbyteries or for equal representation of Teaching and Ruling Elders.
10 Directors shall be eligible for reelection to a second five-year term, after
11 which there must be a one-year interval before further re-election.
12

13 Article VI-5, third paragraph

14 As stated above, the Directors shall be elected through the standard
15 nomination and election procedures, except that the Board of Directors may
16 make requests to the Presbyteries to nominate specific ~~men~~ members for
17 election as Directors, and may submit to the Assembly Nominating
18 Committee letters of recommendation concerning particular nominees for
19 election as Directors from the Presbyteries.

20 All of the members of the Board of Directors shall be members in
21 good standing of a church or Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in
22 America. At least seven (7) of the members of the Board of Directors must be
23 either Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders or Deacons, and at least one half of
24 ~~such~~ the members (5) shall be Ruling Elders and Deacons. Directors who have
25 not been ordained to one of those offices must affirm the questions proposed
26 to ruling elders or deacons at the time of their ordination and installation
27 (BCO 24-6) with the exception that in the fourth question, the phrase “the
28 office of ruling elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this church” be
29 replaced with “the position of Director of Presbyterian Church in America
30 Foundation, Inc.,” and the phrase “of which God has made you an officer” at
31 the end of that question be deleted.
32
33

34 **So that Article VI of the “Corporate Bylaws of the Presbyterian Church in America”**
35 **would read as follows:**

36 **ARTICLE VI. OTHER BOARDS AND AGENCIES**
37

38 The Assembly has authority to make exceptions to the above
39 guidelines for some boards, agencies and committees not specifically covered
40 by the *BCO*, by making amendments to these bylaws spelling out the specific
41 exceptions, as well as approving corporation bylaws in conformity with these
42 exceptions.
43
44

1 1. PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc., hereinafter referred to as “RBI,”
2 shall provide such services in furtherance of the religious purposes of
3 this Corporation as may be agreed between RBI and the corporation
4 from time to time. Specifically, but not in limitation thereof, RBI shall
5 administer and serve as the trustee of the assets of the Retirement plans,
6 the group insurance plans and the ministerial relief programs of the
7 Corporation.

8 No action of the General Assembly, the Corporation, or RBI
9 shall conflict with provisions of the “Trust Agreement for the Tax-
10 Sheltered Annuity Plan of the Presbyterian Church in America,” and
11 the “Presbyterian Church in America Health and Welfare Benefit
12 Trust” without amendment of said Trust Agreements as provided in
13 the Trust Agreements. RBI shall serve as the trustee under the Trust
14 Agreements until replaced in accordance with their terms.

15 RBI will make a report to each General Assembly through the
16 Committee of Commissioners on PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc.

17 The Board of Directors of RBI shall be twelve (12) in number,
18 divided into four (4) classes of three (3) members each serving for
19 four-(4-)year terms. Directors will be eligible for re-election to a
20 second four-year term after which there must be a one-year interval
21 before further re-election. The Board may make requests to the
22 Presbyteries to nominate specific members to the Board and may
23 submit to the General Assembly Nominating Committee letters of
24 recommendation concerning particular nominees from the
25 Presbyteries. The General Assembly shall elect at each Assembly a
26 class of Directors to begin service immediately following the
27 conclusion of the Assembly. Each member of the Directors must be a
28 member in good standing in a church or Presbytery in the Presbyterian
29 Church in America. Two-thirds (8) of the Directors must be either a
30 Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder or Deacon in the Presbyterian Church
31 in America. Directors who have not been ordained to one of those
32 offices must affirm the questions proposed to ruling elders or deacons
33 at the time of their ordination and installation (*BCO* 24-6) with the
34 exception that in the fourth question, the phrase “the office of ruling
35 elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this church” be replaced with
36 “the position of Director of RBI”, and the phrase “of which God has
37 made you an officer” at the end of that question be deleted. The
38 Directors are not subject to the provisions of the *BCO*, Chapter 14,
39 relating to proportionate representation of all Presbyteries or for equal
40 representation of Teaching and Ruling Elders. A vacancy on the Board
41 of Directors because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification
42 or otherwise, may be filled by the directors for the unexpired portion
43 of the term subject to the approval of the next General Assembly.
44

