

1 **OVERTURE 8** from Ohio Valley Presbytery (to CCB, OC)

2 “Amend *BCO* 14-1.10, 14-1.11, and 14-1.12 to Allow Non-ordained  
3 Persons to serve on Committees and Boards”

4 [Editorial note: the wording in the “be it resolved” section, page 2, lines 1-3, has  
5 been clarified.]  
6

7 **Whereas**, the Presbyterian Church in America believes Christ has called his church to be a  
8 “spiritual commonwealth” (*BCO* 3-1), in which members elect godly men to be  
9 ordained as elders who are given the power of jurisdiction as they act jointly in the  
10 courts of the church (*BCO* 3-2); and  
11

12 **Whereas**, a robustly complementarian perspective affirms the oversight of these elders and  
13 the proper, vital, and full expression of the gifts given by Christ to men and women  
14 for his service; and  
15

16 **Whereas**, vigorous participation of women in the life of the early church is attested by the  
17 New Testament: they helped select (Acts 1:14) and train (Acts 18:26) leaders of the  
18 church, prophesied (Acts 21:8-9), served the church through deeds of mercy in vital  
19 ways (Acts 9:36–41), were instrumental in the planting of churches (Acts 16:12–15;  
20 17:4,12) and other missionary endeavors (Acts 18:1f), and were acknowledged as  
21 important leaders for the church (Rom. 16:3-4); and  
22

23 **Whereas**, as part of the calling of church leaders to “equip the saints for the work of ministry  
24 for building up the body of Christ” (Eph. 4:12), sessions throughout the PCA identify  
25 gifted men and women to serve on committees of the church, such as missions,  
26 building, and pastoral search committees; and  
27

28 **Whereas**, in contrast with a commission in the PCA, which is "authorized to deliberate and  
29 conclude the business referred to it," committees are appointed by courts “to examine,  
30 consider and report” to their constituting court concerning the matters that court  
31 delegates to them (*BCO* 15-1) and thus do not exercise governing authority; and  
32

33 **Whereas**, in accordance with this principle, Permanent Committees established by the  
34 General Assembly are “to serve and not to direct any Church judicatories. They are  
35 not to establish policy, but rather execute policy established by the General Assembly”  
36 (*BCO* 14-1.7); and  
37

38 **Whereas**, these considerations suggest there is no impediment to an unordained member in  
39 good standing in the PCA serving on a Permanent Committee of the General Assembly  
40 established in *BCO* 14-1.12; and  
41

42 **Whereas**, the 45th General Assembly adopted the recommendation of The Ad Interim  
43 Committee on Women Serving in the Ministry of the Church that stated, “sessions,  
44 presbyteries and the General Assembly strive to develop, recognize, and utilize the  
45 gifts, skills, knowledge, and wisdom of godly women in the local, regional, and  
46 national church, and particularly consider overtures that would allow qualified women  
47 to serve on appropriate committees and agencies within the church”;

1 **Therefore be it resolved** to amend *The Book of Church Order* by deleting 14-1.10; by  
2 amending 14-1.11 as follows (and renumbering as 14-1.10); by adding a new 14-1.11;  
3 and by amending 14-1.12 as follows: [Proposed additions underlined and deletions  
4 noted by strike out.]  
5

6 **BCO 14-1**  
7

8 ~~10. The committees are to be established on the basis of an equal number~~  
9 ~~between teaching and ruling elders.~~  
10

11 11. 10. A Nominating Committee shall be comprised of one  
12 representative elected by each Presbytery in the following manner.  
13 Each Presbytery shall be assigned to a class by the stated clerk based  
14 on its date of formation. The members shall serve in classes of three  
15 year terms, alternating between ruling and teaching elders. When  
16 necessary, unexpired terms shall be filled by an elder of the same class,  
17 teaching or ruling.

18 This committee is to present all nominations for which it is  
19 responsible to the next meeting of the Assembly from a slate of ~~men~~  
20 candidates nominated by the Presbyteries. Presbyteries shall utilize the  
21 nominating forms provided by the stated clerk for their nominations.  
22 Each presbytery may present one teaching elder, ~~and~~ one ruling elder,  
23 and, when applicable, one candidate who is not an elder to fill openings  
24 that are designated for members at large for each committee or agency.  
25 Any non-ordained person nominated must meet the qualifications  
26 outlined in BCO 14-1.11.

27 In addition to nominees for expired terms, the Committee shall  
28 nominate for each permanent Committee one ruling, ~~and~~ one teaching  
29 elder and a member-at-large candidate as alternates to fill any vacancies  
30 that may occur during the year. Each alternate should attend each  
31 meeting and fill any vacancy necessary to meet a quorum. In addition  
32 to the new nominees from the Presbyteries, alternates not assuming any  
33 vacancies during a year will be automatically considered by the  
34 Nominating Committee as candidates for nomination to that same  
35 committee.  
36

37 11. To be qualified for nomination and election to serve on a Permanent  
38 Committee or Agency as a member at large, a non-ordained candidate  
39 must be a member in good standing of a Church in the Presbyterian  
40 Church in America and must receive an endorsement from their  
41 Session. The endorsement will consist of testimony regarding the  
42 candidate's Christian character, knowledge of the Constitution, and  
43 promise of faithful service to the General Assembly.  
44

1 12. The Assembly permanent committees are the Administrative  
2 Committee of the General Assembly, Committee on Discipleship  
3 Ministries, Committee on Mission to North America, Committee on  
4 Mission to the World, and Committee on Reformed University  
5 Fellowship.

