

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
REVIEW OF PRESBYTERY RECORDS
TO THE FORTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

June 2021

(Including Amendments Adopted by 48th General Assembly)

- I. A list of Presbyteries Minutes received by the Committee (See VI below)**
- II. A list of Presbyteries that have not submitted minutes and/or responses to exceptions of previous General Assemblies:**
- Chicago Metro (Responses)
 - Hills and Plains (Responses)
 - Illiana (2020 Minutes)
 - Korean Eastern (2020 Minutes)
 - Korean Central (Responses)
 - Korean Northwest (Responses)
 - Korean Southwest (2020 Minutes)
 - Korean Southwest Orange County (Responses)
 - Metropolitan New York (Responses)
 - Philadelphia (Responses)
 - Rio Grande (2020 Minutes)
 - Rocky Mountain (2019 Minutes and Responses)
 - Savannah River (Responses)
 - South Florida (Standing Rules, Directory, & Responses)
 - Southeast Alabama (Standing Rules, Directory & Responses)
 - Warrior (Responses)
- III. A list of the Presbyteries that have submitted Minutes after the March 15 deadline required by *RAO 16-4.d*:**
- Central Indiana (2019)
 - Fellowship (2019)
 - Heartland (2019)
 - Heritage (2020)
 - Hills and Plains (2019)
 - James River (2020)
 - Korean Capital (2020)
 - Korean Central (2019)
 - Korean Eastern (2019)
 - Korean Northwest (2019)
 - Korean Southeastern (2020)
 - Korean Southern (2020)
 - Korean Southwest (2019)
 - Missouri (2019)
 - New River (2019 & 2020)

North Florida (2020)
North Texas (2020)
Northern Illinois (2020)
Pacific Northwest (2019)
Savannah River (2019)
South Florida (2019 & 2020)
Southeast Alabama (2019)
West Hudson (2020)
Westminster (2019)

IV. Citations

[Editorial note: The 48th General Assembly, by amending Recommendations 4.e and 56.e, ruled “satisfactory” the responses of Calvary and Northwest Georgia Presbyteries to certain exceptions of substance. Therefore, the citations in #1 below have been removed.]

- ~~1. Cite the following presbyteries to appear before the Standing Judicial Commission according to the provisions of *BCO* 40-5 for continuing the practice of restricting the public teaching of accepted stated differences to the Westminster Standards:
— Calvary Presbytery
— Northwest Georgia Presbytery~~
2. Cite the following presbytery to appear before the Standing Judicial Commission according to the provisions of *RAO* 16-4.e and *BCO* 40-1, 4, and 5 for repeatedly failing to submit responses to exceptions of substance:
Korean Southwest Orange County (Responses to GA exceptions to minutes of 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018.)

V. General Recommendations

1. Thank Dr. Bryan Chapell, Dr. Roy Taylor, Angela Nantz, Margie Mallow, Ashley Davis, Amanda Burton, Priscilla Lowrey, Lauren Potter, and the rest of the AC staff who covered their responsibilities in addition to their attentive support, friendly welcome, and support to the officers. *Adopted*
2. Commend the 2020/2021 Committee on Review of Presbytery Records officers, TE Ken McHeard, TE Hoochan Paul Lee, TE Eddie Lim, and TE Freddy Fritz for their work. *Adopted*
3. Commend those Clerks who sent records for their hard work to create, keep, and submit their records, and every presbytery who sent delegates to serve on the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records. *Adopted*
4. Encourage Presbyteries to establish commissions to review their records early in the year so that the records may be sent in by the deadline. *Adopted*
5. Urge those who failed to send reports or delegates to do so in the future. Note that 68 of 88 presbyteries had representatives appointed to the committee this year, with 56 attending the meeting (including 45 TEs and 11 REs). We urge all to observe stated deadlines, as 24 reports were received late, rendering them unable to be read by committee members ahead of the meeting, which adds an extra burden on the committee. In addition, 5 presbyteries did not submit records at all. *Adopted*

6. Remind Presbyteries that records (both hard-copies and digital) must be submitted by the deadline of March 15 of each year. *Adopted*
7. Remind Presbyteries that records must be submitted in one of two formats: (1) four bound, paginated hard-copies or (2) two bound, paginated hard-copies and one paginated digital copy (preferably as a single document). *Adopted*
8. Urge Presbyteries, when recording an examinee's stated differences to the Confessional Standards, to record judgment on each stated difference using the wording of one of the four categories explicitly spelled out in *RAO 16-3.e.5.a* through *d*. *Adopted*
9. Remind Presbyteries that the actions of their commissions are the actions of that presbytery, and the full record of each commission's proceedings must be included in subsequent presbytery minutes, either in the body of the minutes or as an addendum thereto (*BCO 15-1*). *Adopted*
10. Remind Presbyteries that when GA takes exception to a Presbytery's minutes for failure to record or take a required action, and Presbytery agrees with the exception, a satisfactory response should indicate that they have taken the required action, if possible, and properly recorded the same in their minutes, amending and resubmitting relevant portions of past minutes if necessary. Furthermore, remind Presbyteries to follow the guidelines for responding to GA in *RAO 16-10*. *Adopted*
11. Remind Presbyteries that responses to GA's exceptions must be approved by the presbytery, and such approval and the responses must be recorded in their minutes. *Adopted*
12. Request that Presbyteries approve their responses to GA exceptions in the same calendar year in which the exceptions were taken. *Adopted*
13. Ask Presbyteries, in the case when an examination for ordination refers to acceptance of an earlier licensure examination, to provide a citation of the prior minutes where that exam is recorded. *Adopted*
14. Remind Presbyteries that they may, if they adopt it in their by-laws, approve meetings by telephone or video conference. *Adopted*
15. Remind Presbyteries that some actions must be taken annually, including review of session records, receiving reports from TEs without call, receiving reports from TEs laboring out of bounds, receiving reports from candidates under care, and that record of such reports should be included in their minutes. Additionally, reports of interns must be received at each stated meeting. *Adopted*
16. Request that the directories that are supplied to CRPR include the status (Pastor, Without Call, Out of Bounds, etc.) of each TE in the list of TEs and their addresses since that information is necessary to determine whether or not annual reports are required. *Adopted*
17. Encourage presbytery stated clerks to attend the annual presbytery clerks' meeting in December. *Adopted*
18. Remind presbyteries to ensure that their minutes are paginated. *Adopted*
19. **Amend *RAO 16-4.c.1(1)*** to add "and their status" after "with their addresses" in reference to the current directory.
 - c. In addition to the minutes themselves, the presbytery shall submit three (3) copies of the following items:
 - 1) A current Directory of Presbytery, including (1) a list of all teaching elders, with their addresses and their status; and of all churches and

missions with the address of the church, and the name and address of the Clerk of Session, (2) a listing of all officers and committee members of the regular committees of presbytery, and (3) a list identifying all candidates under care, interns, and licentiates of the presbytery with their addresses and their status.

Rationale: If the status is not present, there is no way to determine whether annual reports were received for teaching elders without call or laboring out of bounds.

Adopted

VI. Report Concerning the Minutes of Each Presbytery:

1. That the Minutes of **Arizona** Presbytery:

Adopted

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 24-25, 2019.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Apr 25, 2019; General 2020; Jan 23, 2020; Apr 24, 2020; Oct 15, 2020; Nov 20, 2020.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
 - Exception: Apr 25, 2019 (BCO 21-4)** – Stated differences not recorded in minister’s own words.
 - Exception: Apr 25, 2019 (BCO 13-6)** – No record of individual parts of transfer exam.
 - Exception: Aug 23, 2019 (BCO 23-1; 13-11)** – No record of congregational vote to dissolve pastoral relationship.
 - Exception: Aug 23, 2019 (BCO 13-11; RAO 16-3.e.7)** – Complaint sent to Presbytery not recorded in minutes (“full and accurate record”).
 - Exception: Jan 23-24, 2020; Apr 24, 2020 (BCO 20-1)** – No record of call to a definite work for TEs [names omitted].
 - Exception: Jan 23-24, 2020 (BCO 13-11; RAO 16-3.e.7)** – Minutes of executive session not included.
 - Exception: Jan 23-24, 2020 (BCO 21-4)** – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded (Christian experience, call to ministry).
 - Exception: Jan 23-24, 2020 (BCO 13-6; 21-4)** – Incomplete record of transfer exam from another denomination for TE [name omitted].
 - Exception: Jan 23-24, 2020 (BCO 13-6; 21-4)** – Incomplete record of transfer exam for TE [name omitted] (Sacraments, church government).
 - Exception: Apr 24, 2020 (Standing Rules)** – No bylaw/standing rule provision for electronic meetings.
 - Exception: Apr 24, 2020 (BCO 13-12)** – Business transacted outside the purpose of called meeting.
 - Exception: Oct 15, 2020 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of dissolution of call for TEs [names omitted].
 - Exception: Nov 20, 2020 (BCO 30-1)** – No record of judicial action previously recorded in minutes.
 - Exception: Nov 20, 2020 (BCO 19-2)** – No record of requiring statement of differences with our Standards.
 - Exception: General 2020 (BCO 13-9.b)** – No annual review of records of church Sessions.
 - Exception: General 2020 (BCO 13-11)** – Minutes of Aug 20, 2020 meeting not included.

Exception: General 2020 (*BCO* 13-11; *RAO* 16-3.e.7) – Minutes from executive session not included. Reference was made to a meeting held on Aug 20 2020 on p. 24 of the Nov 20 meeting, presumably in executive session.

Exception: General 2020 (*BCO* 13-11) – No record of minutes of previous meetings being approved.

d. No response to previous assemblies required.

2. That the Minutes of **Ascension** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 26, 2019; Apr 27, 2019; Jul 25, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Nov 2, 2019; Nov 7, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Jul 27, 2019 (*BCO* 12-8) – Improperly citing two Sessions with exception of substance as follows: "Mention is made of a baptism having taken place but there is no evidence that Session previously approved the baptism. (*BCO* 12-5.e; 56-2, 3)"

[church name omitted] Session's November 2 response regarding it Minutes of 4/17/18: "The Session believed it was implicitly approving these baptisms when it received the parents into membership. Upon advice of the Presbytery Stated Clerk, the Session has corrected this error ..." [Nov 2 Pby Minutes, Attach 5, item 3 and Minutes p. 5 item 4.b. – No record of [church name omitted] response in 2019.] None of the three *BCO* references in Presbytery's citation require a Session to explicitly and individually approve every baptism of infants of communing member parents. As the Session rightly observes, such baptisms are implicitly approved for communing member parents. Thus, no error needs to be corrected and no citation should be issued to the Sessions.

Exception: Jan 25, 2020 (*BCO* 20-2) – Presbytery incorrectly cited a Session with an exception of substance for failing to call a congregational meeting to elect a pulpit committee for an associate pastor. The Session had recommended the congregation vote to call the man as an associate pastor, and the congregation voted to call, but a pulpit committee had not been elected. The *BCO* does not require such.

d. No response to previous assemblies required.

3. That the Minutes of **Blue Ridge** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 25-26, 2019; Mar 11, 2019; Apr 26-27, 2019; Aug 10, 2019; Nov 12, 2019; Jun 2, 2020; Nov 6-7, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Jan 24-25, 2020 (*RAO* 16-3.e.5) – No record of Mr. [name omitted]'s exception to the *WCF* in his own words.

Exception: Aug 8, 2020 (*RAO* 16-3.e.5) – No record of Mr. [name omitted]'s exception to the *WCF* in his own words.

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Aug 11, 2018 (*BCO* 43-2) – A complaint is presented but no date is given for the complaint

Response: Presbytery agrees with this exception and will correct the minutes to reflect the date. We will be more careful in the future.

[Editorial note to #4 below: A substitute motion for Recommendation VI.4 (Minority Report, see p. 83) was adopted by the 48th General Assembly and became the main motion. See Recommendation 4 below for the entire amended motion. The substitute motion was:

That the CRPR Report for Calvary Presbytery (Recommendation 4) be approved with the following substitutions:

1. That the exception of substance on January 26, 2019 (2nd Exception under item 4.c) be stricken.
2. That the response to the exception of substance on April 27, 2017 (1st exception under item 4.e) be found satisfactory, and thus, requires no further action.
3. That the response to the exception of substance on October 25, 2018 (2nd exception under item 4.e) be found satisfactory, and thus, requires no further action.

The new main motion was then amended to add a 4th item:

4. That the exception of substance of Oct. 22, 2020 (3rd exception under item 4.c) be stricken.

4. That the Minutes of **Calvary Presbytery:** *Adopted*
 - a. Be approved without exceptions: **Apr 24, 2019; Jul 27, 2019; Oct 24, 2019; Jan 25, 2020; Jul 25, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Jan 26, 2019 (BCO 25-11) – No record of 30-day notice for withdrawal vote from denomination.
~~**Exception: Jan 26, 2019 (Preliminary Principle 1 and 7; BCO 21 4.e; 34-5; WCF 20.2)**— Presbytery prohibited TE from teaching his accepted view, contrary to our practice of Good Faith Subscription and the first and seventh preliminary principles.~~
~~**Exception: Oct 22, 2020 (Preliminary Principle 1 and 7; BCO 21 4.e; 34-5; WCF 20.2)**— Presbytery prohibited TE from teaching his accepted view, contrary to our practice of Good Faith Subscription and the first and seventh preliminary principles.~~
 - d. **That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**
Exception: Jan 27, 2018; Apr 26, 2018 (BCO 38-2; 46-8) – TEs not assigned to the membership of particular churches.
Response: Regrettably, Calvary Presbytery erred in not assigning former TEs to the membership of particular churches after their removal from the rolls of presbytery, per *BCO* 38-2; 46-8. The following motions were m/s/p at the Oct 24, 2019 meeting of Calvary Presbytery to correct these errors and to satisfy the concerns of the RPR (**See 2019.4 Minutes, p.7**):
TE (Name Redacted) then presented the following motions to comply with exceptions of substance, found by the Review of Presbytery Records Committee, pertaining to *BCO* 46-8. The following men have been removed from the rolls of presbytery (**See 2018.2 Minutes, p. 7**) and have been assigned to the care of the following particular churches:
 1. Former TE 1, [church name omitted] (PCA – Mauldin, SC), where he is currently a member.
 2. Former TE 2, [church name omitted] (Evangelical – Seneca, SC) where he is a member.

3. Former TE 3, [church name omitted] (Ft. Worth, TX) where he is in the process of joining

Exception: Apr 26, 2018 (*BCO* 23-1; 13-11) – Presbytery dissolved pastoral relation with no explanation.

Response: Regrettably, Calvary Presbytery erred in failing to record an explanation as to the dissolving of a pastoral relation at the April 26, 2018 meeting. The following action was taken by the presbytery on October 24, 2019 to correct this error:

That the minutes of the April 26, 2018 minutes of presbytery be amended to state the following: That the pastoral relationship between TE Corey Pelton and Redeemer Presbyterian Church be resolved, **both parties in agreement.**

Exception: Oct 25, 2018 (*BCO* 19-2.b.3) – Presbytery omitted examination in church government for licensure candidate without explanation.

Response: Regrettably, Calvary Presbytery erred in omitting an explanation for a licensure exam. The committee motion was for the candidate to come under the extraordinary clause (*BCO* 19-2), since a portion was omitted from the exam. This was simply not recorded in the minutes, but is present in the Examinations Committee report (**See 2018.4 Minutes, Docket, p. 44**). At the October 24, 2019 meeting, the following motion was made to correct the error:

To amend the October 2018 Calvary Presbytery minutes to indicate the following: that TE's (Name Redacted) licensure examination did not include an examination of *BCO* and church government, since he was recently ordained in the PCA within Calvary Presbytery. The candidate comes under the extraordinary clause of *BCO* 19-2. The action was passed unanimously (**See 2019.4 Minutes, p. 5**).

e. **That the following responses be found ~~unsatisfactory~~ satisfactory, and require no further action: and the matter be referred to the SJC:**

Exception [2018]: Apr 27, 2017 (*Preliminary Principle* 1) – The resulting prohibition whereby a TE was prevented from teaching his accepted view is contrary to our practice of good faith subscription and the first preliminary principle.

Response [2019]: In contrast to the 2017 RPR's judgment, Calvary Presbytery respectfully asserts its constitutional prerogative to restrict the public teaching of certain exceptions to the Westminster Standards for the following reasons:

1. The Practice is in Harmony with Preliminary Principles #1 and #2:

We would vigorously defend Preliminary Principle #1, as it affirms liberty of conscience, specifically that, "the rights of private judgment in all matters that respect religion are universal and inalienable." At the same time, we affirm the "perfect consistency" with Preliminary Principle #2 which states that "every Christian Church, or union or association of particular churches, is entitled to declare terms of admission into its communion and the qualifications of its ministers and members, as well as the whole system of its internal government which Christ has appointed." Since Calvary Presbytery is necessarily vested with this power to declare terms of its admission, we acted in accord with both principles. It should be especially noted that the court did not injure the liberty of conscience of said TE. In accord with Preliminary Principle #1 this restriction did not injure "the rights of his private judgment at all," because he was able to hold his difference, teach it to his family, and answer honestly if asked about it privately. We only restricted the public teaching and preaching of his view, which is in accord

with Preliminary Principle #2. Furthermore, as Preliminary Principle #2 states, granting membership is a “right,” and even if its terms of communion are “either too lax or narrow...**it does not infringe upon the liberty or the rights of others...**” As TE Guy Prentiss Waters has written, church office “is a privilege (not a right) that the court grants to those whom it deems qualified.” Calvary Presbytery merely exercised this right in harmony with both preliminary principles.

2. This Practice is in Harmony with PCA Polity

In the history of our own presbytery, we have occasionally restricted a man’s teaching concerning exceptions. Our Stated Clerk, TE Roy Taylor, in response to our inquiry on the question of PCA Polity & practice of restricting the teaching of certain views, said that “this issue was debated while hammering out the terms of Good Faith Subscription.” He asserts that it “has never been resolved,” and that “we have lived with differences of procedure among Presbyteries.” While there are several constitutional procedures concerning our method of subscription and the handling of examples (*BCO* 13-6, 13-7, 19-2.f, 21-4.b,e,f and *RAO* 16-3.e.5), yet none of these rules prohibit Presbytery from restricting a man from publicly teaching an exception. Furthermore, Calvary Presbytery in its consultation with other PCA Presbyteries concerning their practice of “Restricting the Teaching of Certain Views” has concluded that our view is not unique or isolated with the history and practice of PCA Polity. Therefore, Calvary Presbytery acted in harmony with polity within the PCA.

3. The Practice is in Harmony with Historic Rulings of the SJC

As TE Guy Prentiss Waters demonstrates*, “not fewer than three Assemblies upheld the right of Presbytery to forbid a member from teaching his exception.” In 1992, the SJC upheld the action of James River Presbytery, by stating: “Presbyteries may exercise such power over the preaching and teaching of its members short of a determination that the forbidden teaching is heresy, without necessarily binding the consciences of the men under its care. . . . We must defer to presbytery, therefore, as the court most able to determine what may be harmful to the spiritual welfare of the churches under its care.” The SJC also upholds the right of the court to restrict teaching six years earlier, at the 14th GA: “When a man is ordained with the allowance of exceptions to his full acceptance of the PCA standards, he thereby obtains (1) approval of his suitability to function within the ordained office, and (2) liberty to believe and live in some way not fully in accord with some portion of those standards. This allowance, however, does not warrant his teaching or preaching of that matter so as to disturb the peace and purity of the church.” Finally, in 1990, the SJC also affirmed the right of presbyteries to restrict teaching of exceptions: “Presbyteries do have jurisdiction over TEs and have the authority to restrict a minister from preaching views which the presbytery is convinced may be harmful to the spiritual welfare of churches under its care (*BCO* 13-9 and 34-5).” Therefore, Calvary Presbytery acted in harmony with historic rulings of the SJC.

Rationale [2019]: (*Preliminary Principle* 1, 7; *WCF* 20.1) Presbytery's response differs with the judgment of the 45th General Assembly that a TE was prevented from teaching his accepted view and is contrary to our practice of good faith subscription and the first and seventh preliminary principles.

Response [2020]: In contrast to the 2019 RPR’s judgment, Calvary Presbytery respectfully asserts its constitutional prerogative to restrict the public teaching of certain exceptions to the Westminster Standards for the following reasons.

