

1 **OVERTURE 19** from Rocky Mountain 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

5 [Editorial Note: This overture is identical to Overture 8 from Ohio Valley Presbytery.]
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

45 12. The Assembly permanent committees are the Administrative
46 Committee of the General Assembly, Committee on Discipleship
47

1 Ministries, Committee on Mission to North America, Committee on
2 Mission to the World, and Committee on Reformed University
3 Fellowship.

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

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

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

23 Each program committee and agency shall designate its member
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
26 the program committees and agencies may attend any meeting of the
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.

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

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

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

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

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

25 In addition to nominees for expired terms, the Committee shall
26 nominate for each permanent Committee one ruling, one teaching elder
27 and a member-at large-candidate as alternates to fill any vacancies that
28 may occur during the year. Each alternate should attend each meeting
29 and fill any vacancy necessary to meet a quorum. In addition to the new
30 nominees from the Presbyteries, alternates not assuming any vacancies
31 during a year will be automatically considered by the Nominating
32 Committee as candidates for nomination to that same committee.
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35 two members at large. Each class shall be elected to serve five-year
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44 a partial term, on one of the Assembly's permanent committees or
45 agencies shall not be eligible for re-election to an Assembly committee

1 until one year has lapsed. (Exceptions may be permitted in agency
2 bylaws approved by the Assembly).

3
4 **Further, be it resolved** that the Stated Clerk shall be responsible for developing the
5 nomination forms necessary to implement this process and shall be responsible for
6 converting the composition of each class as each class term expires.

7
8 *Adopted by Rocky Mountain Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 24, 2019*

9 *Attested by TE Milan Norgauer, stated clerk.*