1 2. The Board of Trustees of Covenant College shall consist of twenty-
2 eight members each elected to a four-year term. The Board is divided
3 into four classes of seven members each such that the terms of one-
4 fourth of the Board members expire each year. Any member in good
5 standing in a church or Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in
6 America or a member of a denomination with which the PCA is in
7 ecclesiastical fellowship may be elected a Trustee. At least three-
8 fourths (21) of the Trustees must be PCA Teaching or Ruling Elders.
9 Trustees who have not been ordained to one of those offices must
10 affirm the questions proposed to ruling elders or deacons at the time
11 of their ordination and installation (*BCO* 24-6) with the exception that
12 in the fourth question, the phrase “the office of ruling elder (or deacon,
13 as the case may be) in this church” be replaced with “the position of
14 Trustee of Covenant College”, and the phrase “of which God has made
15 you an officer” at the end of that question be deleted. There is no
16 required formula for dividing the members of a class between teaching
17 and ruling elders. A Trustee shall be eligible at the end of any full
18 four-year term for re-election to a second four year term, after which
19 there must be a one-year interval before reelection. The General
20 Assembly of the PCA may choose to elect Trustees to fill unfinished
21 terms of Trustees who vacated their office before their term expired.

22 The Trustee who is elected to fill the unfinished term is
23 eligible, if reelected, to serve one additional successive term, after
24 which a one-year period must elapse before the Trustee is eligible for
25 re-election.

26 Up to four members of denominations with which the PCA is
27 in ecclesiastical fellowship may be elected, one to each class. In
28 addition, the Board may make requests to the Presbyteries to nominate
29 specific members to the Board and may submit to the Assembly
30 Nominating Committee letters of recommendation concerning
31 particular nominees from the presbyteries. Furthermore, the Board
32 may recommend one nominee per class from another NAPARC
33 member denomination for consideration by the Assembly Nominating
34 Committee, with a maximum of two such members permitted on the
35 Board at one time.

36
37 3. The Board of Trustees of Covenant Theological Seminary shall
38 consist of not less than twelve and not more than thirty-two members
39 [currently twenty-four]. The members of the Board of Trustees are
40 each elected to a four-year term. The Board is divided equally into
41 four classes, the terms of one-fourth of the Board members expiring
42 each year. A Trustee shall be eligible at the end of any full four-year
43 term for re-election to a second four-year term, after which there must
44 be a one-year interval before re-election. The General Assembly of
45 the PCA may choose to elect Trustees to fill unfinished terms of

1 Trustees who vacated their office before their term expired. The
2 Trustee who is elected to fill the unfinished term is eligible, if
3 reelected, to serve one additional successive term, after which a one
4 year period must elapse before the Trustee is eligible for re-election.

5 Each Trustee shall be a member in good standing of a church
6 or a Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in America or a member of
7 a denomination with which the PCA is in ecclesiastical fellowship and
8 elected by the General Assembly. At least two-thirds of the Trustees
9 must be ordained teaching or ruling elders of the Presbyterian Church
10 in America. Trustees who have not been ordained to one of those
11 offices must affirm the questions proposed to ruling elders or deacons
12 at the time of their ordination and installation (*BCO* 24-6) with the
13 exception that in the fourth question, the phrase “the office of ruling
14 elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this church” be replaced with
15 “the position of Trustee of Covenant Theological Seminary”, and the
16 phrase “of which God has made you an officer” at the end of that
17 question be deleted. Up to two members of each class may be
18 members of denominations with which the PCA is in ecclesiastical
19 fellowship. There is no required formula for dividing the members of
20 a class between teaching and ruling elders. In addition, the Board may
21 make requests to the Presbyteries to nominate specific members to the
22 Board and may submit to the Assembly Nominating Committee letters
23 of recommendation concerning particular nominees from the
24 presbyteries. Furthermore, the Board may recommend one nominee
25 per class from another NAPARC member denomination for
26 consideration by the Assembly Nominating Committee, with a
27 maximum of two such members permitted on the Board at one time.

- 28
29 4. The Directors of Ridge Haven, Inc. shall consist of ten (10) members,
30 divided into five (5) classes of two (2) members each serving five-
31 (5-)year terms. The General Assembly shall elect at each Assembly a
32 Class of Directors to begin service immediately following the
33 conclusion of the Assembly. In addition, the Ridge Haven Board may
34 make request to presbyteries to nominate specific members to the
35 Board and may submit to the Assembly Nominating Committee letters
36 of recommendation concerning particular nominees from presbyteries.