1. **The Practice is in Harmony with Preliminary Principles #1 and #2**

We would vigorously defend Preliminary Principle #1, as it affirms liberty of conscience, specifically that, “the rights of private judgment in all matters that respect religion are universal and inalienable.” At the same time, we affirm the “perfect consistency” with Preliminary Principle #2 which states that “every Christian Church, or union or association of particular churches, is entitled to declare terms of admission into its communion and the qualifications of its ministers and members, as well as the whole system of its internal government which Christ has appointed.” Since Calvary Presbytery is necessarily vested with this power to declare terms of its admission, we acted in accord with both principles. It should be especially noted that the court did not injure the liberty of conscience of said TE. In accord with Preliminary Principle #1 this restriction did not injure “the rights of his private judgment at all,” because he was able to hold his difference, teach it to his family, and answer honestly if asked about it privately. We only restricted the public teaching and preaching of his view, which is in accord with Preliminary Principle #2. Furthermore, as Preliminary Principle #2 states, granting membership is a “right,” and even if its terms of communion are “either too lax or narrow...it does not infringe upon the liberty or the rights of others...” Therefore, an objection based on *Preliminary Principle #7* misses the mark; we are not “making laws to bind the conscience. Calvary Presbytery merely exercised this right in harmony with *Preliminary Principles #1, #2, and #7*.

2. **This Practice is in Harmony with PCA Polity**

In the long history of our own presbytery, we have on four rare occasions restricted a man’s teaching concerning exceptions. Our Stated Clerk, TE Roy Taylor, in response to our inquiry on the question of PCA Polity & practice of restricting the teaching of certain views, said that “this issue was debated while hammering out the terms of Good Faith Subscription.” He asserts that it “has never been resolved,” and that “we have lived with differences of procedure among Presbyteries.” While there are several constitutional procedures concerning our method of subscription and the handling of examples (*BCO* 13-6, 13-7, 19-2.f, 21-4.b,e,f and *RAO* 16-3.e.5), yet none of these rules prohibit Presbytery from restricting a man from publicly teaching an exception. Furthermore, Calvary Presbytery in its consultation with other PCA Presbyteries concerning their practice of “Restricting the Teaching of Certain Views” has concluded that our view is not unique or isolated with the history and practice of PCA Polity. Therefore, Calvary Presbytery acted in harmony with PCA Polity and also has taken no action which directly conflicts with current practices of Good Faith Subscription.

3. **The Practice is in Harmony with Historic Rulings of General Assembly Judicatories.**

As noted in our previous response, “not fewer than three Assemblies upheld the right of Presbytery to forbid a member from teaching his exception.” In 1992, the SJC upheld the action of James River Presbytery, by stating: “Presbyteries may exercise such power over the preaching and teaching of its members short of a

determination that the forbidden teaching is heresy, without necessarily binding the consciences of the men under its care.... We must defer to presbytery, therefore, as the court most able to determine what may be harmful to the spiritual welfare of the churches under its care.” At the 14th GA, the Committee of Judicial Business (precursor to the SJC) also upheld the right of the court to restrict teaching six years earlier: “When a man is ordained with the allowance of exceptions to his full acceptance of the PCA standards, he thereby obtains (1) approval of his suitability to function within the ordained office, and (2) liberty to believe and live in some way not fully in accord with some portion of those standards. This allowance, however, does not warrant his teaching or preaching of that matter so as to disturb the peace and purity of the church.” Finally, in 1990, the SJC also affirmed the right of presbyteries to restrict teaching of exceptions: “Presbyteries do have jurisdiction over TEs and have the authority to restrict a minister from preaching views which the presbytery is convinced may be harmful to the spiritual welfare of churches under its care” (*BCO* 13-9 and 34-5). Therefore, Calvary Presbytery acted in harmony with historic rulings of General Assembly judicatories. In closing, again we respectfully disagree with the RPR’s judgment of an exception of substance concerning the restricting of a minister at our April 27, 2017 meeting. As we have demonstrated, this practice is not in opposition to “Good Faith Subscription,” but is in harmony with PCA polity. It is also not opposed to the 1st and 7th *Preliminary Principles*, but upholds liberty of conscience while

harmonizing with the 2nd *Preliminary Principle's* establishment of presbytery's right to determine its membership. Therefore, we request that the exception of substance be removed and that our minutes be approved.

Rationale [2021]: (*Preliminary Principle* 1, 7; *BCO* 21-4.e; 34-5; *WCF* 20.2; *BCO* 40-5; *RAO* 16-10.c) Presbytery's response differs from the 45th and 46th General Assemblies that a TE was prevented from teaching his accepted view and is contrary to our practice of Good Faith Subscription, and the first and seventh preliminary principles

Exception: Oct 25, 2018 (*Preliminary Principle* #7) – Presbytery adopted a statement asserting its right to “declare certain exceptions unteachable.” Presbytery may rule any stated difference unacceptable but may not “make laws to bind the conscience.”

Response: Calvary Presbytery vigorously defends *Preliminary Principle* #1, as it affirms liberty of conscience, specifically that, “the rights of private judgment in all matters that respect religion are universal and inalienable.” At the same time, we also affirm the “perfect consistency” with *Preliminary Principle* #2 which states that “every Christian Church, or union or association of particular churches, is entitled to declare terms of admission into its communion and the qualifications of its ministers and members, as well as the whole system of its internal government which Christ has appointed.” Since Calvary Presbytery is necessarily vested with this power to declare terms of its admission, this statement is in accord with both principles. Therefore, an objection to our statement based on *Preliminary Principle* #7 misses the mark; we are not “making laws to bind the conscience,” but are exercising our duties “to examine and license candidates for the holy ministry;” and “to receive...[and] ordain...ministers” (*BCO* 13-9) in accord with *Preliminary Principles* #1 and #2.

Rationale [2021]: (*Preliminary Principle* 1, 7; *BCO* 21-4.e; 34-5; 40-5; *WCF* 20.2; *RAO* 16-10.c) Since this matter deals with the same matter above that was referenced to the SJC, it is included in that reference.

5. That the Minutes of **Canada West Presbytery:** *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Mar 1-2, 2019; Oct 4-5, 2019; General 2020; Directory 2020; Mar 13-14, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Sep 18, 2020 (*BCO* 21-4.d) – Reason for use of extraordinary clause not explained.
Exception: Oct 2-3, 2020 (*BCO* 21-4.d; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – All specific requirements of ordination not recorded, namely, PCA History, approved degree, and theological and exegetical papers.
Exception: Oct 2-3, 2020 (*BCO* 20-1; *RAO* 16-3.e.6) – No record of call to a definite work, specific arrangements of call not shown to be approved.
 - d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**
Exception: Jun 1, 2018 (*BCO* 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work.
Response: Canada West Presbytery dealt with the call to the definite work for [name omitted] in its Stated Presbytery meeting of March 2018. However, it did not re-state the call to the definite work in its Called meeting of June 2018, of which the sole purpose of the meeting was to complete the Ordination examination of Rev. [name omitted]. The Presbytery apologizes for any oversight it may have made and includes the letter of call

from the congregation of [church name omitted] Church - Calgary, Alberta to show the call to a definite work as an attachment with this response.

6. That the Minutes of **Catawba Valley** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 26, 2019; Jun 9, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; May 28, 2019; Sep 24, 2019; Oct 23, 2019; Sep 22, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
 - Exception: May 28, 2019 (BCO 13-6; 21-4)** – No record of exam in the history of the PCA.
 - Exception: Sep 24, 2019 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5)** – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded (theological and exegetical papers).
 - Exception: Sep 24, 2019 (BCO 15-1; RAO 16-3.e.4)** – Minutes of commission not entered into Presbytery minutes.
 - Exception: Jan 25, 2020 (BCO 5-2.c; 13-10)** – Presbytery dissolved a mission church without giving 60 days’ notice to the church.
 - Exception: Jan 25, 2020 (BCO 22-5; Preliminary Principle 6)** – A teaching elder was appointed as Stated Supply without any record of Session’s concurrence.
 - Exception: Jan 25, 2020; Sep 22, 2020 (BCO 15-1)** – The full record of the minutes of a commission are not included in the Presbytery minutes.
 - d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**
 - Exception: Nov 29, 2018 (BCO 13-6; 21-4.c.1.b)** – No record of an examination of original languages or seminary degree accepted in lieu of such an examination of a candidate from another denomination (OPC).
 - Response:** Catawba Valley Presbytery acknowledges that our minutes do not reflect that the candidate’s seminary degree was in fact accepted in lieu of an examination in the original languages. This was not properly included in our minutes. We shall be more careful in future examinations.
7. That the Minutes of **Central Carolina** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 23, 2019; Aug 24, 2019; Nov 19, 2019; Feb 22, 2020; Jun 30, 2020; Aug 22, 2020; Nov 17, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
 - Exception: May 28, 2019 (BCO 21-4.c)** – No record of some of the required exams for ordination. No mention of parts of examination covered in licensure examination required for ordination (BCO 21-4.b).
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
8. That the Minutes of **Central Florida** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Nov 21, 2019; Jun 2, 2020; Aug 11, 2020; Nov 10, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Apr 9, 2019; Aug 13, 2019; Nov 21, 2019.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Jan 22, 2019; Apr 9, 2019 (*BCO* 13-11) – Executive Session Minutes not submitted for review.

Exception: Apr 9, 2019 (*BCO* 18-3) – Candidate not shown to have been examined in Experiential religion or his motives for seeking the ministry.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Mar 10, 2018 (*BCO* 13-4; *Presbytery Standing Rules* Article 2) – No quorum, only two REs, needs three.

Response: The minutes of March 10, 2018 were in error inasmuch as all REs present did not sign the roll. Reading of the minutes reflect at least five REs were present. The following action was approved by the 173rd Presbytery; “Move that the 167th Minutes be corrected to read. “A quorum of 28 31 delegates attended, consisting of 2 5 Ruling Elders and 26 Teaching Elders” and that the 173rd ratify the actions of the 167th meetings.

Exception: Mar 10, 2018 (*BCO* 13-12; *RAO* 16-3.c.2) – No record of 10-day notice for this called meeting.

Response: We agree that the record did not include the fact of a 10-day notice. The docket was circulated on February 20th, well before the March 10th meeting. The following action was approved by the 173rd Presbytery; “Move that the 167th Minutes be amended to insert at the start of the first line “The call and docket having been distributed February 20, 2018, the 167th Meeting (Called) of the Central Florida Presbytery was called to order on March 10...”

Exception: Apr 9, 2018 (*RAO* 16-3.c.8; *RONR* p. 348) – Minutes of March 10, 2018 called meeting approved without a vote to ratify the actions of the March 10, 2018 meeting which were taken without a quorum.

Response: The minutes of the March 10th called meeting have been corrected to show a quorum was present, therefore no further action is needed.

Exception: Apr 9, 2018 (*BCO* 15-1; *RAO* 16-3.e.4) – The full record of three commissions not included in minutes.

Response: We agree that the full reports of three commissions were not included in the minutes, although the record did reflect receipt of the reports. For each, the minutes read regarding the report – “was received and committed to record.” The following action was approved by the 173rd Presbytery; “Move that the full reports (on file with the Clerk and attached hereto) for commissions to Install [names omitted] be inserted as part of the Minutes of the 168th Presbytery.

Please see additional supporting pdf.

Exception: Apr 9, 2018 (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of $\frac{3}{4}$ of presbytery vote to allow congregation to call Associate Pastor to succeed Senior Pastor

Response: There is no such action in the Apr 9, 2018 Minutes. The citation would be appropriate for the August 14, 2018 minutes. The following action was approved by the 173rd Presbytery; “Move that the 169th Minutes be amended by inserting the following as regards [name omitted] succeeding the senior pastor; “Presbytery approved by over $\frac{3}{4}$ vote with no objections that [name omitted]’s call be changed from Associate to Senior pastor at [church name omitted].”

Exception: Aug 14, 2018 (*BCO* 21-4) – Stated differences not recorded in candidate’s own words.

Response: We agree. The following action was approved by the 173rd Presbytery; “Move that the 168th minutes be amended by inserting the following under TE Chuck Berry’s examination:

My exception to the Westminster Confession of Faith is regarding the recreation clause in WCF 21:8, which states that on the Sabbath, people are to "observe a holy rest, all the day, from their own works, words, and thoughts about their worldly employments and recreations...". I hold to the view that prohibiting “recreations” on the Sabbath is excessively restrictive.

It is clear from Scripture that God calls us to a weekly REST and prohibits ‘work’ on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11), except for works of mercy and goodness by Jesus’ own example (Matt 12:11-13), but it is not clear that ‘recreations’, which can be considered restorative ‘rest’ from our weekly, vocational work routines, is included in the biblical prohibition. As Jesus said, "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath" (Mark 2:27).

Exception: Nov 13, 2018 (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational vote to dissolve pastoral relation.

Response: We agree. Investigation of the matter revealed the irregularity of dissolving the pastoral relationship at a meeting on October 21, 2018 by what in effect was common consent agreement to dissolve the pastoral relationship as part of a process toward dissolving the church.

Exception: Aug 17, 2017 (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational meeting to dissolve pastoral relationship.

Response [2019] – This concerns TE [name omitted]. The Chairman of Presbytery’s committee “Minister and His Work” reported he was very involved with the situation at the church and he has assured Presbytery that the congregation approved his dissolution.

Rationale [2019]: There needs to be a congregational meeting record.

Response [2020]: Upon further review, we do not agree. The TE in question ([name omitted]) was an assistant pastor, called by the session. There was no need for a congregational vote. [This opinion was affirmed by Stated Clerk’s office.] The following action was approved by the 173rd Presbytery; “Move that the following be inserted into the Aug.17, 2017 record regarding [name omitted];

The Session of Grace PCA, Ocala met on July 30 to receive [name omitted]’s letter of resignation as assistant pastor at [church name omitted] effective August 3.

Exception: Aug 19, 2014; Aug 18, 2015; Nov 3, 2015 (BCO 15-1) – Presbytery Minutes record receipt of commission reports; but the minutes of commissions were not entered in Presbytery Minutes for installation of TE [name omitted].

Response [2018]: The CFP agrees with these exceptions of substance. It recognizes the failure to send or receive commission reports and including in the official records. Many hours have been spent reconstructing, finding and interviewing various people to locate or affirm the commissions. The Presbytery knows it is an important part of the record to have commission reports and is correcting the situation.

Rationale [2018]: Unclear how Presbytery is correcting the problem of not entering commission minutes into Presbytery minutes given no evidence of correction of these omissions in subsequent minutes.

Response [2019]: The Central Florida Presbytery agrees with these exceptions.

Rationale: [2019]: Presbytery has not shown how the problem of not entering the record of actions by a commission into Presbytery minutes is being corrected.

Response [2020]: We disagree with the exception that it is “unclear how the Presbytery is correcting the problem...”. We stated, “Many hours have been spent reconstructing, finding and interviewing various people to locate or affirm the commissions...” However, the following action was approved by the 173rd Presbytery; “Move that the missing commission reports (attached hereto) which are the subject of the exception or affidavits affirming commission actions be inserted into the records of the minutes cited

8/19/14 – [name omitted] at [church name omitted], Oviedo

8/18/15 – [name omitted] at University

11/3/15 – [name omitted] at [church name omitted], [name omitted] at [church name omitted], [name omitted] at RUF

f. That the following response be found unsatisfactory, therefore a new response shall be submitted to the following GA:

Exception: Nov 14, 2017 (BCO 46-8) – TE was divested but was not assigned to a church.

Response [2019]: The Presbytery agrees with the exception. The TE involved was without call for several years and eventually chose another occupation. He remained in the church he had attended for several years.

Rationale [2019]: Still not clear if he has been assigned membership in a local congregation.

Response [2020]: We agree that the language did not say we “assigned” him although we did record where he was going to church. The following action was approved by the 173rd Presbytery; “Move that the minutes of Nov 14, 2017 be amended to reflect that TE [name omitted] was in effect “assigned” to [church name omitted] in Ocala.

Rationale [2020]: The language of the *BCO* does not refer to which church a divested TE attends, but to which church his membership has been assigned. In order to assign a divested TE, the session would have to act to receive him by letter of transfer. The minutes should reflect that a particular church has received the divested individual.

9. That the Minutes of **Central Georgia** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 10-11, 2020; Apr 28, 2020; Jun 16, 2020; Sep 15, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Jan 11-12, 2019; May 14, 2019; Sep 10, 2019; Directory 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: General 2019 (BCO 13-9) – No record that session minutes were examined.
Exception: Jan 11-12, 2019 (RAO 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not judged with prescribed categories—need to be more specific.
 - d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**
Exception: Sep 11, 2018 [Executive Session Minutes] (BCO 38-1) – No record of the steps required for a case without process per *BCO* 38-1 have been followed. No full statement of facts, no statement by individual of intent to confess and permit the court to render the judgment without process
Response: Central Georgia Presbytery agrees with the exception, that it failed to provide a written record of the steps required for a case without process per *BCO* 38-1.

The Presbytery did however, explain the options to the TE and he chose “case without process.” He provided a letter to Presbytery wherein he confessed his sin, taking full responsibility for it, and expressed remorse and repentance. (attached) He has been completely submissive to the authority of the Presbytery and has agreed to every action requested of him.

Nevertheless, the Presbytery agrees that the “statement of facts and confession of guilt” must be in written form and has, therefore, taken corrective action by preparing same in the format provided in the Handbook for Presbytery Clerks (071-B4). (attached)

The Presbytery regrets its error and promises to be more careful in the future. The Presbytery respects and appreciates the RPR Committee’s correction and oversight.

Because of the sensitivity of the information in the attached documents, the Presbytery requests that this Response form be submitted to the Commissioners Handbook, without the attachment.

10. That the Minutes of **Central Indiana Presbytery:** *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **May 8, 2019; Jun 19, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Feb 8, 2019; Nov 8, 2019; Feb 14, 2020; Nov 13, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
 - Exception: Feb 8, 2019 (BCO 21-4.c.1.c)** – No record of examination in Bible content either from previous licensure exam or during ordination exam.
 - Exception: Feb 8, 2019 (BCO 29-1; 31-2)** – A committee of Presbytery gave a report concerning the Christian character of a TE without the Presbytery initiating a BCO 31-2 investigation or determining whether a strong presumption of the guilt existed.
 - Exception: Feb 8, 2019; May 10, 2019 (BCO 15-1; RAO 16-3.e.4)** – Minutes of commission not entered into Presbytery minutes.
 - Exception: Sep 13, 2019 (Standing Rules IV.A.1; RONR p. 491, I.26-32)** – Standing committee created without amending Presbytery bylaws.
 - Exception: Nov 8, 2019 (BCO 5-9)** – Mission church organized into a particular church in the PCA without reflecting whether officers were elected (BCO 5-9.c, d) and without appointing a commission for an organization service (BCO 5-9.h, i).
 - Exception: Jan 13, 2020; June 5, 2020; Jun 19, 2020 (RAO 16-3.c.1)** – Purpose of called meeting not recorded verbatim in the minutes.
 - Exception: Feb 14, 2020 (BCO 15-1)** – The full record of the minutes of a commission are not included in the Presbytery minutes.
 - Exception: Jun 5, 2020 (RAO 16-3.c.1)** – Exceeded the purpose of the called meeting by taking up additional items of business.
 - Exception: Jul 10, 2020 (BCO 13-11; RAO 16-3.e.7)** – Complaint sent to Presbytery not recorded in minutes.
 - Exception: Sep 11, 2020; Nov 13, 2020 (BCO 15-1)** – Commission exceeded the business referred to it by creating another commission.
 - Exception: Nov 13, 2020 (BCO 21-4.f; 13-6)** – Presbytery examined and sustained an ordination examination on the Sacraments as to the candidate's views alone, without also examining his knowledge.

Exception: General 2020 (*BCO* 13-9.b *Bylaws* III.B.i) – No record of review of records of church Sessions.

- d. **That the following response be found unsatisfactory, therefore a new response shall be submitted to the following GA:**

Exception: General (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of reviewing session minutes.

Response: We acknowledge and apologize for our tardiness in reviewing session minutes for 2018. We have recently changed our process for reviewing session records, hoping this will produce a more timely review.