6 The Administrative Committee of the General Assembly (AC) shall  
7 consist of twenty (20) members:

- 8 a. Eleven members, six elders and five members who are not  
9 elders, shall be in classes elected through the standard  
10 nomination and election procedure,  
11 b. One member from each of the following program committees  
12 or agencies:  
13 1. Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM)  
14 2. Covenant College (CC)  
15 3. Covenant Theological Seminary (CTS)  
16 4. Mission to North America (MNA)  
17 5. Mission to the World (MTW)  
18 6. PCA Foundation (PCAF)  
19 7. PCA Retirement & Benefits, Inc. (RBI)  
20 8. Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)  
21 9. Ridge Haven Conference Center (RH)

22 The eleven elected members ~~at large~~ shall serve a term of four  
23 years. The chairman of the Administrative Committee shall be one of  
24 its elected ordained members ~~at large~~.

25 Each program committee and agency shall designate its member  
26 each year at the last meeting of the committee or board before the  
27 meeting of the General Assembly. The chief administrative officers of  
28 the program committees and agencies may attend any meeting of the  
29 Administrative Committee. They shall be entitled to the privilege of the  
30 floor but shall not have a vote and must be excluded when an executive  
31 session is called.

32 Committee on Discipleship Ministries, Committee on Mission to  
33 North America, Committee on Mission to the World, and Committee  
34 on Reformed University Fellowship shall consist of fifteen (15) ~~men~~  
35 members divided into five classes of three ~~men members~~ each, with  
36 ~~two men being TEs and one RE or two men being REs and one TE on~~  
37 ~~alternate years. Three classes will have one TE, one RE and one~~  
38 member at large. One class shall have one TE and two members at  
39 large and one class shall have one RE and two members at large. Each  
40 class shall be elected to serve five-year terms. Committee on  
41 Discipleship Ministries, Committee on Mission to North America,  
42 Committee on Mission to the World, and Committee on Reformed  
43 University Fellowship shall have one ruling elder, and one teaching  
44 elder and one member at large as alternates to fill any vacancy that may  
45 occur during the year. A quorum for each Committees shall be eight

1           (8) members, with a majority of those present being elders. The  
2           Chairman of each Committee shall be an elder.

3           Persons who have served for a full term, or for at least two years of  
4           a partial term, on one of the Assembly's permanent committees or  
5           agencies shall not be eligible for re-election to an Assembly committee  
6           until one year has lapsed. (Exceptions may be permitted in agency  
7           bylaws approved by the Assembly).

8  
9           So that *BCO* 14-1.10, 14-1.11, and 14-1.12 as amended would read:

10  
11           10. A Nominating Committee shall be comprised of one representative  
12           elected by each Presbytery in the following manner. Each Presbytery  
13           shall be assigned to a class by the stated clerk based on its date of  
14           formation. The members shall serve in classes of three year terms,  
15           alternating between ruling and teaching elders. When necessary,  
16           unexpired terms shall be filled by an elder of the same class, teaching  
17           or ruling.

18           This committee is to present all nominations for which it is  
19           responsible to the next meeting of the Assembly from a slate of  
20           candidates nominated by the Presbyteries. Presbyteries shall utilize the  
21           nominating forms provided by the stated clerk for their nominations.  
22           Each presbytery may present one teaching elder, one ruling elder, and,  
23           when applicable, one candidate who is not an elder to fill openings that  
24           are designated for members at large for each committee or agency.  
25           Any non-ordained person nominated must meet the qualifications  
26           outlined in *BCO* 14-1.11.

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

35  
36           11. To be qualified for nomination and election to serve on a Permanent  
37           Committee or Agency as a member at large, a non-ordained candidate  
38           must be a member in good standing of a Church in the Presbyterian  
39           Church in America and must receive an endorsement from their  
40           Session. The endorsement will consist of testimony regarding the  
41           candidate's Christian character, knowledge of the Constitution, and  
42           promise of faithful service to the General Assembly.

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44           12. The Assembly permanent committees are the Administrative  
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21 chairman of the Administrative Committee shall be one of its elected  
22 ordained members.

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24 each year at the last meeting of the committee or board before the  
25 meeting of the General Assembly. The chief administrative officers of  
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27 Administrative Committee. They shall be entitled to the privilege of the  
28 floor but shall not have a vote and must be excluded when an executive  
29 session is called.

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31 North America, Committee on Mission to the World, and Committee  
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33 members divided into five classes of three members. Three classes will  
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35 one TE and two members at large and one class shall have one RE and  
36 two members at large. Each class shall be elected to serve five-year  
37 terms. Committee on Discipleship Ministries, Committee on Mission  
38 to North America, Committee on Mission to the World, and Committee  
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40 teaching elder and one member at large as alternates to fill any vacancy  
41 that may occur during the year. A quorum for each Committees shall  
42 be eight (8) members, with a majority of those present being elders.  
43 The Chairman of each Committee shall be an elder.

44 Persons who have served for a full term, or for at least two years of  
45 a partial term, on one of the Assembly's permanent committees or

1 agencies shall not be eligible for re-election to an Assembly committee  
2 until one year has lapsed. (Exceptions may be permitted in agency  
3 bylaws approved by the Assembly).  
4

5 **Further, be it resolved** that the Stated Clerk shall be responsible for developing the  
6 nomination forms necessary to implement this process and shall be responsible for  
7 converting the composition of each class as each class term expires.  
8

9 *Adopted by Ohio Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 26, 2019*

10 *Attested by TE Larry C. Hoop, stated clerk.*