

1 **OVERTURE 1** from Northwest Georgia Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Revise *BCO* 14-2 to Permit Additional Ruling Elder Representation at
3 the General Assembly”
4

5 **Whereas**, the PCA General Assembly ratio of Ruling Elders (RE) to Teaching Elders (TE) is
6 in severe crisis, perhaps signaling a lack of support for GA among our Sessions [the
7 numerical decline is apparent from the attached chart]; and
8

9 **Whereas**, *BCO* 14-1 (9) calls for equal representation of TEs and REs on GA committees,
10 exhibiting the value, principle, and prudence of parity, which assuredly applies to
11 every level of the court; and
12

13 **Whereas**, all other courts of the PCA have greater RE participation ratios than the steeply
14 declining ratio at our General Assemblies (see also *BCO* 8-9); and
15

16 **Whereas**, the broader church may not support actions well (*BCO* 14-7) if adequate
17 representation of the congregations and their Sessions are not present; and
18

19 **Whereas**, the formula for GA representation (*BCO* 14-2) has not been updated since 1991
20 and may be altered by due process without disenfranchising others or affecting any
21 other part of the constitution; and
22

23 **Whereas**, the proposed formula herein could augment revenue for the GA, especially in
24 conjunction with another overture to lower the registration fee for ruling elders
25 (although we never wish to limit or depress ruling elders’ attendance due to revenue
26 concerns); and
27

28 **Whereas**, the proposed, if sent down to the presbyteries, would allow more ruling elders to
29 voice their opinion on this potential increase in GA participation;
30

31 **Therefore**, Northwest Georgia Presbytery overtures to amend *BCO* 14-2 to read (strike-
32 through for deletions; underlining for new wording):
33

34 The General Assembly, which is a permanent court, shall meet at least annually
35 upon its own adjournment. It shall consist of all teaching elders in good standing
36 with their Presbyteries, and ruling elders as elected by their Session. Each
37 congregation is entitled to four ~~two~~ ruling elder representatives for the first 350
38 communing members or fraction thereof, and two ~~one~~ additional ruling elders
39 for each additional 500 communing members or fraction thereof.
40

41 So that it reads:

42
43 The General Assembly, which is a permanent court, shall meet at least annually
44 upon its own adjournment. It shall consist of all teaching elders in good standing
45 with their Presbyteries, and ruling elders as elected by their Session. Each

1 congregation is entitled to four ruling elder representatives for the first 350
 2 communing members or fraction thereof, and two additional ruling elders for
 3 each additional 500 communing members or fraction thereof.
 4

5 *Adopted by Northwest Georgia Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 3, 2018*

6 *Attested by TE P. Legree Finch, stated clerk*
 7

8
 9 **ATTACHMENT**

10 **PCA General Assembly Attendance by registration count**
 11

12
 13
 14

YEAR	TE	RE	TOTAL	Churches	PSBY
1973	179	215	394	215	
1974	246	219	465	*	
1975	284	259	543	294	
1976	325	265	590	305	
1977	367	247	614	319	
1978	353	216	569	295	
1979	421	260	681	350	
1980	413	247	660	367	
1981	439	243	673	353	
1982	665	380	1045	514	
1983	643	305	948	500	
1984	642	303	945	458	
1985	*	*	**775	*	
1986	684	267	915	513	
1987	632	241	873	492	
1988	688	305	993	546	
1989	538	236	774	461	
1990	818	402	1220	650	
1991	798	420	1218	636	
1992	748	397	1145	608	
1993	805	386	1215	627	
1994	888	392	1293	*	
1995	762	346	1117	577	
1996	836	376	1229	630	
1997	820	365	1191	630	
1998	997	414	1423	723	
1999	854	374	1238	643	
2000	921	446	1367	709	

Overture 1, Northwest Georgia Presbytery

YEAR	TE	RE	TOTAL	Churches	PSBY
2001	919	374	1293	703	
2002	1122	481	1603	784	
2003	1084	426	1510	756	62
2004	967	390	1357	710	64
2005	1049	531	1580	841	67
2006	1007	408	1415	788	72
2007	917	371	1288	728	74
2008	881	304	1185	617	75
2009	819	262	1081	620	75
2010	978	333	1311	752	76
2011	901	282	1183	667	77
2012	832	288	1120	637	80
2013	1007	320	1327	761	*
2014	867	256	1123	624	79
2015	1087	309	1396	839	79
2016	1029	287	1316	743	83
2017	1151	310	1461	891	85
	33383	14458		24876	
	Avg.	Avg.	Avg.	Avg. 592	
	742	329	69/31%		
			split		

* not found in the minutes

** no breakdown noted in the minutes. This number was reported at the beginning of the assembly