Rationale [2021]: The action of CIP in 2020 indicates no action to fulfill its responsibility to review minutes as yet not reviewed and subsequent years have not been reviewed.

11. That the Minutes of **Chesapeake** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 8, 2019; Mar 12, 2019; May 14, 2019; Jul 13, 2019; Sep 10, 2019; Nov 12, 2019; Jan 14, 2020; Mar 10, 2020; May 12, 2020; Sep 8, 2020; Nov 10, 2020.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
- d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**

12. That the Minutes of **Chicago Metro** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 20, 2019; May 15, 2019; Aug 21, 2019; and Nov 20, 2019.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Feb 19, 2020; Aug 19, 2020; Sep 26, 2020; Nov 18, 2020.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Feb 19, 2020 (*RAO* 16-3.e.5) – No record of candidate’s ([name omitted]) differences with standards.
Exception: Aug 19, 2020 (*RAO* 16-3.e.5) – No record of stated differences for transfer of TE [name omitted]
- d. **That responses shall be submitted to the following GA as no responses were received in 2021:**
Exception: Jan 17, 2018 and Apr 18, 2018 (*BCO* 13-11; *BCO* 15-2 & 3) – Complaint sent to Presbytery not recorded in minutes, nor approval or disapproval of judgment (full and accurate record) – see also *RAO* 16-3.e.7.
Exception: General (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of review of records of church Sessions.

13. That the Minutes of **Columbus Metro** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Sep 17, 2019; Jan 21, 2020; May 19, 2020; Sep 15, 2020; Nov 17, 2020.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Jan 15, 2019; Apr 2, 2019; Nov 19, 2019; General 2020; Mar 17, 2020.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Jan 15, 2019; Nov 19, 2019(*BCO* 38-2; 46-8) – *BCO* 38-2 requires two meetings. The presbytery acted at the first meeting based on a letter. There was no motion to assign membership per 46-8.

Exception: Apr 2, 2019 (*BCO* 19-16) – Presbytery committee recommended approving previous experience as equivalent to internship; however, no motion or vote to do so is recorded (requires 3/4).

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: General (*BCO* 13-9b) – No record of review of records of church Sessions.

Response: [Adopted, 12-0-0] This exception is answered in reference to the responses to the 46th General Assembly We had responded, but did not record the vote of the assembly, see exception from last year.

Exception: Jan 23, 2018; May 15, 2018; Nov 13, 2018 (*BCO* 13-4, 11; *SR* 12.1, 4; *RONR* 347-8) It does not appear from the record or roll of Presbytery that a quorum of at least 3 TEs and 3 REs was present. By failing to immediately adjourn, and instead to continue to conduct business without a quorum, the Presbytery put itself at risk that a future meeting would fail to ratify their actions. Actions taken at a meeting without a quorum are by themselves null and void. (Note: An ordination exam occurred at one of these meetings.

Response: [Adopted, 12-0-0] At the May 2019 RPR Meeting, it was found that three of the Columbus Metro Presbytery 2018 meetings were found to be out of order. In violation of *BCO* 13-4, we had not established a quorum for the following meetings: January 23, 2018; May 15, 2015; November 13, 2018.

We apologize for the confusion this caused at the 2019 RPR Meeting. We've had good discussions with members of RPR on May 30, 2019 and have sought to put in better measures for clarity and cross-checking our work.

CMP met and reviewed the motions that were made at these three meetings at the November 19, 2019 Stated Meeting. The results of the vote are included for your review. In addition, CMP approved the Response to the Exceptions taken by the 46th General Assembly, which was submitted to RPR, but there was no record of the responses having been approved by Presbytery.

We ask that these responses to the 46th and 47th General Assemblies be found acceptable to the RPR of the 48th General Assembly in Birmingham, AL in 2020.

Exception: Mar 20, 2018 (*BCO* 13-4, 11 and *RONR* 347-8) – Actions from the January stated meeting taken without a quorum were not placed before the court for ratification.

Response: [Adopted, 12-0-0] The January 23, 2018 Stated Meeting was found to be out of order since a quorum was not established (only one elder, RE [name omitted] was present on the phone call). The following motions were presented and voted on, but none ratified since a quorum was not established. In accordance with Roberts' Rules, these must be approved by the assembly (Presbytery) at the next meeting that has an established quorum, which would have been March 20, 2018.

These actions of Presbytery at the January 23, 2018 Meeting were presented for approval in omnibus at the November 19, 2019 Stated Meeting.

1. **Motion:** to approve the January 16, 2018 Docket **MSA**
2. **Motion:** to approve the November 28, 2017 Minutes and attachments **MSA**
3. **Motion:** RPR Assignment (vote): TE [name omitted] **MSA**
4. **Motion:** Nominating Committee Assignment (vote): TE [name omitted] **MSA**

Exception: Sep 18, 2018 (*BCO* 13-4, 11 and *RONR* 347-8) – Actions from the May stated meeting taken without a quorum were not placed before the court for ratification.

Response: [Adopted: 12-0-0] This meeting was erroneously marked as out of order on account of the Clerk's failure to fill in the attendance correctly. RE [name omitted] was

present, as indicated by his giving of the Treasurer's Report, but he was not included in the attendance roster. This means that three REs were present and a quorum was in fact established at the start of the meeting. Therefore, we appeal to RPR that the Stated Meeting on May 15, 2018, is in order and all business was accomplished with no need to approve. We believe that no further action is needed.

Exception: Sep 18, 2018 (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not recorded in candidate's own words

Response: [Adopted, 12-0-0] Regarding the exceptions to the Standards by Teaching Elders: As stated in the minutes, the exceptions to the Standards were quoted and transcribed into the minutes, then ruled individually as noted in accordance with *BCO* 21-4.e. We ask that these records be reviewed and approved. If not, please offer clarity by explaining how the original records are not in order. The actual minutes are copied here for your review.

- TE [name omitted] Exception: 1) "Sabbath, *WCF* 21 - The Lord's Day should be kept as a sabbath, a day of worship and rest, for Christians. However, I believe the Confession goes beyond what is biblically necessary in prohibiting recreation." In regard to TE [name omitted]'s proposed exception the court judged the stated difference(s) to not be an exception, but merely a scruple.
- TE [name omitted] Exception: 2) "Images, *WLC* 109 - If this interpretation of the second commandment prohibits any image of the incarnate Jesus, then I believe that goes beyond what is biblically necessary. I believe that images can be used for pedagogical and aesthetic reasons but should not be used in worship." In regard to TE [name omitted]'s view on *WLC* 109, the court judged the stated difference(s) to be more than semantic, but "not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine" (*BCO* 21-4).
- TE [name omitted] Exception: "When *WLC* #109 prohibits images of Jesus, I think this is in reference to worship, prayer and devotion, but not for didactic purposes like children's books or the Jesus Film, etc." In regard to TE [name omitted]' view on *WC* 109, the court judged the stated difference(s) to be more than semantic, but "not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine" (*BCO* 21-4).
- Rev. [name omitted] Exception: Rev. [name omitted] declared his exception with *WLC* 109 that "the use of images of Jesus contained in pedagogical resources is not in conflict with this doctrinal statement." In regard to Rev. [name omitted]'s exception on *WC* 109, the court judged the stated difference(s) to be more than semantic, but "not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine" (*BCO* 21-4).

Exception: Sep 18, 2018 (*BCO* 15-1) – Records of two ordination commissions not entered.

Response: [Adopted, 12-0-0] Regarding the Commissions: In the next section of the minutes of September 18, 2018, the Moderator was given the power to convene the commission at a later date. If this out of order, please advise. We will correct this moving forward.

However, the records (reports) of the ordination commissions were included in the November 2018 minutes, as the ordination services occurred on October 28, 2018 ([name

omitted]) and November 4, 2018 ([name omitted]). Both reports are included with this response.

The members of the commissions were recorded in their respective reports as follows:

- TE [name omitted] Commission to Ordain/Install: TE [name omitted], TE [name omitted], RE [name omitted] (secretary), RE [name omitted], RE [name omitted]
- TE Layman Commission to Ordain/Install: TE [name omitted], TE [name omitted], TE [name omitted], RE [name omitted], RE [name omitted], RE [name omitted] (secretary)

Exception: General (RAO 16-10a) – Response to exceptions provided but no record of responses having been approved by Presbytery

Response: In our response, which was not voted on by the Presbytery, we said this:

We recognize this deficiency. We are working to get a team together to review the sessional records of our new presbytery. We are in our third year with 7 total churches (particular and mission) and we are trying to develop good teams to do the work of presbytery. We thank you for your patience in this regard. We added the committee November 13, 2018 (the pertinent section of the minutes is included).

PRESBYTERY TEAM REPORTS

Reports: Presbytery Teams

1. Strategic Team

1. Treasurer's Report (RE [name omitted], Treasurer)

2. Shepherding Team

3. Administration Team

*1. Motion: to form a team for the Review of Session Records including TE [name omitted] and TE [name omitted]. **Approved***

Exception: General (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of session record review.

Response: [Adopted, 12-0-0] We recognize this deficiency. We are working to get a team together to review the sessional records of our new presbytery. We are in our third year with 7 total churches (particular and mission) and we are trying to develop good teams to do the work of presbytery. We thank you for your patience in this regard. We added the committee November 13, 2018 (the pertinent section of the minutes is included):

PRESBYTERY TEAM REPORTS

Reports: Presbytery Teams

4. Strategic Team

1. Treasurer's Report (RE [name omitted], Treasurer)

5. Shepherding Team

6. Administration Team

*1. Motion: to form a team for the Review of Session Records including TE [name omitted] and TE [name omitted]. **Approved***

Exception: May 16, 2017 (BCO 5-3) – No record of provisional session appointed to mission work.

Response: [Adopted, 12-0-0] At this meeting (May 16, 2017) the effort to start [church name omitted] Presbyterian was approved, people started meeting to discuss the potential and to start meeting as core families for the endeavor. It was at the March 20, 2018 Stated Meeting that TE [name omitted]'s call was changed to evangelist and that [church name omitted]'s Session was approved to serve as the temporary session of this mission work (minutes are included below).

6.1 TE [name omitted] shared his heart and vision for church planting in Westerville, OH. TE [name omitted] shared about his opportunities to tell the gospel to several in the community and their support. He has already received support from the Strategy Team and looks to a first worship Sept 2018.

6.1 Motion from the Committee: to approve [church name omitted] as a mission church of Columbus Metro Presbytery. **MSA**

Exception: Nov 28, 2017 (*BCO* 19-2.a) – No record of statement of Christian experience

Response: [Adopted, 12-0-0] After reviewing the minutes, we see that in regard to Mr. [name omitted]’s examination there was no record of Christian experience. This discrepancy is noted for future examinations. We are a small presbytery and everyone at the meeting was already familiar with Mr. [name omitted] and him having shared his story after coming under care. We realize this is important to repeat at subsequent exams for those who are not familiar with him, we will be more careful in the future.

e. **That the following response be found unsatisfactory, therefore a new response shall be submitted to the following GA:**

Exception: Sep 18, 2018 (*BCO* 13-6; 21-4) – Incomplete record of transfer exam.

Response: [Adopted, 12-0-0] The description of this exception is unclear to Presbytery. The record of the exam is included below, and after further review—to the eyes of Presbytery—the exam is in fact complete in accordance with *BCO* 13-6 and 21-4. The transfer exam from outside of our denomination included knowledge, views and exceptions as required by these two articles in the *BCO*.

1. Transfer/Ordination Exam, *BCO* 13-6 with 21-4

1. TE [name omitted] invited Rev. [name omitted] ([church name omitted]) to introduce himself to the men of presbytery and share his sense of call and experience of Christian religion.
2. TE [name omitted] then proceeded to ask the Rev. [name omitted] questions about any exceptions he might have with the Westminster Confession and the Catechisms, and then his views in theology, the Sacraments, and church government, in accordance with the examination requirements set forth in *BCO* 13-6.
 - Rev. [name omitted] Exception: [name omitted] declared his exception with *WLC* 109 that “the use of images of Jesus contained in pedagogical resources is not in conflict with this doctrinal statement.” In regard to Rev. [name omitted]’s exception on *WC* 109, the court judged the stated difference(s) to be more than semantic, but “not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine” (*BCO* 21-4).
2. TE [name omitted] continued the examination by asking questions of the candidate in his knowledge and views as set forth and required in *BCO* 21-4, as stated in 13-6.
3. TE [name omitted] opened the examination to receive questions from the floor of Presbytery.
4. **Motion:** to arrest the exam and dismiss the ordinand. **MSA**
5. **Motion:** to sustain Rev. [name omitted]’s examination. **MSA**
2. TEs [names omitted] and Rev. [name omitted] were invited to the floor. TE [name omitted] read the questions from 21-5 to the three men and each answered in the

affirmative. TE [name omitted] then prayed for the men and the right hand of fellowship was offered to each by the members of presbytery.

Rationale [2021]: Clarification: *RAO* 16-3.e.5 specifies: “Minutes of presbytery relating to examinations must *list all specific requirements* and trials for licensure and/or ordination which have been accomplished, ...” The minutes should list out the various areas of examination, not just reference the overarching *BCO* sections.

14. That the Minutes of **Covenant** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Nov 15, 2019.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Feb 5, 2019; May 21, 2019; Oct 1, 2019; General 2020; Feb 4, 2020; Apr 28, 2020; May 19, 2020.**

- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Feb 5, 2019 (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of congregation/session meeting requesting Presbytery to dissolve the call of TE [name omitted] with [church name omitted]; TE [name omitted] with [church name omitted]; TE [name omitted] with [church name omitted].

Exception: May 21, 2019 (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of congregation/session meeting requesting Presbytery to dissolve the call of TE [name omitted] with [church name omitted].

Exception: Oct 1, 2019 (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of congregation/session meeting requesting Presbytery to dissolve the call of TE [name omitted] with [church name omitted].

Exception: Oct 1, 2019 (*BCO* 13-11; *RAO* 16-3.e.7) – Complaint sent to Presbytery not recorded in minutes (“full and accurate record”).

Exception: Feb 4, 2020 (*BCO* 15-1; *RAO* 16-3.e.4) – No record of ordination commission report for candidate.

Exception: May 19, 2020 (*BCO* 38-2; 46-8) – No record of TE divested of offices (at his request) being assigned to membership in some particular church, subject to the approval of the Session of that church.

Exception: Oct 6, 2020 (*BCO* 21-4) – No record of two ordination candidates stating their differences with the Standards.

- d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**

Exception: May 15, 2018 (*BCO* 18-3) – No record of candidates’ examination in experiential religion and motives for seeking the ministry.

Response: Covenant Presbytery acknowledges the error of neglecting to include in the minutes of our 143rd Stated Meeting, May 15, 2018, (section 143-13.3) the record of the examination of candidates’ experiential religion and motives for seeking the ministry. Upon review of the audio of these meetings, the examinations did contain these answers but were not accurately recorded in the minutes. In the future, we will strive to be more careful to record in our minutes that the requirements of *BCO* 18-3 have been met.

15. That the Minutes of **Eastern Canada** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 15, 2019; Feb 21, 2020; Jun 22, 2020; Jul 11, 2020.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Jun 21, 2019; Oct 18, 2019.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Oct 23, 2020 (RAO 16-6.c.1; RAO 16-3.e.5; BCO 21-4.f) – The Presbytery did not follow the RAO in recording one of the four options in the final amended motion (RAO 16-3.e.5).

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Oct 26, 2018 (BCO 19-2.f; RAO 16-3.e.5) – No record of Presbytery’s judgment on licensure candidate’s second stated difference.

Response: We agree with the exception. This was an oversight on the part of the stated clerk, for which we apologize and promise to be more careful in the future.

We confirm that at the October 26, 2018 meeting, the presbytery did, indeed, consider the candidate’s second stated difference and made the following judgment:

MSC that the second difference regarding pejorative language for Roman Catholics to be more than semantic, but “not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine” (BCO 21-4).

The Stated Clerk, however, failed to record that particular action of the presbytery. The minutes of the October 26, 2018 have been amended accordingly. We have attached the amended minutes here.

16. That the Minutes of **Eastern Carolina Presbytery:** *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 26, 2019; Apr 13, 2019; Oct 19, 2019; Jan 25, 2020; Jul 18, 2020; Oct 17, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Jan 26, 2019; Jul 20, 2019.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Nov 17, 2018 (BCO 21-4.e; 40-2; RAO 16-3.e.5.c; and WCF 8-2) – The following sentence in a man’s licensure exam appears to demonstrate a faulty Christology *that strikes at the vitals of religion*: “... since Christ became a man and has a physical body, and since we worship him for his divinity, not his humanity, I believe that images of the incarnate Christ used for the purposes of art and education are permissible and do not violate the second commandment” (emphasis added). This was in his statement of difference with WLC 109, but the issue being cited involves Christology and not images, per se.

Response: Eastern Carolina Presbytery agrees with the 2019 General Assembly and its committee on Review of Presbytery Records (RPR) regarding this exception of substance. Our Examinations Committee chairman has contacted the man regarding his statement of his understanding of WLC 109 and the licentiate is in agreement with the RPR and Eastern Carolina Presbytery in this matter. It was not his intention to communicate any confusion of the two natures of the one person of Christ, or to deny that we should worship Christ as both God and man. He has submitted a revised statement of his exception to WLC 109 (below) to the October 19, 2019 stated meeting of ECP. ECP has taken action to amend its minutes of November 17, 2018, to accept the revised statement of the man’s exception in place of the one submitted to the November 17, 2018 meeting, and to deem that the man’s stated difference with WLC 109 is not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine because the difference is neither hostile to the system nor strikes at the vitals of religion. Presbytery regrets this error and promises to be more careful in the future.

Revised statement of the man's exception to WLC 109: "I believe that the making of any kind of image or likeness of God, *either inwardly in our mind, or outwardly*, for any purpose is prohibited in the second commandment. However, I believe that images of Christ for instruction as well as art are not prohibited by the Second commandment because I believe that the scope of the prohibition is in dealing with idolatrous worship."

17. That the Minutes of **Eastern Pennsylvania** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Sep 14, 2019; Nov 12, 2019; Nov 17, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Feb 15, 2020; Sept 12, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Feb 16, 2019 (RAO 16-3) – No executive session minutes.
Exception: Apr 9, 2019 (BCO 23-2) – A TE cannot simultaneously be honorably retired and an Associate Pastor (BCO 23-2).
Exception: Feb 15, 2020 (BCO 20-2; 22-1) – The BCO does not recognize the pastoral relation of "Co-Senior Pastor." In addition, there is no record of a congregational vote by secret ballot with $\frac{4}{5}$ approval to call the associate pastor as senior pastor and subsequent $\frac{3}{4}$ Presbytery approval for such a call (BCO 23-1).
Exception: Sep 12, 2020 (BCO 21-4.c.1.g; RAO 16-3.5) – Record of PCA History Exam for TE [name omitted] is missing.
 - d. **That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**
Exception: Sep 15, 2018; Nov 13, 2018 (BCO 21-4 and RAO 16-3. e. 5) – No record of PCA history exam
Response: The presbytery wrongly assumed that its examinations of PCA history were included under its recorded examinations of church history. In the future, the Presbytery will note that their church history exams include an exam in PCA history.
Exception: Nov 13, 2018 (BCO 21-4) – Candidate examined for ordination at September 15, 2018 meeting and commission minutes indicate that candidate was installed without ordination.
Response: The moderator of the commission assured the Presbytery that the service included all the elements required for an ordination service. However, the wrong format was used for the report of the commission and no one noticed it. The Presbytery will be more alert to such situations in the future.
18. That the Minutes of **Evangel** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Nov 12, 2019; Aug 11, 2020; and Nov 10, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Feb 12, 2019; May 14, 2019; Aug 13, 2019; General 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: General 2019 (BCO 13-9.b) – Session minutes not reviewed by Presbytery (committee only).
Exception: Feb 12, 2019 (BCO 21-4.f) – No record of requiring statement of differences with our Standards.
Exception: May 14, 2019 (BCO 21-4.d; RAO 16-3.e.5) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded (PCA History).
Exception: May 14, 2019 (BCO 21-4.f) – No record of requiring stated differences with our Standards.

Exception: Feb 11, 2020 (BCO 21-4.f) – No record licentiate in ordination exam was asked to state differences with the Standards.