37 Each member of the Board of Directors must be a member in
38 good standing of a church or a Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church
39 in America. At least seven (7) members of the Board of Directors
40 must be either a Teaching or Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church
41 in America. Directors who have not been ordained to one of those
42 offices must affirm the questions proposed to ruling elders or deacons
43 at the time of their ordination and installation (*BCO* 24-6) with the
44 exception that in the fourth question, the phrase “the office of ruling
45 elder (or deacon, as the case may be) in this church” be replaced with

1 “the position of Director of Ridge Haven”, and the phrase “of which
2 God has made you an officer” at the end of that question be deleted.
3 The members of the Board of Directors of Ridge Haven are not subject
4 to the *BCO* Chapter 14 relating to proportionate representation of all
5 Presbyteries or for equal representation of Teaching and Ruling
6 Elders. Directors shall be eligible for reelection to a second five-year
7 term after which there must be a one year interval before further re-
8 election.

- 9
10 5. The Board of Directors of Presbyterian Church in America
11 Foundation, Inc., shall consist of ten (10) members in classes elected
12 through the standard nomination and election procedures.

13 The Directors shall serve for four-(4-)year terms, and shall be
14 divided into four (4) classes, each class being as nearly equal in
15 number as possible, so that the terms of approximately one-fourth of
16 the Directors shall expire each year. Directors shall be eligible for re-
17 election to a second four-year term after which there must be a one-
18 year interval before further election.

19 As stated above, the Directors shall be elected through the
20 standard nomination and election procedures, except that the Board of
21 Directors may make requests to the Presbyteries to nominate specific
22 members for election as Directors, and may submit to the Assembly
23 Nominating Committee letters of recommendation concerning
24 particular nominees for election as Directors from the Presbyteries.

25 All of the members of the Board of Directors shall be members
26 in good standing of a church or Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church
27 in America. At least seven (7) of the members of the Board of
28 Directors must be either Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders or Deacons,
29 and at least one half of the members (5) shall be Ruling Elders and
30 Deacons. Directors who have not been ordained to one of those offices
31 must affirm the questions proposed to ruling elders or deacons at the
32 time of their ordination and installation (*BCO* 24-6) with the exception
33 that in the fourth question, the phrase “the office of ruling elder (or
34 deacon, as the case may be) in this church” be replaced with “the
35 position of Director of Presbyterian Church in America Foundation,
36 Inc.”, and the phrase “of which God has made you an officer” at the
37 end of that question be deleted.

38
39 **Nashville Presbytery further overtures** the General Assembly to implement these
40 amendments to the Bylaws in each agency one class at a time until the provisions are
41 fully implemented;

42
43 **And** in order to bring the nomination process into conformity with this change, **Nashville**
44 **Presbytery further overtures** the General Assembly to amend the *BCO* 14-1.11 as
45 follows (strike-through for deletions, underlining for new wording):

1 **14-1.**

- 2 11. This committee is to present all nominations for which it is
3 responsible to the next meeting of the Assembly from a slate
4 of ~~men~~ nominees nominated by the Presbyteries. Presbyteries
5 shall utilize the nominating forms provided by the stated clerk
6 for their nominations. Each presbytery may present one
7 teaching elder and one ruling elder for each committee ~~or~~ and
8 two nominees for each agency.

9
10 So that *BCO* 14-1.11 would read:

- 11
12 11. A Nominating Committee shall be comprised of one
13 representative elected by each Presbytery in the following
14 manner. Each Presbytery shall be assigned to a class by the
15 stated clerk based on its date of formation. The members shall
16 serve in classes of three year terms, alternating between ruling
17 and teaching elders. When necessary, unexpired terms shall be
18 filled by an elder of the same class, teaching or ruling.

19 This committee is to present all nominations for which
20 it is responsible to the next meeting of the Assembly from a
21 slate of nominees nominated by the Presbyteries. Presbyteries
22 shall utilize the nominating forms provided by the stated clerk
23 for their nominations. Each presbytery may present one
24 teaching elder and one ruling elder for each committee and two
25 nominees for each agency.

26 In addition to nominees for expired terms, the
27 Committee shall nominate for each permanent committee one
28 ruling and one teaching elder as alternates to fill any vacancies
29 that may occur during the year. Each alternate should attend
30 each meeting and fill any vacancy necessary to meet a quorum.
31 In addition to the new nominees from the Presbyteries,
32 alternates not assuming any vacancies during a year will be
33 automatically considered by the Nominating Committee as
34 candidates for nomination to that same committee.

35
36 *Adopted by Nashville Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 13, 2018*

37 *Attested by /s/ TE Neil Spence, Stated Clerk*