Exception: Feb 11, 2020 (BCO 13-11) – Minutes of executive session not included in the record.

Exception: General 2020 (BCO 13-9.b) – Minutes of church session not reviewed by Presbytery (committee only).

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Feb 13, 2018 (BCO 21-4.d; 13-6) – Use of extraordinary clause not explained. Presbytery received a letter from a church asking for extraordinary clause and stating rationale, but no rationale was adopted by the Presbytery.

Response: Evangel agrees with this exception. The rationale stated by the church was approved by presbytery at our meeting on 2/13/18 but the action was not recorded in our minutes. It was an oversight and we will correct our practice in the future. At our meeting on 11/12/19, presbytery voted to amend our minutes of 2/13/18 to reflect the adoption of the church's proposed rationale.

19. That the Minutes of **Fellowship** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Mar 2, 2019; Sep 26, 2019; Nov 19, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Jan 26, 2019; Apr 27, 2019; May 30, 2019; Oct 28, 2019; Jan 25, 2020; May 30, 2020; Sep 24, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Apr 27, 2019 (BCO 38-2) – Minister divested with no record of facts or reason for divestiture at previous meeting.

Exception: May 30, 2020 (BCO 11-2; Fellowship Presbytery Manual 1.04, 1.05; RONR (12th ed.) 25:10) – Standing Rules that protect the rights of absent members, such as this rule that requires two readings of a proposed change to the manual, may not be suspended.

d. No response to previous assemblies required.

20. That the Minutes of **Georgia Foothills** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Apr 9, 2019.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Jun 11, 2019; General 2020; Directory 2020; Jan 25, 2020; Sep 15, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: General 2019 (RAO 16-10a) – No record in minutes of exceptions taken by GA.

Exception: Jan 26, 2019; Sep 17, 2019 (BCO 13-11, 14-6.c, 40-1; RAO 16-3.e.7) – Minutes of executive session not included.

Exception: Jun 11, 2019; Sep 17, 2019 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not judged with prescribed categories.

Exception: General 2020 (BCO 13-9b) – No record of review of records of church Sessions.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (BCO 25-11) – No record of congregational vote to withdraw from the PCA.

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: April 17, 2018 p.3 (BCO 13-6) – No record that minister transferring into presbytery was examined for Christian Experience and views.

Response: This was an error in the recording of the minutes by the clerk. The minister transferring into presbytery was examined for Christian Experience and views. The Clerk will endeavor to be more careful.

21. That the Minutes of **Grace** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 8, 2019; May 14, 2019; Jul 10, 2019; Sep 10, 2019; Jan 14, 2020; Sep 8, 2020; Oct 20, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
22. That the Minutes of **Great Lakes** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Jan 12, 2019; May 4, 2019; Sep 20-21, 2019; Jan 25, 2020; Jun 20, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Sep 19, 2020 (BCO 21-7n3) – In assistant pastor ordination commission minutes, chairman propounded questions to the congregation instead of the Session.
Exception: Jun 20, 2020 (BCO 13-6, 21-4.a, 21-4.d) – Transfer exam from candidate outside of the PCA without record of Bible exam or an exception granted.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
23. That the Minutes of **Gulf Coast** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 4-5, 2019; May 14, 2019; Aug 20, 2019; Oct 8, 2019.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Directory 2020; Feb 10-11, 2020; Jun 9, 2020; Oct 13, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Sep 8, 2020 (BCO 13-12; RAO 16-3,c,1) – Call for called meeting not in order – 10-day notice; purpose for call not stated.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
24. That the Minutes of **Gulfstream** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Apr 21, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Directory 2019; Jan 15, 2019; Apr 30, 2019; Jul 30, 2019; Oct 15, 2019; General 2020; Directory 2020; Jan 21, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Oct 15, 2019 (BCO 13-6; 21-4.c.2-3) – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from another denomination. No record of thesis, no record of exegetical paper.
Exception: Jan 21, 2020 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – All specific requirements for ordination exam not recorded; seminary degree, thesis paper/ examination on knowledge of Greek and Hebrew; did not preach a sermon.
Exception: Oct 20, 2020 (BCO 19-2.d) – Licensure exam with no mention of written sermon.
Exception: General 2020: (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of review of church session.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**

25. That the Minutes of **Heartland** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Nov 6-7, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Feb 22-23, 2019; Aug 2, 2019; Nov 1-2, 2019; General 2020; Feb 28, 2020; Apr 14, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Feb 22-23, 2019 (BCO 23-1) – No record or date of congregation voting to dissolve pastoral relationship.

Exception: Aug 2, 2019 (BCO 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work of a transferring minister.

Exception: Feb 28, 2020 (BCO 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work for TE [name omitted].
 - d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**

Exception: November 2-3, 2018 (BCO 19-16) – Three-fourths vote for waiving internship requirement not recorded.

Response: Although not recorded in the minutes, the licentiate’s internship was approved by presbytery by a vote exceeding a $\frac{3}{4}$ requirement.
26. That the Minutes of **Heritage** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Jan 26, 2019; May 14, 2019; Sep 14, 2019; Nov 16, 2019; Directory 2020; Jan 25, 2020; Feb 10, 2020; Jul 21, 2020; Sep 12, 2020; Nov 21, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: General 2019 (BCO 12-7; 13-9.b) – No record of completion of review of 2018 Session Records of [church names omitted]. Presbytery should submit an excerpt from Minutes of a 2020 meeting at which those Records are reviewed.

Exception: Sep 14, 2019 (BCO 38-1) – TE was deposed from office after a confession at a stated meeting (i.e., without process) but Minutes don't indicate the provisions of *BCO* 38-1 were followed. *BCO* 38-1 stipulates “a full statement of the facts shall be recorded” but there is none in the Minutes and there were no executive session Minutes filed.

Exception: Nov 21, 2020 (BCO 12-7; 13-9.b; RAO 16-3.e.6) – Record does not indicate that all 2019 Session Records were reviewed by Presbytery in 2020.
 - d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**

Exception: September 9, 2017 (BCO 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer examination: minutes do not reflect that TE [name omitted] was examined in his Christian experience; also, he apparently was examined on Bible rather than his view on sacraments.

Response [2019]: Heritage Presbytery has reviewed the exception of substance to our 2017 minutes and concluded that we indeed erred in our transfer examination of TE [name omitted] who should have been examined in re his views on The Sacraments. We have reviewed his views accordingly and find them in accord with the Standards. Thank you for pointing out this exception; we will attempt to be more diligent in the future.

Rationale [2019]: TE still needs to be examined on his Christian experience.

Response [2020]: The minutes were in error as they failed to note the completeness of the exam. The complete exam to TE [name omitted] was conducted, on his Christian experience and on the Sacraments.

27. That the Minutes of **Highlands (Western Carolina)** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 13, 2019; Mar 21, 2019; Jun 4, 2019; Aug 3, 2019; Sep 19, 2019; Feb 22, 2020; Aug 1, 2020, Sep 22, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; May 7, 2019; Nov 12, 2019.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: May 7, 2019 (BCO 15-1; 15-2) – Presbytery appoints commission to investigate dissolution of pastor call, no report of commission contained in minutes.

Exception: Nov 10, 2020 (BCO 21-04) All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded (PCA History (see also *RAO 16- 3.e.5*).
 - d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**

Exception: Feb 24, 2018 (BCO 15-1) – Shepherding Committee acted as a commission without authorization.

Response: At its November 12, 2019 Stated Meeting, Western Carolina Presbytery took the following action:

‘On motion these response to the Review of Presbytery Records Committee was approved:

 - 1) February 24, 2018. “Shepherding Committee acted as a commission without authorization.” Presbytery agrees with the exception. Presbytery will be more careful in the future. [Action was taken at the November 2019 stated meeting concerning the TE’s situation.]’
28. That the Minutes of **Hills and Plains** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Feb 9, 2019; May 4, 2019; Oct 1, 2019.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: General 2019; General 2020 (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of review of Session records having been conducted.

Exception: General 2019 (RAO 16-10.a) – No record in minutes of exceptions taken by the General Assembly.

Exception: Feb 9, 2019 (BCO 13-11) – Overture received by Session as communication to Presbytery not attached.

Exception: Feb 9, 2019 (BCO 13-6; 21-4.c.1) – No record of all of the parts of examination having been conducted for a man transferring in from another denomination.

Exception: Feb 9, 2019; Oct 1, 2019 (BCO 13-6; 21-4.f) – No record that candidate for transfer from another denomination was required to state his differences with the *Westminster Standards* in his own words.

Exception: Feb 9, 2019 (BCO 19-2) – No record of all of the parts of a licensure exam having been conducted.

Exception: Feb 9, 2019; May 4, 2019; Oct 1, 2019 (BCO 19-2.f) – Candidate for licensure’s stated differences not recorded in his own words.

Exception: Feb 9, 2019 (BCO 15-3; 31-2) – Presbytery formed a commission (which it calls a ‘Council’) to conduct a 31-2 investigation (referencing both 31-2 and 15-3) of a TE regarding whom the minutes state that a committee of Presbytery has met with “many parties” and “believe there is a ‘strong presumption of guilt.’” This is in contradiction to both 15-3 (which establishes a judicial commission to adjudicate a trial) and 31-2 (the purpose of which is to determine if there is a strong presumption of guilt).

Exception: Feb 9, 2019 (*BCO* 13-11) – No record of the moderator having appointed the “Special Judicial Council”.

Exception: Mar 26, 2019 (*BCO* 13-11) – Minutes of the called meeting not included (i.e., that part of the meeting that is not in executive session).

Exception: Mar 26, 2019 (*BCO* 13-11) – Per the purpose of the called meeting, a “full statement of the case and the judgment rendered” not attached to the Executive Session minutes.

Exception: Mar 26, 2019 (*BCO* 15-3; 31-2; 32-2, 3) – The Presbytery received a report from the Judicial Commission that had been formed to “investigate” a matter per *BCO* 31-2. There was, at the point this commission was formed, no “judicial case” per *BCO* 15-3 for it to adjudicate (i.e., no charges had been laid, no prosecutor has been appointed, etc.).

Exception: Mar 26, 2019 (*BCO* 15-3; 32-15) – Presbytery approved of the judgment of its commission without there being any declaration of guilt on the part of the accused.

Exception: Mar 26, 2019 (*BCO* 15-3; 32-15; 36-1) – Presbytery approved of a judgment of its commission calling for a specific censure against the accused. Per *BCO* 32-15, a ‘judgment’ is the determination of guilt or innocence. Per *BCO* 36-1, the infliction of a censure commences only after the individual is found guilty. Per *BCO* 15-3, a determination of guilt or innocence by a judicial commission is not final until it is approved by the presbytery. Therefore, a separate motion (even if by recommendation of the commission) would have to be made to inflict a censure.

Exception: May 4, 2019 (*BCO* 13-11) – Incomplete Record: referenced guidelines not attached to minutes.

Exception: May 4, 2019 (*BCO* 19-2.a) – No record of candidate for licensure giving a statement of his Christian experience and inward call to preach the Gospel (written or oral).

Exception: May 4, 2019 (*BCO* 21-4.c.1) – No record of examination of a candidate for ordination in Bible content or theology.

Exception: May 4, 2019; Oct 1, 2019 (*BCO* 21-4.g) – No record that Presbytery appointed a day for ordination.

Exception: May 4, 2019 (*BCO* 13-11; 14-6.c; *RAO* 16-3.e.6) – Minutes of executive session not included.

Exception: Oct 1, 2019 (*BCO* 21-4.c.1) – No record of examination of a candidate for ordination in Theology, knowledge of Greek/Hebrew, or Polity.

Exception: Oct 1, 2019 (*BCO* 13-6) – No record of all parts of a transfer exam of a man ordained in the PCA.

Exception: Feb 8, 2020; Jun 30, 2020 (*BCO* 21-4.f; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not recorded in the candidate’s own words.

Exception: Feb 8, 2020; Jun 30, 2020 (*BCO* 21-2; 18-2) – No approval of candidate for ordination’s completed internship.

Exception: Feb 8, 2020; Jun 30, 2020 (*BCO* 21-4.g) – No record that Presbytery appointed a day for ordination and/or installation or established a commission for ordination and/or installation.

Exception: Feb 8, 2020 (*BCO* 13-11) – Individual is examined and preaches a sermon with no indication in the minutes as to what he was examined for or why his sermon was arrested and sustained. (Individual is listed as a candidate and an intern, but not as a licentiate).

Exception: Feb 8, 2020; Jun 30, 2020 (BCO 18-3) – Man is received as a candidate without being examined on experiential religion or his motives for seeking the gospel ministry.

Exception: Feb 8, 2020; Jun 30, 2020 (BCO 18-3) – Questions for candidacy not shown to have been asked or answered in the affirmative.

Exception: Feb 8, 2020; Jun 30, 2020 (BCO 19-9) – Man is received as an intern without giving statement regarding his inward call to the ministry.

Exception: Feb 8, 2020 (SR 6-2.a) – Standing rules amended without record of a 2/3 vote.

Exception: May 5, 2020 (BCO 36-1; 13-11) – Minutes record the expiration of one-year definite suspension from office, yet there is no indication in the previous year’s minutes of any trial or case without process.

Exception: Jun 30, 2020 (BCO 18-3) – Charge not given to candidate for ministry.

Exception: Jun 30, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – Presbytery approves a new call for a TE within the same presbytery without first dissolving the previous call by following the steps in *BCO 23-1*.

Exception: Jun 30, 2020 (BCO 21-3) – Presbytery ordains a man to the gospel ministry without a call to a specific work (the man is listed as an assistant pastor in the next meeting’s roll).

Exception: Jun 30, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – Presbytery dissolves the call of a TE without following the steps in *BCO 23-1*.

Exception: Jun 30, 2020 (BCO 13-9.c) – TE is approved as a “planting Pastor” of a mission work without the approval of a new call to that work and without approving the specific terms of the call.

Exception: Jun 30, 2020; Aug 4, 2020 (RAO 16-3c.1) – Purpose of called meeting not specified.

Exception: Aug 4, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – Pastoral relation is dissolved without citing the church to appear.

Exception: Aug 4, 2020 (BCO 38-3) – Presbytery transferred a TE to a denomination with whom we do not have fraternal relations without following the steps in either 38-3a or 38-3b.

Exception: Oct 13, 2020 (BCO 18-3) – Man is received as a candidate without being examined on his motives for seeking the gospel ministry.

Exception: Oct 13, 2020 (BCO 5-9.c, d) – No record of the nomination, training, examination, or election of Ruling Elders for a mission church being particularized.

Exception: Oct 13, 2020 (BCO 5-9.f.1) No indication of a congregational meeting to elect a pastor.

Exception: Oct 13, 2020 (BCO 13-11) – Petition to particularize not attached.

Exception: Oct 13, 2020 (BCO 5-9.h) – Church approved to be particularized without the establishment of a commission to organize the church.

d. That responses shall be submitted to the following GA as no responses were received in 2021:

Exception: May 8, 2018 (RAO 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences were approved but not recorded.

Exception: Oct 9, 2018 (BCO 19-2, RAO 16-3.e.5) – No specific requirements of licensure exams recorded.

Exception: General (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of review of the records of church sessions.

29. That the Minutes of **Houston Metro** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **May 18, 2020; Jun 29, 2020; Nov 9, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Jan 18, 2019; Apr 12, 2019; Aug 19, 2019; Nov 11, 2019.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Jan 18, 2019 (*BCO* 24-6; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Presbytery approves candidate exception whose stated difference with WCF 21.7 appears to be “out of accord,” that is, “hostile to our system” or “striking at the vitals of religion” by stating that “worship on the first day of the week is a matter of church tradition and human reckoning, rather than divine revelation. Certainly, we should celebrate the Lord’s Day with and therefore on the same day as other brothers and sisters in Christ (Heb. 10:25).”

Exception: Jan 17, 2020; Aug 21, 2020 (*BCO* 18-3) – Candidates not examined on their “motives for seeking the ministry.”

Exception: General 2020 – No record of January 2020 Minutes being approved by the Presbytery (Approval postponed on August 21, 2020).
 - d. **That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**

Exception: General (*BCO* 12-7; *BCO* 12-8; and *BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of review of records of church sessions.

Response: Our HMP RSR Committee had many changes in its membership in YR2018. The Committee membership is now stable and is reporting their review of session minutes to Presbytery on a regular basis.

Exception: Aug 21, 2017 (*BCO* 15-1) – Records of commission not entered in subsequent Presbytery minutes.

Response [2019]: Review of Presbytery Records is correct in noting this exception of substance. Houston Metro Presbytery will be more diligent to include commission notes in future minutes.

Rationale [2019]: The record of the commission’s actions needs to be recorded in the Presbytery’s minutes

Response [2020]: Our new reply is after searching for all correspondence relating to RPR’s exception of substance from August, 2017, all information needed to correct this fault in our filed minutes is lost. Regrettably, HMP is therefore unable to amend its filings.
 - e. **That the following response be found unsatisfactory, therefore a new response shall be submitted to the following GA:**

Exception: Aug 20, 2018 (*BCO* 13.9.a; and *BCO* 38) – Removed TE from rolls without explanation

Response: TE [name omitted] has left the PCA and is now ministering at [church name omitted] in Cypress, TX.

Rationale: Presbytery needs to designate if the TE was transferred or was removed per *BCO* 38-3.

30. That the Minutes of **Illiana** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 19, 2019, Feb 9, 2019.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Feb 28, 2019; Apr 13, 2019; Oct 19, 2019.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Feb 28, 2019 (RAO 16-3.e.5) – Candidate’s differences not stated in his own words.

Exception: Nov 16, 2019 (BCO 13-12) – No evidence of proper call for meeting and reason for called meeting not stated.

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Oct 17, 2015 (BCO 13-11; 38-3) – Presbytery’s release of TE does not specify the judgment of the court as to the fidelity of the receiving body in maintaining the Word and Sacrament in their fundamental integrity.

Response [2016]: TE [name omitted] had taken a call to an independent congregation. He was not present when this action was taken. No note of input from either the Senior Pastor or the Session is included, as the question was probably not asked.

Rationale [2016]: There was no record of a determination whether the new/independent church was faithful in maintaining the Word and Sacraments in their fundamental integrity.

Response: [2019] Illiana recognizes the necessity to release TEs into works that will maintain the Word and Sacrament in their fundamental integrity. At this particular meeting neither the Senior Pastor at the time or this particular TE was present. The action was brought by a member of the Session present and the question was not asked. Since that time, the Senior Pastor at that time has been contacted and he is aware of conversations with this particular church and is willing to affirm that they do indeed maintain the Word and Sacrament in their fundamental integrity and that this particular TE was released to a new ministry that is faithful to the scriptures.

Rationale [2019]: The court has yet to specify their judgment as to the fidelity of the receiving body.

Response [2020]: The Presbytery has considered this matter and upon further examination, in the judgment of the court it was determined that the receiving body does maintain the Word and Sacraments in their fundamental integrity.

e. That a response shall be submitted to the following GA as no response was received in 2021:

Exception: General (BCO 13-9) – No record of review of session minutes.

f. That 2020 minutes shall be submitted to the following GA, as they were not received.

31. That the Minutes of Iowa Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Mar 23, 2019; May 4, 2019; Jul 13, 2019; Nov 9, 2019; Jun 13, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Directory 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Nov 14, 2020 (BCO 21-4.f; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not judged with prescribed categories.

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Standing Rules (BCO 5-1; 13-1) – Standing Rules provision redefines composition of Presbytery, by granting mission churches voting delegates to Presbytery.

Response: Taking the area referred to by RPR to heart caused Iowa Presbytery to update its Standing Rules as shown below:

1.1 Membership. The membership of the presbytery shall be in accordance with
BCO 13-1.

We also modified 3.2 to read as follows:

3.2 Mission Churches. Mission churches, while not yet organized, may be represented at presbytery with voice but not vote. The representative shall be appointed by the evangelist, session, or commission charged with the governance of such mission church in accord with *BCO* 5-3.

32. That the Minutes of **James River** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Jan 19, 2019; Apr 13, 2019; Jul 18, 2019; Oct 12, 2019; Jan 18, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
 - Exception: Jan 19, 2019 (BCO 5-9)** – It is unclear which of the steps in particularizing a new church have taken place, other than a report that the requirements have been fulfilled.
 - Exception: Jan 19, 2019 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5)** – All specific requirements of ordination not recorded as having been approved by the Presbytery.
 - Exception: Apr 13, 2019 (BCO 21-1)** – Presbytery did not grant permission to a TE who moved onto the field prior to transfer.
 - Exception: Jul 18, 2019 (BCO 20-9; 23-1)** – No record of dissolution of pastoral relationship before approving a minister to transfer to another presbytery.
 - Exception: Oct 12, 2019 (BCO 18-7)** – No reasons stated in the minutes of the Presbytery for removing candidates from under care of presbytery.
 - Exception: Oct 12, 2019 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5)** – Stated difference received orally but were not recorded in candidate’s own words.
 - Exception: Jan 18, 2020 (BCO 15-2)** – The members of the commission are not named so it is unclear whether the membership included 2 TEs and 2 REs.
 - Exception: Aug 8, 2020 (RONR, 12th Ed., 9:34)** – Commission held a meeting by email which does not constitute a deliberative assembly.
 - Exception: Aug 8, 2020 (BCO 23-1)** – TE status changed to without call without a record of the dissolution of previous call.
 - Exception: Aug 8, 2020 (BCO 21-4.c.1.b)** – No record of ordination trial for knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages nor statement that the seminary degree included study in the languages.
 - Exception: Aug 8, 2020 (BCO 23-1)** – Resignation request received and pastoral relationship dissolved without citing the local church to appear.
 - Exception: Aug 8, 2020 (BCO 21-4.c.1.b)** – No record of ordination trial for knowledge of the Greek language.
 - Exception: Oct 10, 2020 (BCO 5-9.d, 5-9.i.1)** – It is unclear whether officers were elected for a church petitioning for particularization and whether the commission would install those officers.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
33. That the Minutes of **Korean Capital** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**
 - b. Be approved with exception of form: **General 2020; Apr 8, 2019; Aug 25, 2019; Oct 7, 2019; Jan 5, 2020; Jun 29, 2020; Oct 5, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exception of substance:

Exception: Apr 8, 2019 (BCO 20-1) – No record of a call to a definite work recorded for two TEs [names omitted].

Exception: Oct 7, 2019 (BCO 21-4) – No record of the approval of a theological thesis, exegesis, or seminary degree in lieu of original languages for ordination candidate.

Exception: Jun 29, 2020 (BCO 19-3; 19-4) – No record of questions for licensure asked and affirmed. Licensure not recorded in proper form.

Exception: Jun 29, 2020 (BCO 19-3; 19-4) – No record of questions for licensure asked and affirmed. Licensure not recorded in proper form.

Exception: Oct 5, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational meeting to dissolve pastoral relationship.

d. **That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**

Exception: Apr 2, 2018 (BCO 13-6; 21-4.c.2-4) – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from another denomination. No record of requirement to preach.

Response: We regret not properly recording the sermon portion of the transfer exam, which was done through the written sermon. We revised the minutes to add the record of receiving the written sermon.

Exception: Apr 2, 2018; Oct 8, 2018 (BCO 15.1) – Records of ordination and installation commissions not entered in Presbytery minutes.

Response: We regret not including the commission reports, which have been added to the attached revised minutes.

Exception: Oct 8, 2018 (BCO 5-9.h) – Organizing commission not appointed after approval of particularization.

Response: We regret that the mission church held a service in 2014 and ordained new elders without proper presbytery approval. New ruling elders were ordained by men who were already ordained as teaching elders in the PCA. The Presbytery retroactively approved the particularization and the ordinations, noting the irregularity. We apologize for this and will do a better job in the future of making sure our mission churches follow the procedure outlined in BCO 5.

Exception: Apr 3, 2017 (BCO 5-9.f and g.) – Church seemed to particularize and there is no record of a congregational vote petitioning presbytery, nor is there record of an election of a pastor and elders.

Response [2019]: The Korean Capital Presbytery does not understand this exception of substance. The minutes says, “Change of status of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church from mission church to particular church has been delegated to the officers.” It does not state that the Presbytery approved the particularization.

Rationale [2019]: The record does not show that the steps required by BCO 5-9 for particularization have been followed. If the officers were constituted as a commission the record of their actions needs to be included in the Presbytery’s minutes.

Response [2020]: The church in question is the same church cited in the above citation on Oct 8, 2018 meeting for not appointing an organizing commission. We regret this oversight and will do a better job in the future of making sure our mission churches follow the procedure outlined in BCO 5.

34. That the Minutes of **Korean Central** Presbytery:

Adopted

a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Oct 13-14, 2020.**

- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
 - Exception: Oct 13-14, 2020** – Stated meeting place online.
 - Exception: Oct 13-14, 2020** (BCO 21-4) – Stated difference not recorded in candidate’s own words.; not judged according to prescribed categories (Mr. [name omitted]; Mr. [name omitted]).
 - Exception: Oct 13-14, 2020** (BCO 21-14) – Stated difference not recorded in candidate’s own words.; not judged according to prescribed categories (Mr. [name omitted]).
 - Exception: Oct 13-14, 2020** (BCO 20-01) – No record of call to a definite work (Mr. [name omitted])
 - Exception: Oct 13-14, 2020** (BCO 21-04) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded (Mr. [name omitted]).
- d. **That responses shall be submitted to the following GA as no responses were received in 2021:**
 - Exception: General** (RAO 16.4.c.3) – No response to the Assembly dispositions of exceptions of substance.
 - Exception: Apr 10-11, 2018** (BCO 20-1) – Ordination of TE; no record of call to a definite work.
 - Exception: Apr 10-11, 2018** (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational vote to dissolve pastoral call.
 - Exception: Oct 16-17, 2018** (BCO 15-1; RAO 16-4.3.e.4) – Record of commission not entered in Presbytery minutes.
 - Exception: Apr 18-19, 2017; Oct 10-11, 2017** (BCO 20-1; 20-6; RAO 16-3.e.6) – No record that calls to TEs were examined and approved by Presbytery.
 - Exception: Apr 18-19, 2017; Oct 10-11, 2017** (BCO 15-2) – No record of commission formed to install/ordain pastor.
 - Exception: Oct 10-11, 2017** (BCO 21-4) – Use of $\frac{3}{4}$ extraordinary clause not explained for ordination exam.
 - Exception: Apr 18-19, 2017** (BCO 13-8) – No commission report for RE examinations for church transferring.
 - Exception: Oct 10-11, 2017** (BCO 13-10) – No record of transfer or dismissal of members of dissolved church.
 - Exception: Apr 18-19, 2017** (BCO 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer exams
- e. **That 2020 minutes shall be reviewed for the following GA, as they were not received in time to be reviewed.**

35. That the Minutes of **Korean Eastern Presbytery:** *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Mar 12, 2019.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Directory 2019; Mar 13, 2018; Sep 12, 2018; Sep 10, 2019.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
 - Exception: Mar 18, 2018** (BCO 13-6) – Received as a member but no record of mechanism how it happened.
 - Exception: Mar 18, 2018** (BCO 21-4) – No record of stated differences.
 - Exception: Mar 18, 2018** (BCO 20-9) – No record of terms of call.
 - Exception: Mar 18, 2018** (BCO 20-9) – Transferred out of presbytery with no record of destination.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: General (BCO 13-9) – No record of review of records of Sessions.

Response: The Presbytery and Record Examination Committee apologize for overlooking the reviewing of sessional records. The REC will make sure not to miss this portion in the future and record the result in presbytery minutes

Exception: Sep 11, 2018 (BCO 13-6; 21-4c) – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from another denomination.

Response: KEP examined the transfer candidate thoroughly according to *BCO* but left out some of the details in the minutes. KEP will be more careful in the future to record accurately.

Exception: General (BCO 13-12) – No record of two meetings in 2018 (previous minutes do not include a spring 2018 meeting),

Response: KEP had two Stated Meetings in 2018, one in March 13, and the other in September 11, but made mistake to send one of the 2019 minutes instead of March 2018 minutes. KEP will include March, 2018 meeting minutes with this response and will be more cautious in the future

Exception: Apr 18, 2017 (BCO 23-1) – After TE resigned, the Presbytery failed to cite the church to appear by its commissioners.

Response: The Presbytery admits the mistake and apologizes for not following *BCO* 23-1 carefully. KEP will be more cautious in the future in this matter.

Exception: Apr 18, 2017 (BCO 13-6; and 21-4) – Incomplete transfer exam; no indication of previous denomination.

Response: The Presbytery has the complete record for each candidate and it was included in the docket of the meeting, but it was not recorded in detail in the meeting minutes. KEP will be more cautious in the future to include the detail in meeting minutes.

Exception: Apr 18, 2017 (BCO 21-4) – No record of ordination exam.

Response: There was no ordination exam on April 18, 2017 Stated Meeting. There were exams for Under Care and Transfer candidates in that meeting and those exams were recorded in the minutes.

Exception: Sep 29, 2016 (BCO 13-6; 21-4) – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from other denomination.

Response [2019]: The candidate from KAPC was examined according to the Standing Rules of KEP which states that TE transferring from another denomination shall be examined on the subjects form licensure or ordination at the discretion of the Candidate Examination Committee.

The CEC decided to examine the candidates in the areas of *BCO* and Church History only (omits Bible, Theology, Sacraments) since the minister was transferring from KAPC which is very similar to PCA (90%). KEP will be more careful in the future to record accurately.

Rationale [2019]: PCA rules state that ministers transferring from non-PCA denominations shall be examined in all areas even if from a denomination similar to the PCA. In addition, Presbytery bylaws cannot be out of accord with the *BCO* (*BCO* 13-6; 21-4).

Response [2020]: The Presbytery understands the concern and will be more careful to follow the *BCO* 13-6, and 21-4 accurately in the future

- e. **That the following response be found unsatisfactory, therefore a new response shall be submitted to the following GA:**
Exception: Sep 11, 2018 (BCO 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work.
Response: The presbytery apologizes for not recording the term of call for the candidate. The TE approved for the Out of Boundary went to Trinity Evangelical Divinity School to pursue his study
Rationale: A course of study is not a definite work to which a call can be issued.
- f. **That 2020 minutes shall be submitted to the following GA, as they were not received.**

[Editorial note on #36 below: the 48th GA amended Recommendation 36.c (below) to remove the exception of substance.]

- 36. That the Minutes of **Korean Northeastern** Presbytery: *Adopted*
 - a. Be approved without exceptions: **Mar 12, 2019; Sep 10, 2019; Mar 10, 2020; Sep 8, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
~~—Exception: Mar 10, 2020; Sep 8, 2020 (BCO 13-9.b) — Review of Session records incomplete.~~
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**

- 37. That the Minutes of **Korean Northwest** Presbytery: *Adopted*
 - a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Apr 8, 2019; Sep 30, 2019; Oct 13, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: General 2019 & 2020 (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of review of church Session records.
Exception: General 2019 (BCO 13-5) – TEs on roll without explanation. Apr 8, 2019 meeting listed 32 total TEs and Sep 30, 2019 meeting listed 36 total TEs.
Exception: Apr 8, 2019; Sep 30, 2019; Oct 13, 2020 (BCO 21-4; 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer exams for ministers transferring from another denomination.
Exception: Apr 8, 2019 (BCO 13-11) – Inaccurate record of attendance. No list of excused/unexcused absences, no list of churches represented
Exception: Apr 8, 2019; Sep 30, 2019; Oct 13, 2020 (BCO 20-1; 13-7) – No record of call to definite work for ministers transferring from another denomination.
Exception: Apr 8, 2019; Sep 30, 2019 (Preliminary Principle 6; BCO 24-1) – Improper exercise of Presbytery authority. Presbytery may not require churches to request Presbytery permission to elect Ruling Elders.
Exception: Apr 8, 2019; Sep 30, 2019 (BCO 12-3) – No record that interim moderators were approved by Sessions.
Exception: Oct 13, 2020 (BCO 13-8) – No record of commission of Presbytery meeting with church ruling elders before receiving the church into its membership.
 - d. **That responses shall be submitted to the following GA as no responses were received in 2021:**
Exception: Apr 9, 2018 (BCO 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work.

Exception: Apr 9, 2018 (*BCO* 21-4) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded

Exception: General (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of review of records of church sessions

Exception: Apr 24, 2017 (*BCO* 21-4) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.

Exception: Apr 24, 2017; Oct 9, 2017 (*BCO* 21-4) – No record of requiring statement of differences with our Standards.

Exception: Apr 24, 2017 (*BCO* 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work.

Exception: Apr 24, 2017 (*BCO* 19-13) – Approval of internship for ordination not recorded.

Exception: Apr 24, 2017; Oct 9, 2017 (*BCO* 12-5) – Power to examine, ordain, and install ruling elders belongs to the Session.

Exception: Oct 9, 2017 (*BCO* 19-2) – All specific requirements of licensure exam not recorded.

Exception: Oct 9, 2017 (*BCO* 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer exam – no indication of transferee's previous denomination

Exception: General (*BCO* 40-1) – No record of review of session minutes.

Response [2018]: We have a committee that reviews them each presbytery meeting. Many times churches forget to bring them. We will be more diligent in this matter to ensure that sessional records are reviewed under *BCO* 40-1.

Rationale [2018]: Please supply record of presbytery action reviewing 2014 Session minutes.

Exception: General (*RAO* 16-10.a) – No response to the Assembly concerning disposition of any exceptions of substance.

Response [2018]: We apologize for not responding on time. It is not the attitude of the presbytery and its members to rebel or disrespect. It was the fault of the clerk and he apologizes and asks for forgiveness.

Rationale [2018]: Please provide responses to presbytery exceptions of substance for 2014, 2013, and 2011.

Exception: Apr 13, 2015 (*BCO* 21-4) – No record of candidate meeting all qualifications for ordination.

Response [2018]: Our examination committee keeps record of all the parts and details of the exam and just gives final report to the presbytery. We will have requirements in our minutes in the future. We have revised our minutes to show required parts are approved and that the exam as a whole was approved.

Rationale [2018]: Please provide a record of the revised minutes and the record of presbytery's revision including statement of stated differences in candidate's own words and presbytery's categorization of the differences.

Exception: Apr 13, 2015 (*RAO* 16-3.e.5) – All specific requirements of exam not recorded.

Response [2018]: Our examination committee keeps record of all the parts and details of the exam and just gives final report to the presbytery. We will do better job of recording requirements in our minutes in the future. We have revised our minutes to show required parts are approved and that the exam as a whole was approved.

Rationale [2018]: Please provide a record of the revised minutes and the record of presbytery's revision including statement of differences in candidate's own words and presbytery's categorization of the differences.

Exception: Apr 13, 2015 (BCO 21-4, RAO 16-3.e.5) – No record of candidate's stated differences, if any.

Response [2018]: We will keep clear record of statement of differences with standards in the future.

Rationale [2018]: Please provide a record of the revised minutes and the record of presbytery's revision including statement of differences in candidate's own words and presbytery's categorization of the differences

38. That the Minutes of **Korean Southeastern** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Apr 8, 2019; Oct 7, 2019; Jun 29, 2020.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Directory 2019; Jul 22, 2019; Aug 29, 2019; Directory 2020; Jan 6, 2020; Oct 5, 2020.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
- d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**

Exception: (BCO 21-4) – All requirements for ordination exam were not recorded (two candidates in April; one candidate in October).

Response: Presbytery apologizes for this clerical error. Candidates for ordination at the stated meetings referenced were thoroughly examined in all areas per *BCO 21-4*. However, our meeting minutes are taken in Korean which are then translated into English to submit to CRPR for review. The minutes for the referenced meetings in Korean record the full exam. It seems that the error was made in the translation process. We will take extra care to make sure the translations are without error.

39. That the Minutes of **Korean Southern** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Oct 15, 2018; Apr 22-23, 2019; Oct 21, 2019; Jul 6, 2020**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Oct 15, 2018 (BCO 13-6) – No indication of how TE was/were examined, per *BCO 13-6*; not clear if TE's were transfers.

Exception: Oct 15, 2018 (BCO 20-1) – No record of call for TEs.

Exception: Oct 15, 2018 (BCO 40-1; RAO 16-4) – Several of the pages from these minutes were not included in the binder we received. We acknowledge this was likely a copying mistake. However, since these pages were not reviewable, they should be submitted next year for review.

Exception: Apr 22, 2019 (BCO 19-2.f; 21-4) – The licensure exam did not list some of the required areas of testing (e.g. sermon and church government). There is also no record of how stated differences with our standards (if any) were disposed.

Exception: Apr 22, 2019 (RAO 16-4.c.2) – Did not record 2/3 majority vote required per presbytery *Standing Rules* for amending bylaws (Article 15 – Appendix. Section 1).

Exception: Apr 22, 2019 (BCO 13-8) – No record of adherence to *BCO 13-8*, including commission to examine and ordain elders.

Exception: Oct 21, 2019 (BCO 13-9, 24-1) – Examination of RE is not under the purview of the presbytery’s jurisdiction, rather the local session.

Exception: Oct 21, 2019 (BCO 15-2) – TEs without call seem to be limited in their participation in allowable committees and commissions, i.e. membership and examination committees.

Exception: Jul 6, 2020 (RAO 16-3.c.8) – No record of approval of previous minutes.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Oct 16, 2017 and Apr 16, 2018 (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of review of session records.

Response: We continue encouraging member churches to submit their session records. By this effort, one review of session records can be found in “Report of Rules Committee” on page 10 of April 16, 2018 minute. Again, we will continue encouraging our member churches regarding this matter.

Exception: Apr 16, 2018 (BCO 21-4) – Stated differences with our Standards not recorded (see RAO 16-3.e.5).

Response: We asked at the “Floor Test” about this matter, and did not find any differences. However, we did not record about it in the minute. We will record it in the future.

Exception: Apr 16, 2018 (BCO 13-6; 21-4) – No record of transfer exam

Response: The subjects and the results of the exam are recorded in “Report of Examination Committee” and in “Discussion on the Submitted Items” respectively, on page 12 of April 16, 2018 minute.

Exception: Apr 17, 2017 (BCO 13-11 and BCO 43) – Incomplete record of complaint sent to presbytery.

Response [2019]: We decided not to record the details because of some private and groundless contents in it. We will be more careful about this matter from now on.

Rationale [2019]: A complete record of a complaint submitted to Presbytery should be recorded in the minutes

Response [2020]: We will record the complete record of complaint in the minutes. Although we missed the recording, the complaint had been solved already by the pastor’s resigning and cancelling his membership of the Presbytery on October 16, 2017. We deeply apologize for this mistake.

40. That the Minutes of **Korean Southwest** Presbytery:

Adopted

a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Mar 13, 2018; Oct 18, 2018; Mar 12, 2019; Sep 10, 2019; Oct 15, 2019.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Sep 11, 2018; Oct 18, 2018; Mar 12, 2019; Sep 10, 2019 (BCO 15-1; RAO 16-3.e.4) – Minutes of commission not entered in Presbytery minutes.

Exception: Oct 18, 2018; Mar 12, 2019 (BCO 23-1) – No record that the congregation voted on dissolution.

Exception: Oct 18, 2018; Oct 15, 2019 (RAO 16-3.c.1) – The purpose of the meeting is not recorded in the Minutes.

Exception: Mar 12, 2019 (BCO 18-3) – No record that the candidate was examined by the Presbytery before being received as a candidate.

Exception: Mar 12, 2019 (*BCO* 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from another denomination (see also *BCO* 21-4).

Exception: Mar 12, 2019; Sep 10, 2019; Oct 15, 2019 (*BCO* 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work.

Exception: Mar 12, 2019 (*BCO* 21-4) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded (see also *RAO* 16-3.e.5).

Exception: Sep 10, 2019 (*BCO* 22-2) – No record of congregational meeting and call, no record of terms of call being approved, no record of installation.

Exception: Sep 10, 2019 (*BCO* 21-7, 8, 9, 10) – No record that the steps of installation were carried out, simply who was in charge.

Exception: Sep 10, 2019 (*BCO* 20-1; 21-5, 6, 7, 8) - No record that the ordinand was installed.

Exception: Sep 10, 2019 (*BCO* 24-1; 11-4) – The right to determine the number of officers to be elected resides with the congregation, not the presbytery.

Exception: General 2019 (*BCO* 13-6; 21-4) – There is usually no indication in the record of transfer exams from where the TE is transferring. Without this information it is not possible to tell whether the examination included the required elements.

Exception: General 2019 (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of review of records of church Sessions.

Exception: General 2019 (*RAO* 16-10.a) – No record in Minutes of exceptions taken by GA. There is mention of communication regarding exceptions, but no record of approving responses.

Exception: Standing Rules (*BCO* 34-10) – These provisions of the Standing Rules appear to have the effect of *BCO* 34-10, but without process.

Exception: Standing Rules (*BCO* 24) – The provisions of Article 23 appear to usurp the role of the Session and congregation. Particularly #2 requiring RE candidates first be ordained as Deacons is not a biblical requirement.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Mar 10, 2015; Sep 15, 2015 (*BCO* 18; 19-7) – No record of candidates ever coming under care of Presbytery or entering internship.

Response [2019]: Our credentials committee does the work of making sure candidates' credentials are in order. We simply failed to record it in our minutes. We will make sure that the committee's work is recorded in our minutes.

Rationale [2019]: The Presbytery itself should be doing this work and recording it in its minutes. (*BCO* 18-3)

Response [2020]: We failed to understand this exception the first time. After a more careful reading of *BCO* 18-3, we acknowledge that we have erred in properly recording the questions that shall be asked of candidates when approved to come under the care of the Presbytery as well as when approved to begin their internship. While Presbytery approved candidates seeking to come under care as recommended by the credentials committee we did not record this action properly. We will make sure to prevent this error in the future.

Exception: Mar 14, 2017 (*BCO* 19-2) – All specific requirements of licensure not recorded.

Response: Our examination committee does the work of examining candidates. The committee submitted their report recording all the specific requirements for licensure. This

report was distributed to all the members of the Presbytery, however we failed to enter that report into the Presbytery minutes. We will make sure to enter the full committee report showing the full examination for licensure.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017 (*BCO* 13-6, 21-4) – Incomplete record of transfer exam of TE coming into the Presbytery.

Response: This is the same situation as above regarding the specific requirements of licensure. The examination committee examined the transferring minister according to the provisions outlined in *BCO* 13-6 and 21-4 which was in the committee’s report. However, we failed to include the report in the minutes of the Presbytery, only recording the Presbytery’s actions based on that report. We will make sure the committee’s reports outlining the details of the transfer exam are included in our minutes.

Exception: General (*RAO* 16-10) – No record in minutes of 2013, 2014, 2015 exceptions taken by GA and/or Presbytery approval of responses to the exceptions.

Response: This was a failure on our part to respond to exceptions taken by GA. Our Presbytery has had a number of circumstances concerning records that were not accessible making our compliance difficult. We are working diligently to make sure we respond to all exceptions taken by GA and to approve those responses

Exception: Mar 15, 2016 (*BCO* 21-4, *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Not all specific requirements of ordination exam recorded [66.9].

Response: The examination committee examined the transferring minister according to the provisions outlined in *BCO* 13-6 and 21-4 which was in the committee’s report. However, we failed to include the report in the minutes of the Presbytery, only recording the Presbytery’s actions based on that report. We will make sure the committee’s reports outlining the details of the transfer exam are included in our minutes.

Exception: Mar 15, 2016; Sep 12, 2016 (*BCO* 13-6) – No record of transfer exam [66.8-3e, 67.8].

Response: The examination committee examined the transferring minister according to the provisions outlined in *BCO* 13-6 and 21-4 which was in the committee’s report. However, we failed to include the report in the minutes of the Presbytery, only recording the Presbytery’s actions based on that report. We will make sure the committee’s reports outlining the details of the transfer exam are included in our minutes.

Exception: Aug 20, 2016 (*BCO* 15-1) – Minutes of commission not included [66.1-4].

Response: We acknowledge this oversight. The commission submitted their minutes however we failed to record them in the Presbytery’s minutes. We will make sure to include all commission minutes in the future.

e. That the following responses be found unsatisfactory, therefore new responses shall be submitted to the following GA:

Exception: General (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of review of minutes of church Sessions.

Response: We have asked church Sessions to submit their minutes for review but we acknowledge that there is a culturally rooted issue in Korean churches where church Sessions have apprehension about the details of their Session meetings becoming known by other churches. As a Presbytery we are unsure of how to rectify this in order to comply with *BCO* requirements.

Rationale: Although we understand the cultural apprehension with regard to examining Session Minutes, nevertheless it is a requirement of our polity to which the Elders have agreed to submit in their Ordination and Installation vows.

Exception: By-laws (BCO 24-1) – By-laws for electing ruling elders are out of accord with the *BCO* [Article 23].

Response: During the 74th stated presbytery meeting on March 10, 2020, the floor called the *By-laws* committee to formulate and propose a response to the exception for the following stated presbytery meeting to be held on September 15, 2020. To give some context, in Korean churches/culture this practice is common in efforts to cultivate a heart of service and humility among ruling elders.

Rationale: Although the intent behind Article 23 may be a good one, it remains that the requirements of Article 23 are out of accord with the *BCO* and the article should be stricken, which requires Elders to be elected and ordained as Deacons first, and for all Elder nominees to be approved by Presbytery.

Exception: Mar 11, 2014 (BCO 20-1) – Ordination of TE: no record of call to a definite work.

Response: This was a clerical error on our part. The credentials committee received the call from the church before recommending the candidate for ordination and indicated so in their report. However, as with the above exceptions, the report of the committee indicating the record of call to a definite work was not transcribed into the Presbytery minutes. We acknowledge that this kind of recording error has been occurring multiple times. We will make sure to record the full report of the committee.

Rationale: Simply recording the Committee report is insufficient. The call must be acted upon by the Presbytery.

Exception: General (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of review of session records.

Response: We have asked church Sessions to submit their minutes for review but we acknowledge that there is a culturally rooted issue in Korean churches where church Sessions have apprehension about the details of their Session meetings becoming known by other churches. As a Presbytery we are unsure of how to rectify this in order to comply with *BCO* requirements.

Rationale: Although we understand the cultural apprehension with regard to examining Session Minutes, nevertheless it is a requirement of our polity to which the Elders have agreed to submit in their Ordination and Installation vows.

f. That 2020 minutes shall be submitted to the following GA, as they were not received.

41. That the Minutes of **Korean Southwest Orange County Presbytery:** *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Mar 12, 2019; Sep 10, 2019; Mar 10, 2020; Sep 15, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: General 2019 (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of review of records of church sessions.

Exception: Mar 12, 2019 (BCO 13-6; 21-4.c; 21-4.f) – Incomplete record of transfer exams, specific requirements of licensure exam not recorded. No record of asking if differences with Standards.

Exception: Mar 12, 2019 (BCO 20-1) – No record of calls to definite works.

Exception: Mar 12, 2019 (BCO 19-2, 19-9) – Specific requirements of licensure exam not listed, included differences with Standards.

Exception: Mar 12, 2019 (*BCO* 19-9; *BCO* 18) – Incomplete record of internship. No record of session endorsement, six months membership, details of exam for candidate.

Exception: Mar 12, 2019 (*BCO* 13-10) – No record of member transfer or dismissal upon dissolution of the church.

Exception: Sep 10, 2019 (*BCO* 15-01; *RAO* 16-3.e.4) – Minutes of commissions not entered in minutes. Incomplete record of Session internship, endorsement, six months, membership.

Exception: Sep 10, 2019 (*BCO* 21-4; 13-6) – No record of requirement to state differences with standards. No record of BCO Exam. No record of details of transfer exam.

Exception: Sep 10, 2019 (*BCO* 19-2) – All specific requirements of licensure exam not recorded.

Exception: Sep 10, 2019 (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.

Exception: Sep 10, 2019 (*BCO* 20-1) – No record of calls to definite works.

Exception: Mar 10, 2020 (*BCO* 21-4; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.

Exception: Mar 10, 2020 (*Preliminary Principle* 6) – Interim pastors appointed without call/vote of congregations.

Exception: Mar 10, 2020 (*BCO* 13-11) – Complaint sent to Presbytery not recorded in minutes. (“full and accurate record” *RAO* 16.3.e.6).

Exception: Mar 10, 2020 (*BCO* 20-01; *RAO* 16-3.e.6) – Specific arrangements of call not shown to be approved.

Exception: Mar 10, 2020 (*BCO* 21-4) – No report of requiring statement of differences with Standards.

Exception: Mar 10, 2020 (*BCO* 19-2) – All specific licensure exam requirements not recorded.

Exception: Mar 10, 2020 (*BCO* 20-1) – No record of call to definite work.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (*BCO* 23-1) – No Presbytery action taken on resignation/dissolution of pastoral relationship.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (*BCO* 5-12) – No record of call to or Presbytery establishment of pastoral relationship.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (*BCO* 38-1) – No record that deposed minister appeared before the court.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (*BCO* 13-11; *BCO* 38-1; *RAO* 16-3.e.8) – The minutes approved by the presbytery and submitted to RPR do not include a full and accurate record of investigation, confession and deposition of a TE, including a written statement of confession recorded in the TE’s own words, or a statement of facts as required by *BCO* 38-1.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (*BCO* 46-8) Presbytery did not assign a deposed TE membership in a local church with concurrence of the receiving Session.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (*BCO* 13-6; 21-4) – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from another denomination.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (*BCO* 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer exam.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (*BCO* 19-2; *RAO* 16-3.e.5) – Requirements of licensure exam not recorded (*RAO* 16-3.e.5)

d. That the Presbytery appear before the SJC due to the important delinquency of having 23 outstanding exceptions of substance dating back to 2015 without response to the General Assembly.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017; Mar 13, 2018 (BCO 15-1) – Minutes of Commission not entered into Presbytery minutes.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017 (BCO 13-6; 21-4) – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from another denomination.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017; Mar 13, 2018 (BCO 21-4) – No record of requiring statement of differences with our standards.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017; Mar 13, 2018 (BCO 20-1) – No record of call to definite work.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017; Mar 13, 2018 (BCO 21-4) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017; Mar 13, 2018 (BCO 19-13; 21-4.a) – Approval of internship for ordination not recorded.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017; Mar 13, 2018 (BCO 13-9.b) – No review of church session records found.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017 (BCO 12-5) – Power to examine, ordain, and install REs belongs to the Session.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017 (BCO 23-1) – No record that congregation was cited to appear to give a statement about pastor's resignation.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017 (BCO 34-10) – Process for divesting TE from office not in accordance with *BCO*.

Exception: Sep 12, 2017 (BCO 5-2.c; 13-10) – Process of dissolving mission church not in accord with *BCO*.

Exception: Mar 13, 2018 (BCO 13-1) - Certificate of Presbytery membership issues to REs. REs are not members of the presbytery.

Exception: Standing Rules (BCO 24) – Election of RE out of accord with *BCO*.

Exception: Sep 14-15, 2015; Mar 14, 2016 (BCO 13.9.b) – No record of the review of session records.

Exception: Sep 14-15, 2015; Mar 14, 2016 (BCO 19-2) – All specific requirements for licensure exams not recorded.

Exception: Mar 15, 2016 (BCO 20-1) – No record of call to a definite work.

Exception: Mar 15, 2016 (BCO 21-4) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.

Exception: Mar 15, 2016 (BCO 21-4) – No record of candidate meeting requirements for ordination (education, languages, etc.).

Exception: Mar 15, 2016 (BCO 38-2) – Request to be divested of office was acted upon at the same meeting.

Exception: Sep 13, 2016 (BCO 13-6; 21-4) – Incomplete record of examination of TE transferring into Presbytery from another denomination.

Exception: Sep 13, 2016 (BCO 21-4) – No record of requiring statement of differences with our Standards.

Exception: Sep 13, 2016 (BCO 5-2.b; 5-3) – Unclear if churches received into presbytery are missions churches or particularized; if particularized, no record of designation of commission to meet with church elders.

Exception: Sep 13, 2016 (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of review of records of church sessions.

e. That the GA recommend the following:

Recommendation: (BCO 27; 40-2.3; RAO 16-7.d) – General Assembly advises the Presbytery that it would be in keeping with its duty to promote the welfare of the Church (40-2.3) that formal notification of the confessed sin and deposition of the teaching elder be made to the Sessions (and congregation(s), where appropriate) within their bounds and respecting the confidentiality of victim(s).

Recommendation: General Assembly recommends that the Presbytery and its Sessions continue to exercise appropriate oversight and accountability of the deposed teaching elder, as well as shepherding for those other persons entitled to their care.

42. That the Minutes of **Lowcountry** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 26, 2019; Apr 23, 2019; Nov 7, 2019; Jul 25, 2020; Nov 5, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Directory 2019; Jul 27, 2019; Directory 2020; Jan 25, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Jul 28, 2018 (BCO 13-11) – Presbytery adopted a motion for a called meeting with no subsequent record of that meeting.

Response: Substitute motion: That Lowcountry Presbytery would have a specially called meeting on Saturday Sept 8 at 9am at [church name omitted] Presbyterian for the purpose of discussing the issue of extending a call to TE[name omitted] within the Cainhoy Peninsula area of the Lowcountry presbytery. **Motion carries.** This motion became a moot point because TE [name omitted] did something else and there was therefore no need to have the specially called meeting. We did not hold the meeting because the stated purpose of the meeting was now null and void.

Exception: Nov 1, 2018 (BCO 19-2.f and RAO 16-3.e.5) – No record of requiring the candidate [in a licensure exam] to state the specific instances in which he may differ with the *Confession of Faith* and *Catechisms* in any of their statements and/or propositions. And, if any were stated, there's no record of how Presbytery judged them.

Response: In the licensure exam for [name omitted] he took no exceptions. That information was conveyed to the presbyters at our November 1st, 2018 stated meeting.

43. That the Minutes of **Metro Atlanta** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 22, 2019.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Directory 2019; May 7, 2019; Sep 17, 2019; Directory 2020; General 2020; Jan 28, 2020; Sep 15, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Sep 17, 2019 (RAO 16-10a) – No record in minutes concerning Presbytery response to exceptions of substance cited by General Assembly within calendar year.

Exception: Jan 28, 2020 (BCO 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from another denomination (see also BCO 21-4).

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (BCO 40-1) – BCO requires annual review of Session records. (In the previous year 7 were reviewed; 17 were not reviewed; 9 have no record of review; per Table on page 15.)

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (BCO 38-2) – No record of two stated meetings for demission of TE.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (BCO 46-8) – TE that demitted did not have membership assigned to a local church.

Exception: Sep 15, 2020 (BCO 13-6) – TE from another denomination was received without requisite examination in Christian experience and views.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Jan 23, 2018 (BCO 21-4) – Stated differences with our Standards not recorded (see RAO 16-3.3.5).

“Per the Jan 23rd, 2018 minutes, Mr. [name omitted] expressed differences with the WCF (documented in Appendix D) and the court judged these as more than semantic but not out of accord.” And Appendix 6 - [name omitted] No Exceptions”

Response: The court erred. Mr. [name omitted] had no exceptions. Appendix 6 indicated that he had no exceptions. Page 6 was in err. It should be corrected to read “Mr. [name omitted] had no differences.” This will be noted in the January 2020 MAP minutes.

Exception: Jan 23, 2018 (BCO 15-1) – Records of Commission not entered in presbytery minutes (for [name omitted], Appendix F).

“Per the Jan 23rd, 2018 minutes, P 3.4.b says “The report from the commission for particularization for [name omitted] Church was received (Appendix F)” but Appendix F does not include the report.

Response: The court erred in not including a copy of the commission report, they were received and will be added to the January 2020 MAP minutes.

44. That the Minutes of Metropolitan New York Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Nov 5, 2019; Sep 15, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Mar 12, 2019; May 14, 2019; Jun 18, 2019; Nov 19, 2019; Jan 7, 2020; Mar 10, 2020; May 12, 2020; Nov 20, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: General 2019 (BCO 13-9b) – No record of review of church Sessions found in presbytery minutes.

Exception: Jan 8, 2019 (BCO 18-3) – No record that the candidate was examined in experiential religion and the motives for gospel ministry.

Exception: Jan 8, 2019 (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregation having approved the dissolution of call of the former pastor.

Exception: May 14, 2019 (BCO 18-3) – No record that the candidate was examined in experiential religion and the motives for gospel ministry.

Exception: Jun 18, 2019 (BCO 13-11) – Minutes of executive session not included (see also BCO 14-6c; 40-1; and RAO 16-3e.6).

Exception: Sep 17, 2019 (BCO 18-3) – No record that the candidate was examined in experiential religion and the motives for gospel ministry.

Exception: Jan 7, 2020 (BCO 13-11) – Complaint sent to Presbytery not recorded in minutes (“full and accurate record”).

Exception: Jan 7, 2020 (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of a congregation meeting to dissolve pastoral relationship.

Exception: Nov 20, 2020 (*BCO* 20-1) – No record of approval of new call to TE laboring out of bounds.

Exception: Nov 20, 2020 (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of congregational meeting to dissolve pastoral relationship.

Exception: Nov 20, 2020 (*BCO* 23-1) – No record of a session meeting to dissolve pastoral relationship.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Sep 20, 2016 (*BCO Preliminary Principle* 6) – No record provisional session approved by congregation [p. 1633].

Response: GA is correct that there was no record of a provisional session being approved by the congregation. This was pointed out to us by the SJC as well and we were informed of our error. We apologize and will correct our practice next time. The church has since moved on from the PCA and is no longer under our jurisdiction, thus no further action can be taken.

Exception: Jan 9, 2018 (*BCO* 21-4) – No record of ordinand required to state differences with WSC nor of him stating them in his own words.

Response: We apologize that there was no record of the stated differences. The candidate did not have any stated differences and thus none were recorded. In the future if the candidate does not have any stated differences, we will make sure to record it in the minutes for clarity.

Exception: March 13, 2018 (*BCO* 13-11) – Appeal of a Session action sent to presbytery but not included in minutes.

Response: We apologize for not having the appeal in our minutes. Our presbytery was not aware that the appeal needed to be included in the minutes. The appeal did make it to the SJC in the Record of the Case (ROC) and was ruled on. Moving forward appeals to the presbytery will be included in the minutes of the presbytery.

Exception: May 8, 2018; Nov 3, 2018 (*BCO* 12-5.e) – Presbytery errantly requiring sessions to record guest preacher’s ministerial qualification in their minutes.

Response: We apologize for this and will not do it in the future.

e. That the following response be found unsatisfactory, therefore a new response shall be submitted to the following GA:

Exception: Jan 9, 2018 (*BCO* 5-3, 13-9) – Presbytery received as information a report that a church “has become a mission church.” No record of presbytery designating its status, nor to assume jurisdiction per *BCO* 13-9, in order to establish a temporary system of government per *BCO* 5-3.

Response: GA is correct that there was no record of a provisional session being approved by the congregation. We apologize and will correct our practice next time. The church has since dissolved and no longer exists, thus no further action can be taken.

Rationale: Presbytery reports the church no longer exists. If the church no longer exists, then the presbytery has on-going responsibility to see the members of the former church are cared for (*BCO* 5-2.c, 13-10).

- f. That a response shall be submitted to the following GA as no response was received in 2021:

Exception: Nov 5, 2016 (BCO 21-4.b) Candidate not “asked to indicate whether he has changed his previous views concerning any points in the *Confession of Faith, Catechisms, and Book of Church Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America.

[**Editorial note to #45 below:** the 48th General Assembly adopted a motion to **amend 45.c** to strike the 4th exception of substance and **amend 45.a** to include the date “February 4, 2020.”]

45. That the Minutes of the **Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley:** *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 5, 2019; Feb. 4, 2020; Aug 4, 2020; Nov 3, 2020.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **May 7, 2019; Aug 6, 2019; Nov 5, 2019.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Aug 6, 2019 (BCO 21-10) – Constitutional questions for assistant pastor installation propounded to the congregation rather than to the Session.
Exception: Aug 6, 2019 (BCO 13-6; 21-4) – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from another denomination.
Exception: Nov 5, 2019 (BCO 21-4.f) – No record of requiring statement of differences with our Standards.
~~**Exception: Feb 4, 2020** (BCO 21-4.e, f; BCO 34-5; Preliminary Principle 1, 7; WCF 20-2) – Presbytery appears to have bound the conscience of transferring minister by restricting his teaching on a view of creation that The Creation Study Committee (1999) found acceptable.~~
- d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**

46. That the Minutes of **Missouri Presbytery:** *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 15, 2019; Apr 16, 2019; May 18, 2019; Jul 16, 2019; Oct 15, 2019; Oct 26, 2019; Dec 7, 2019.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Feb 19, 2020; May 27, 2020; Jun 2, 2020; Jun 30, 2020; Jul 21, 2020; Sep 29, 2020; Oct 20, 2020; Nov 16, 2020.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Jan 21, 2020 (BCO 18-3) – Incomplete record of exam – candidates coming under care w/o record of examination in experiential religion and sense of call.
Exception: Jan 21, 2020 (BCO 19-2.a) – Incomplete record of exam – no record of examination in experiential religion and sense of call for licentiate.
Exception: Jan 21, 2020 (BCO 21-4.f; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Explanations not recorded in candidate’s own words – two candidates describe their exceptions in precisely the same words (need clarification).
Exception: Jul 21, 2020 (BCO 18-3) – Incomplete record of exam – candidates coming under care w/o record of examination in experiential religion and sense of call.
Exception: Oct 20, 2020 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Candidates exceptions not recorded (states that they had exceptions, yet no record of such differences is included).
- d. **That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**
Exception: Jan 16, 2018 (BCO 23-1) – No record that the steps outlined in BCO 23-1 were followed in the dissolution of pastoral calls.

Response: We are very sorry for this oversight. Since this occurred there is a new chair of the credentials committee and a new presbytery clerk. We are currently including all documents and following all the stipulations required in *BCO* 23-1 in dissolving calls. We are working to obtain the sessional records related to the dissolutions of these calls and will amend the minutes to reflect their inclusion if and when we receive them.

Exception: Apr 17, 2018 (*BCO* 15-1) – No record of appointment of an installation commission.

Response: We apologize for this oversight. The moderator appointed the commission at the permission of the Presbytery, as is our custom. We will amend the minutes to reflect that and be sure to record the Presbytery’s consent for the moderator to appoint installation and ordination commissions in the future.

Exception: Jul 17, 2018 (*BCO* 15-1, *RAO* 16-3.e.7) – Minutes of executive session not included. These need to be submitted for review.

Response: We are submitting the executive minutes for review.

Exception: Jan 17, 2017; Apr 18, 2017; Jul 18, 2017 (*BCO* 15-1; *RAO* 16-3.e.4) – Minutes of a commission not included.

Response (initial): We assume that the committee is noting the lack of ordination and installation commission minutes. We regret this oversight and will endeavor to include them in the future.

Response (updated): I (stated clerk) deeply regret this oversight. Since this time, we’ve transitioned through multiple clerks due to various reasons. We’ve also been required to shift our technology services such that much of the e-mail correspondence with previous clerks has been lost. I have reached out to the man in question to attempt to track down minutes from these Ordination/Installation commissions; however, I’m uncertain how successful I will be in retrieving these documents. If and when we receive minutes from these ordination/installation commissions, I will move amendments to the minutes in questions to correct the record.

Exception: Jan 17, 2017 (*BCO* 13-11; *BCO* 14-6c; and *RAO* 16-3e.b) – Missing executive session minutes.

Response: In the particular instance noted the executive session was for informational purposes only and no actions were taken. We will endeavor in the future to note in our minutes when no actions are taken in executive session.

47. That the Minutes of **Nashville** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 12, 2019; Nov 12, 2019; Mar 30, 2020; Aug 11, 2020; Sep 8, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Apr 9, 2019; Jun 11, 2019; Aug 13, 2019 (*BCO* 13-6) – Missing examinations on sacraments and church government for transfer.

Exception: Apr 9, 2019 (*BCO* 21-4) – Missing PCA History exams.

Exception: Feb 11, 2020 (*BCO* 23-1) – Congregational vote not recorded and [church name omitted] not cited to appear before presbytery.

Exception: Nov 10, 2020 (*BCO* 23-1) – Congregational votes not recorded for TE [name omitted] or TE [name omitted].

Exception: Nov 10, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – Churches not cited to appear before presbytery ([church names omitted] churches).

Exception: Nov 10, 2020 (BCO 13-10) – None of BCO 13-10 is recorded as having been followed.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Feb 13, 2018; Aug 14, 2018 (BCO 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer exams (church government and sacraments).

Response: We agree with the exception. Transferring TEs are in fact examined by our presbytery with regards to church government and the sacraments as part of their transfer exam, but the minutes cited above do not record the prescribed examination of transferring TEs regarding church government and the sacraments. We have adjusted our practice to bring it into compliance.

Exception: Feb 13, 2018; Apr 10, 2018; Jun 25, 2018 (BCO 21-6) – Incomplete record of ordination exam (no PCA Church History)

Response: We agree with the exception. Our candidates are in fact examined with regards to PCA history as part of their examination, but the minutes cited above do not specifically record the prescribed examination of ordinands regarding PCA Church history. We have adjusted our practice to bring it into compliance.

48. That the Minutes of **New Jersey** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **May 18, 2019; Jul 20, 2019; Sep 21, 2019; Nov 16, 2019; Jan 24, 2020; Jun 27, 2020; Sep 19, 2020; Nov 21, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Mar 16, 2019 (BCO 38-2) – No record of prior meeting report of desire to demit before vote by the Presbytery.

d. No response to previous assemblies required.

49. That the Minutes of **New River** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jun 1, 2019; Nov 7, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Directory 2019; Mar 2, 2019; Aug 3, 2019; Mar 7, 2020; Aug 2, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Aug 3, 2019 (BCO 21-5, 6, 7) – No record that ordination and installation steps were completed (missing sub-attachment).

Exception: Nov 2, 2019 (BCO 21-7) – Record does not show that the commission conducted the laying on of hands, extended the right hand of fellowship, or made the pronouncement.

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Nov 3, 2018 (BCO 38-2) – The two-meeting requirement to divest a TE was not met.

Response: We agree that we did not provide enough information in our minutes from November 3rd. TE [name omitted] left the PCA and WV in order to plant an Independent Church in OH. Our minutes had a reference to TE [name omitted] letter requesting to be

demitted, but no letter was attached to our minutes for RPR. I have attached his letter to this response, and I have attached it to our November 3rd Minutes to reflect this change.

50. That the Minutes of **New York State** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 19, 2019; Feb 23, 2019; Aug 1, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **May 18, 2019; Jun 15, 2019.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Jun 15, 2019 (BCO 19-3) – No record of candidate answering questions for licensure.
Exception: Oct 4-5, 2019 (BCO 21-4.b) – Presbytery accepted the licensure exam by another presbytery as fulfilling the requirements for ordination, nor a record of sermon, exegesis paper.
Exception: Jan 18, 2020 (BCO 5-9.h) – Commission appointed to install pastor and ordain and install ruling elder of a mission that has petitioned to be organized as a particular church, but not empowered to organize it.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
51. That the Minutes of **North Florida** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 14, 2019; Aug 8, 2019; Nov 14, 2019; Feb 13, 2020; Dec 1, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: May 9, 2019 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.E.5) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded (PCA history).
Exception: Aug 13, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregation vote to dissolve relationship with pastor.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
52. That the Minutes of **North Texas** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 1-2, 2019; Aug 3, 2019; Aug 9-10, 2019; Sep 26, 2019; Nov 1-2, 2019; Feb 7-8, 2020; Jun 24, 2020; Aug 15, 2020; Nov 6-7, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **May 3-4, 2019.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: May 3-4, 2019 (BCO 15-1) – No record of establishment of a commission for installation of a minister, nor are minutes of said commission entered in Presbytery minutes.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
53. That the Minutes of **Northern California** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **May 3, 2019; Oct 4, 2019.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Feb 1, 2019; General 2020; Feb 7, 2020; Jun 18, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: May 3, 2019 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Only one stated difference out of two appears to be judged by Presbytery.

Exception: General 2020 (BCO 13-9b) – No record of Presbytery reviewing Session minutes.

Exception: Jun 18, 2020 (BCO 13-12) – Call of meeting not in order (no record of 10-day notice given or explicit purpose listed).

Exception: Oct 2, 2020 (BCO 21-7n3) – In assistant pastor ordination commission minutes, chairman propounded questions to the congregation instead of the Session.

d. No response to previous assemblies required.

54. That the Minutes of **Northern Illinois** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 12, 2019; May 14, 2019; Sep 14, 2019.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2020; Directory 2020; Feb 8, 2020; Sep 12, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: May 26, 2020 (BCO 13-12) – 10 Day notice for called meeting not given.

Exception: May 26, 2020 (BCO 19-2. C; 20-12) – No record of “floor exams.”

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: May 8, 2018 (RAO 14-2) – No election of commissioners.

Response: “We thank the Review of Presbytery Records Committee for its diligence in helping us keep our presbytery records in line with the *Book of Church Order* and its *Rules of Assembly Operations*. We have identified the exception in our minutes of May 8, 2018, and we have corrected those minutes to reflect that the Presbytery did, in fact, elect those men to serve on committees of commissioners. We will be more careful to reflect this, as well, in accordance with RAO 14-2 in future minutes of Presbytery.

55. That the Minutes of **Northern New England** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 2, 2019; May 18, 2019; Aug 24, 2019; Oct 5, 2019; Oct 26, 2019; Nov 16, 2019; Feb 1, 2020; Jun 13, 2020; Oct 17, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**

d. No response to previous assemblies required.

[**Editorial note to #56 below:** the 48th General Assembly adopted a substitute motion to **amend 56.e**, to say that the response of NW GA to that exception be found satisfactory.

56. That the Minutes of **Northwest Georgia** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Apr 2, 2019; Aug 17, 2019; General 2020; Jan 18, 2020; Aug 15, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Jan 19, 2019 (BCO 15-3) – Written report of judicial commission not included in the record.

Exception: Jan 19, 2019 (BCO 15-1) – Minutes of the judicial commission were not included in the record.

Exception: Apr 2, 2019 (BCO 19-2) – All specific requirements of licensure exam not recorded. Some parts omitted without explanation.

Exception: Aug 17, 2019 (*BCO* 21-4) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded.

Exception: Jan 18, 2020 (*BCO* 15-1) – Minutes of commission not entered in Presbytery minutes (Appendix J).

d. That the following responses be found unsatisfactory, therefore new responses shall be submitted to the following GA:

Exception: Jan 27, 2018; Apr 3, 2018; Aug 18, 2018 (*RAO* 16.3.e.7) – No executive minutes provided.

Response: No actions were taken in executive session. It was a private discussion, and all actions were voted on in open session.

Rationale: Though no official actions were taken in executive session, minutes still need to be taken and submitted to General Assembly.

Exception: Jan 27, 2018 (*BCO* 13-11, 23-1) – No record of congregational meeting to dissolve relationship with pastor.

Response: This record was inadvertently left out. The congregation voted on 1/21/18 to receive the resignation of said teaching elder and thereby dissolve the pastoral relationship.

Rationale: Presbytery needs to take action by amending minutes to record the congregational meeting in question.

Exception: General (*BCO* 8-6) – TE listed as evangelist but no record of his commission being renewed.

Response: This is an error of Presbytery, which we will rectify by renewing his status.

Rationale: Presbytery must take and record action to renew status.

e. That the following response be found ~~unsatisfactory~~ satisfactory: and the matter be referred to the SJC:

Exception: Aug 18, 2018 (*BCO* PP 1, 7; *WCF* 20-2) – Presbytery appears to have bound the conscience of transferring minister by restricting his teaching on a view of creation that *The Creation Study Committee* (1999) found acceptable.

Response:

1. We appreciate the dedicated (and often thankless) work of the Review of Presbytery Records Committee (RPR). While one speaker at the floor of the 2019 GA stated that the job of RPR was to “review and CONTROL”, we note that such is antiquated language. *BCO* 14-6c indicates it is the task of the General Assembly to “review the records of the Presbyteries.” We agree with this language and the constitutional tasking of RPR, along with previous General Assemblies, that it is not the role for RPR to be a control agent for the denomination or to micromanage the legitimate and uncontested discretionary acts of lower courts. Such role is assigned properly to the constitution, interpreted by the church and via legislative changes or judicial decision.
2. To the case at hand, the presbytery permitted the transfer of a man to supply the pulpit of a church. Presbytery, in admitting for transfer this TE as a full member of presbytery, granted him full status in the presbytery, and we have had nothing but harmonious fellowship with this brother since that time. We believe he would affirm the same. The only condition was that he not publicly advocate a view that many in the presbytery saw as in conflict with *WCF* 4:1 and *WSC* #9. We certainly did not discipline him or seek to coerce what he privately and conscientiously believed.
3. The said church’s RE representative at the meeting supported the presbytery’s decision eagerly. Some may disagree with the views of a lower court, and minutes do not always

- reflect complexities, sentiments, pastoral desires, and many other matters. Thus, if these clarifications are known, we believe that *BCO* 39-3 will lead the RPR committee to show due deference in this matter, as the presbytery sought to do what it thought was best for the church, for the TE, and for the presbytery in a challenging situation.
4. The candidate himself agreed to such and did not state that his conscience was harmed or infringed. Neither did he file complaint, and no other protest or dissent was filed. Thus, there is no constitutional reason for interference in the review process.
 5. Since then the TE has served very well, and our presbytery is satisfied with this action, which we continue to believe was in order and helpful.
 6. For a higher court to fail to take these factors into account would risk not only violating *Preliminary Principle #2*, but specifically *Preliminary Principle #2* as clarified by *BCO* 39-2 and 3.
 7. Finally, if acted upon, by a distant court that is unable to access such good faith judgments (which we herein supply) by the lower courts, the only two remaining options would be to enforce a strict subscriptionism (refusing to transfer the candidate), or to admit a minister while simultaneously binding the conscience, not of an individual, but of a larger and duly constituted court, implying that it is incapable of making the best decisions for its region, when there is no violation of the Standards or the Constitution.

We hope that this candid and fuller explanation will satisfy the RPR

Rationale: (*PP* 1 and 7, *BCO* 21-4.e, *BCO* 34-5, *WCF* 20.2, *BCO* 40-5, *RAO* 16-10.c) Presbytery's response differs from the 46th General Assembly that a TE was prevented from teaching his accepted view and is contrary to our practice of Good Faith Subscription, and the first and seventh preliminary principles.

57. That the Minutes of **Ohio** Presbytery: *Adopted*
 - a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 2, 2019; Aug 13, 2019; Oct 5, 2019; Feb 1, 2020; Jun 13, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Oct 3, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: May 4, 2019 (*BCO* 13-6) – A PCA TE was given a *BCO* 13-6 transfer exam, but Minutes indicate he was only examined on his views in theology, Sacraments and church government *in committee*. Minutes record *the Presbytery* only examined him in Christian experience.
Exception: Oct 3, 2020 (*BCO* 12-7; 13-9.b) – Record does not indicate that all 2019 Session records were reviewed by Presbytery in 2020.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**

58. That the Minutes of **Ohio Valley** Presbytery: *Adopted*
 - a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 26, 2019; May 21, 2019; Oct 15, 2019; Jan 25, 2020; Feb 15, 2020; Jun 9, 2020; Aug 1, 2020; Oct 13, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
 - d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**

Exception: Sep 4, 2018 (*BCO* 11-2; *WCF* 20.2) – Presbytery appears to have bound a man’s conscience by forbidding him to teach his views on *WLC* 171 and 177. His views were reported in his transfer exam from another PCA Presbytery.

Response: While agreeing with the principle (that a Presbytery cannot bind a man’s conscience) Presbytery respectfully disagrees with this characterization of its action. The text of the action reads as follows:

“**MSA** to judge TE {Name omitted}’s difference with *WLC* 171 and 177 as more than semantic but not out of accord with any of the fundamentals of our system of doctrine or striking at the vitals of religion, and to grant an exception concerning those differences; and in order to preserve the peace and unity of the church, that the Presbytery not allow TE {name omitted} to practice *or promote from the pulpit this difference.*” [emphasis added]

Presbytery contends that it did not prohibit the TE from teaching his views in any context, nor from promoting his views outside the pulpit. The prohibition was limited to actively promoting his views in his pulpit ministry, a prohibition made for the express purpose of maintaining the peace and unity of the church, not simply because the man’s views were at variance with the Standards.

However, Presbytery also understands how its action could have been misconstrued as placing an improper restriction on the man’s conscience. Therefore, from this day forward, Ohio Valley’s policy shall be that, in the course of a man’s teaching a declared difference with the Standards which Presbytery has judged to be more than semantic but not out of accord with any of the fundamentals of our system of doctrine or striking at the vitals of religion, he include an humble acknowledgment that the view is an exception to the doctrinal standards and a respectful presentation of the teaching of the Confession of Faith and Catechisms.

The grounds for this policy are as follows: (1) Each one who teaches on behalf of the Lord Jesus Christ must teach in faithfulness to the Lord’s Word as the teacher understands it; (i.e., according to his conscience); and (2) A confessional church has a right to expect that her confession be fairly represented to her people.

Rationale: (*Preliminary Principle* 1, 7; *BCO* 21-4.e; 34-5; *WCF* 20.2) – While RPR does not often give rationale for an acceptable response, in this case we deemed it prudent. The response of Ohio Valley Presbytery is to ask a man, when teaching his view on the matter, to inform the congregation that his view is an exception to the Standards and to also provide a respectful presentation of the teaching of the Standards. This practice seems to best protect the pulpit ministry while at the same time not binding a minister’s conscience.

59. That the Minutes of **Pacific** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 26, 2019; May 7, 2019; Oct 3, 2019; Feb 8, 2020; Jul 18, 2020; Oct 20, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Jan 25, 2020; Feb 8, 2020; Jul 18, 2020; Oct 20, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
 - d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**
Exception: Jan 27, 2018 (*BCO* 20-2) – No record of congregational meeting and vote to elect pastor and associate pastor.

Response: “We acknowledge this error and apologize, and we will request that the [name omitted] Church Session provide the minutes of the congregational meeting at which TE [name omitted] was elected pastor and TE [name omitted] was elected associate pastor. Further, we shall spread these records, once received, as an appendix in the minutes of the October 3, 2019 Stated Meeting Minutes of Pacific Presbytery, and commit ourselves, by God’s grace, to avoiding this error in the future.”

- e. **That the following responses be found unsatisfactory, therefore new responses shall be submitted to the following GA:**

Exception: May 1, 2018 (BCO 46-8) – Divested TE not assigned to membership in a particular church.

Response: “We acknowledge and apologize for this error and will attempt follow up with both former TE [name omitted] and the [name omitted] Session to see where he and his wife are worshipping currently. If we discover that they are not at a PCA church or another evangelical church, we will make every effort to direct them to one. Further, we commit ourselves, by God’s grace, to avoiding this error in the future.”

Rationale: The Presbytery needs to accomplish the assignment of the divested TE and report to the Assembly.

Exception: Oct 6, 2018 (BCO 13-10) – Disposition of remaining members of dissolved church left unresolved.

Response: “We acknowledge and apologize for this error, and the stated clerk has already secured an accurate roll of the remaining members of [name omitted] Presbyterian Church, Torrance, CA, at the time of its dissolution on July 1, 2018. We will seek to determine if they have joined other churches, and how many, if any, have not done so. Further, if necessary, the stated clerk shall issue letters of dismissal to those individuals. We commit ourselves, by God’s grace, to avoiding this error in the future

Rationale: The Presbytery needs to accomplish the assignment of the remaining members and report to the Assembly.

60. That the Minutes of **Pacific Northwest Presbytery:** *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 24-25, 2019; Sep 26-27, 2019.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Directory 2019; Mar 13, 2019; Apr 15, 2019; Directory 2020; General 2020; Jan 23, 2020; Aug 4, 2020; Oct 8-9, 2020; Nov 28, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: May 16-17, 2019 (BCO 19-3) – No record of licensure questions being asked or answered.

Exception: May 16-17, 2019 (Standing Rules 4.51; BCO 13-9.b) – No record of annual examination of Sessional records of churches of Presbytery in the May minutes.

Exception: General 2020 (Standing Rules 4.51; BCO 13-9.b) – No record of annual examination of Sessional records of churches of Presbytery.

Exception: Oct. 8-9, 2020 (BCO 19-3) – No record of licensure questions being asked or answered.

Exception: Oct 8-9, 2020 (BCO 19-2.d) – No record of licensure sermons.

Exception: Oct 8-9, 2020 (BCO 13-6) – No record that a views examination was conducted for transferring TEs.

Exception: Oct 8-9, 2020 (BCO 18-3) – No record that requisite questions were proposed to applicants for candidacy.

Exception: Oct 8-9, 2020 (RAO 16-3.e.5) – Incomplete record of all specific requirements for ordination examination.

Exception: Nov 28, 2020 (BCO 38-2) – No record of two stated meetings for demission of TE.

Exception: Nov 28, 2020 (BCO 46-8) – TE that demitted did not have membership assigned to a local church.

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: May 17-18, 2018; Sep 27-28, 2018 (BCO 19-3) – No record of licensure questions being asked or answered.

Response: “Presbytery agrees with this citation and commits to being more careful recording in the future.

At the May 2018 stated meeting in Bellingham, WA, a candidate was examined and approved for licensure. The Moderator indeed asked the four questions from BCO 19-3, and the candidate affirmed each. It was simply not recorded. The licentiate completed an ordination exam at the following meeting and is now an Assistant Pastor at a church in our Presbytery.

At the September 2018 meeting in Tacoma, WA, an ARP minister was examined and approved for licensure and approved to serve as stated supply in one of our churches. He had affirmed similar questions at his ordination in the ARP's Northeastern Presbytery in 2016. (ARP Form of Government 9.30) At the May 2019 meeting in Issaquah, WA, this ARP minister passed his transfer exam and Presbytery approved his call to pastor a PCA church in our Presbytery.

61. That the Minutes of **Palmetto** Presbytery:

Adopted

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Aug 8, 2019; Nov 14, 2019; May 14, 2020; Aug 13, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Feb 13, 2020; Nov 12, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: General 2019 (BCO 13-9.b) – Incomplete results for review of session minutes.

Exception: Feb 14, 2019 (BCO 23-1) – Pastoral relationship dissolved without citing local church to appear.

Exception: Feb 14, 2019 (BCO 15-2) – Commission comprised of insufficient numbers of both TE and RE. Second TE was from another Presbytery.

Exception: May 9, 2019 (BCO 15-1) – No minutes for commission. Actions were reported to Presbytery, but minutes not recorded.

Exception: Feb 13, 2020 (*Preliminary Principle 1, 7; BCO 19-2*) – Presbytery prohibited two licentiates from preaching or teaching their views to differences that were ruled as not striking at the vitals of religion.

Exception: Nov 12, 2020 (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of all the church Session records being reviewed.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: May 10, 2018 (BCO 20-1; RAO 16.3.e.6) – In several instances there is no record of formally approving a call, or the “specific arrangements” of the call:

May 10, 2018 pp. 9-10 [name omitted]; pp. 10-11 [name omitted]; pp. 11-12 [name 26 omitted].¹

Response: On November 14 Palmetto Presbytery approved the following concerning the minutes of May 10, 2018(changes in bold face type):

That 10-27 be amended to say “**The terms of the call to [name omitted] as ‘Pastor of Next Generation Ministries,’ from the session of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 10-53)** that [name omitted] examination for ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained and that he be received into Palmetto Presbytery and proceed to be ordained and installed by the Presbytery.

That 10-36 be amended to say “that Rev. [name omitted] examination for transfer of ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained. “**The terms of the call to [name omitted] as the church planter of the [church name omitted] Church in Leesville, SC, from the MNA Committee having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 10-07) that he be received as a member of Palmetto Presbytery** and that he sign the ministerial obligation form and be received into Palmetto Presbytery, pending his release from Central Florida Presbytery.

That 10-45 be amended to say “That Rev. [name omitted] examination for transfer of ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained and he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, pending his release from Catawba Presbytery of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (**he is being received without call due to medical disability; see Minutes, 10-51**) and that he sign the ministerial obligation form. TE [name omitted] prayed for Rev. [name omitted] who then signed the ministerial obligation form. TE [name omitted] and the moderator gave him the right hand of fellowship.

Exception: Aug 9, 2018 (BCO 20-1; RAO 16.3.e.6) – In several instances there is no record of formally approving a call, or the “specific arrangements” of the call: Aug 9, 2018 pp. 9-10 [name omitted]; pp. 10-11 [name omitted]; pp. 12-13 [name 28 omitted].

Response: On November 14 Palmetto Presbytery approved the following concerning the minutes of August 9, 2018 (changes in bold face type):

That 11-28 be amended to say, “That Mr. [name omitted] examination for ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained. **He was asked to state the specific instances in which he may differ from the Westminster Standards. He denied having any such differences.** Further, that he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, **the terms of his call as assistant Pastor from the session of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee**

¹ Palmetto Presbytery had authorized the Church and Ministerial Health Committee to act as a commission regularly to approve the terms of pastor’s calls. The committee’s approval of the calls was noted under the CMH Committee report. But in order to make this authorization clearer, the Presbytery voted to make these changes in its minutes and to do so in the future minutes.

(authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 11-60), and proceed to be ordained and installed by the Presbytery.”

That 11-42 be amended to say, “That Mr. [name omitted] examination for ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained. **He was asked to state the specific instances in which he may differ from the Westminster Standards. He denied having any such differences.** Further that he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, **the terms of his call as associate Pastor from the congregation of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 11-71),** and proceed to be ordained and installed by the Presbytery.”

That 11-51 be amended to say “That Rev. [name omitted] examination for transfer of ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained and he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, **the terms of his call as pastor from the congregation of [church name omitted] Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 11-59),** pending his release from Savannah River Presbytery of the PCA and that he sign the ministerial obligation form.

Exception: Nov 8, 2018 (BCO 20-1; RAO 16.3.e.6) – In several instances there is no record of formally approving a call, or the “specific arrangements” of the call: Nov 8, 2018 pp. 9-10 [name omitted]; pp 11-12 [name omitted]; pp. 13-14 [name 30 omitted]

Response: On November 14 Palmetto Presbytery approved the following concerning the minutes of November 8, 2018 (changes in bold face type):

That 12-36 be amended to say, “That Rev. Mr. [name omitted] examination for ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained and that he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, **the terms of his call as pastor from the congregation of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 12-77),** and proceed to be ordained and installed by the Presbytery.”

Rev. [name omitted] was asked if he is able to answer affirmatively the constitutional questions from BCO 21-5 for ordination and he answered in the affirmative. “**He was asked to state the specific instances in which he may differ from the Westminster Standards. He denied having any such differences.**” He stated he does not intend to opt out of Social Security. Prayer was offered by TE [name omitted] for Rev. [name omitted] and he was given the right hand of fellowship and directed to sign the ministerial obligations form.

That 12-53 be amended to say, “That Mr. [name omitted] examination for ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained and that he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, **the terms of his call as assistant Pastor from the session of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see 12-83),** and proceed to be ordained and installed by the Presbytery.

That 12-71 be amended to say, “That Rev. Mr. [name omitted] examination for transfer of ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained. **He was asked to state the specific instances in which he may differ from the Westminster Standards. He denied having any such differences.** Further that he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, **the terms of his call as assistant Pastor from the session of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 12-82),** pending his release from Wisconsin Presbytery of the PCA and that he sign the ministerial obligation form.

Exception: Aug 9, 2018 (BCO 21-4.f; RAO 16.3.e.5) – No record that [four] candidates in ordination exams were asked to “state the specific instances in which he may differ” from the Westminster Standards, or any record of presbytery’s judgement, if they had. Presbytery’s response should include each man’s answer to the question of *BCO 21.4.f*. [names omitted].²

Response: On November 14 Palmetto Presbytery approved the following concerning the minutes of August 9, 2018(changes in bold face type):

That 11-28 be amended to say, “That Mr. [name omitted] examination for ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained. **He was asked to state the specific instances in which he may differ from the Westminster Standards. He denied having any such differences.** Further, that he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, **the terms of his call as assistant Pastor from the session of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 11-60),** and proceed to be ordained and installed by the Presbytery.”

That 11-42 be amended to say, “That Mr. [name omitted] examination for ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained. **He was asked to state the specific instances in which he may differ from the Westminster Standards. He denied having any such differences.** Further that he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, **the terms of his call as associate Pastor from the congregation of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 11-71),** and proceed to be ordained and installed by the Presbytery.

Exception: Nov 8, 2018 (BCO 21-4.f; RAO 16.3.e.5) – No record that candidates in ordination exams were asked to “state the specific instances in which he may differ” from the Westminster Standards, or any record of presbytery’s judgement, if they had. Presbytery’s response should include each man’s answer to the question of *BCO 21.4.f*. [names omitted].

Response: On November 14 Palmetto Presbytery approved the following concerning the minutes of November 8, 2018 (changes in bold face type):

That 12-36 be amended to say, “That Rev. [name omitted] examination for ordination in

² The candidates had all been asked if they had any exceptions to the Westminster documents by the Candidates Committee, but this fact was not noted in the minutes. To clarify the matter, Presbytery voted to amend its minutes and will continue to be clear on this matter in the future.

all its parts and as a whole be sustained and that he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, **the terms of his call as pastor from the congregation of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Committee (authorized to act Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 12-77)**, and proceed to be ordained and installed by the Presbytery Rev. Mr. [name omitted] was asked if he is able to answer affirmatively the constitutional questions from BCO 21-5 for ordination and he answered in the affirmative. **“He was asked to state the specific instances in which he may differ from the Westminster Standards. He denied having any such differences.”** He stated he does not intend to opt out of Social Security. Prayer was offered by TE [name omitted] for Rev. [name omitted] and he was given the right hand of fellowship and directed to sign the ministerial obligations form.

That 12-71 be amended to say, “That Rev. [name omitted] examination for transfer of ordination in all its parts and as a whole be sustained. **He was asked to state the specific instances in which he may differ from the Westminster Standards. He denied having any such differences.** Further that he be received into Palmetto Presbytery, **the terms of his call as assistant Pastor from the session of [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church having been received, found to be in compliance with the specific arrangements of BCO 8 and 20-1, and approved by the Church and Ministerial Health Committee (authorized to act as a commission) (see Minutes, 12-82)**, pending his release from Wisconsin Presbytery of the PCA and that he sign the ministerial obligation form.

62. That the Minutes of **Pee Dee** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 24, 2019; July 23, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Apr 27, 2019; Jul 27, 2019; Oct 24, 2019; General 2020; Directory 2020; Jan 23, 2020; Oct 24, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Oct 27, 2019 (BCO 18-2) – Presbytery states, “Note that ‘Sessional Certification of Applicant to Come Under Care of Presbytery’ is not required upon approval of the Extraordinary Circumstances.” An “extraordinary” circumstance changes the requirements for the time of membership in the “congregation whose session provides an endorsement,” not with whether the Session submits an endorsement.

Exception: Apr 29, 2020 (RAO 16-3.c.1) – Purpose of called meeting was not recorded verbatim in the minutes

Exception: Oct 24, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – Resignation request received and pastoral relationship dissolved without citing the local church to appear.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
63. That the Minutes of **Philadelphia** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 19, 2019; Mar 16, 2019; Apr 10, 2019; May 18, 2019; Oct 28, 2019; Nov 25, 2019; Sep 19, 2020; Nov 12, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Jan 18, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Sep 21, 2019 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3e.5) – Candidate [name omitted]’s exceptions noted, but not recorded in his own words.

d. That responses shall be submitted to the following GA as no responses were received in 2021:

Exception: May 9, 2018 (BCO 43-2) – Consideration of complaint was deferred until after the next Stated Meeting

Exception: May 9, 2018; Sep 15, 2018 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Candidate examination areas are not indicated – generic “all areas” not sufficient.

Exception: Jan 20, 2018; May 9, 2018; Sep 15, 2018 (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational or sessional vote concerning dissolution of pastoral relationships.

64. That the Minutes of **Philadelphia Metro West** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 23, 2019; May 4, 2019; Sep 21, 2019; Feb 22, 2020; Sep 12, 2020; Sep 26, 2020; Nov 17, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Nov 19, 2019.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: May 5, 2018 (BCO 13-2) – TE laboring out of bounds without concurrence Presbytery within whose bounds he labors.

Response: On September 27, 2019, the Stated Clerk of [presbytery name] Presbytery advised the Stated Clerk of Philadelphia Metro West Presbytery ("PMWP") that on September 17, 2019, [presbytery name] Presbytery approved TE [teaching elder name] to labor within the bounds of [presbytery name] Presbytery.

Accordingly, at its stated meeting of November 19, 2019, PMWP adopted the following motion:

MC:

(1) the minutes of the PMWP stated meeting of November 19, 2019, shall include the following statement (with insertion of the names of the applicable teaching elder and the presbytery within whose bounds he is laboring):

On September 27, 2019, the Stated Clerk of [presbytery name] Presbytery advised the Stated Clerk of PMWP that on September 17, 2019, [presbytery name] Presbytery approved TE [teaching elder name] to labor within the bounds of [presbytery name] Presbytery.

(2) the minutes of the PMWP stated meeting of May 5, 2018, shall be amended by adding a footnote that includes the following statement (with insertion of the names of the applicable teaching elder and the presbytery within whose bounds he is laboring):

On September 27, 2019, the Stated Clerk of [presbytery name] Presbytery advised the Stated Clerk of PMWP that on September 17, 2019, [presbytery name] Presbytery approved TE [teaching elder name] to labor within the bounds of [presbytery name] Presbytery.

65. That the Minutes of **Piedmont Triad** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Apr 27, 2019; May 28, 2019; Jul 27, 2019; Oct 26, 2019; Jan 25, 2020; Jul 11, 2020; July 25, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Directory 2019; Jan 26, 2019; Directory 2020.**

- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Jul 25, 2020 (BCO 13-6) – TE [name omitted] was transferred from another presbytery without examination for Christian experience, theology, sacraments, and church government. The minutes only record examination with regard to differences from the Westminster Standards.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
66. That the Minutes of **Pittsburgh** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 26, 2019; Apr 6, 2019; Aug 21, 2019; Oct 19, 2019; Jan 25, 2020; Oct 17, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Jul 27, 2019.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Jul 25, 2020 (BCO 21-4 c.1.a) – Incomplete record of exam – no record of ordination candidate being examined in experiential religion.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
67. That the Minutes of **Platte Valley** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 2, 2019; Feb 1, 2020; Apr 25, 2020; Aug 8, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Apr 27, 2019; Jul 20, 2019; Nov 2, 2019; Nov 7, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Nov 2, 2019 (BCO 19-16) – ¾ vote for waiving internship requirement not recorded.
Exception: Standing Rules (BCO 10-3) – The Moderator may only be elected for a period of time up to one year. Standing Rules allow election for a period of up to 2 years.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required:**
68. That the Minutes of **Potomac** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 28, 2020; Mar 21, 2020; May 14, 2020; Jun 2, 2020; Jul 25, 2020; Sep 3, 2020; Sep 15, 2020; Nov 21, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Jan 22, 2019; Mar 16, 2019; Jun 25, 2019; Sep 16-17, 2019; Nov 16, 2019; General 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Jun 25, 2019 (BCO 13-12) – Call for meeting not in order (no record of 10-day notice of meeting).
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
69. That the Minutes of **Providence** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Dec 17, 2019.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Nov 5, 2019; General 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: General 2019 (BCO 13-4; RAO 16-3.c.6) – Unable to determine if quorum is present, as the names of TEs and the names of REs are not specified.
Exception: Feb 5, 2019 (BCO 22-2) – No record of congregational meeting to approve call for pastor.

Exception: May 7, 2019 (BCO 23-1) – No record of a congregational meeting in the dissolution of two relationships between ministers and churches.

Exception: Aug 6, 2019; Nov 5, 2019 (BCO 15-1) – Minutes of commission not entered in Presbytery minutes (see also RAO 16-3.e.4).

Exception: Feb 4, 2020; Nov 10, 2020 (BCO 21-4) – No record of requiring statement of differences with our standards.

Exception: Aug 4, 2020 (BCO 19-2.d) – No record of a written or oral sermon.

Exception: Aug 4, 2020 (BCO 5-9) – Documentation of the Particularization of [church name omitted] Church is incomplete and unable to determine if there are REs or Deacons, etc.

Exception: Aug 4, 2020; Nov 10, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – No record of a congregational meeting to dissolve pastoral relationship.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: May 1, 2018 (BCO 21-4.c; RAO 16-3.e.5) – All requirements of ordination exam not recorded; all listed items need to be approved.

Response: The candidate had sought Licensure at the previous meeting (37th Stated Meeting) and was not approved at that time, as his exceptions to the WCF were not sustained. He passed all other elements of his exam. When the candidate returned to Presbytery the following meeting (38th Meeting on May 1, 2018), he was not reexamined in the previous areas that he had passed that are required by BCO 21-4.c. That said, we failed to adequately specify all of the areas of examination in our Minutes and the resulting approval of the Presbytery. We are endeavoring to rectify such mistakes by referencing every item and the actions of Presbytery in relation to each

Exception: Nov 8, 2018 (BCO 21-4) – Stated differences not recorded in candidate’s own words.

Response: We apologize for the oversight of not including the candidate’s stated differences in his own words in the Minutes. The candidate’s statement of his difference, as there was only one, in his own words was provided to the Presbytery in the Docket for the 40th Stated Meeting and related Appendices. We failed to also record that in our Minutes for that meeting. The stated difference, in the candidate’s own words, is the following:

“When the Westminster divines wrote the confession they were very strict that there be no ‘recreation’ on the Sabbath. While I believe the Lord’s Day ought to be observed as a Sabbath rest, I believe that recreations such as playing a game with family and friends is not prohibited by the Scriptures as long as it does not impede worship or service to Christ. While it is rightly called recreation I believe this is allowable whereas some stricter interpretations of the Confessions and Catechisms would seem to disallow any such practice.”

Exception: Nov 8, 2018 (BCO 21-4) – Stated differences not recorded in candidate’s own words.

Response: We apologize for the oversight of not including the candidate’s stated differences in his own words in the Minutes. The candidate’s statement of his difference, as there was only one, in his own words was provided to the Presbytery in the Docket for the 40th Stated Meeting and related Appendices. We failed to also record that in our Minutes for that meeting. The stated difference, in the candidate’s own words, is the following:

“Exception to the WCF Chapter XXI, 8

Reason: Within the Reformed tradition, one of the most significant controversies is the question of how the Sabbath is to be observed. There are two major positions within the Reformed tradition on this question. They are referred to as the Continental view of the Sabbath and the Puritan view on the Sabbath. The latter is the view expressed in Chapter WCF XXI, 8. Both views acknowledge that the Sabbath is still in effect. Both views agree that the Sabbath is a time for corporate worship. Both agree that the Sabbath is a day of rest and believers are to abstain from unnecessary commerce. But one area that is in dispute between the two schools is the question of recreation. Is recreation a legitimate form of rest taking, or is recreation something that mars a sacred observation of the Sabbath day? I hold the Continental view. Allow me to give you the benefit of my reasons why.

The Puritan view argues against the acceptability of recreation on the Sabbath day. The text most often cited to support this view is Isaiah 58:13-14: “If you turn back your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on my holy day, and call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, or seeking your own pleasure, or talking idly; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken”.

The crux of the matter in this passage is the prophetic critique of the people doing their own pleasure on the Sabbath day. The assumption that many make with respect to this text is that doing one’s own pleasure must refer to recreation. If this is the case, the prophecy Isaiah was adding new dimensions to the OT law with respect to Sabbath-keeping. Whereas the rest of the Old Testament law is virtually silent with respect to recreation, this text in Isaiah is cited to indicate a further revelation from God about Sabbath observance—a prohibition of recreation.

There is another way to understand Isaiah 58, however, following the thinking of those who hold the Continental view of the Sabbath. The distinction in Isaiah 58 is between doing what is pleasing to God and doing what is pleasing to ourselves in opposition to what is pleasing to God, presumably, what is in view in the prophetic critique is God’s judgment against the Israelites for violating the Mosaic Law with respect to the Sabbath day, particularly regarding involvement in commerce. There were Israelites who wanted to be able to buy and sell seven days a week, not simple six days a week. Therefore, they violated the Sabbath commandments by seeking their own pleasure, which has to do with business on the Sabbath rather than to do that which was pleasing to God. According to this view, the text has nothing to say directly or indirectly about recreation on the Sabbath day.

All these issues continue to be examined and debated as the church seeks to understand how God is best honored on this day.”

Exception: Nov 8, 2018 (BCO 21-4.d) – Use of extraordinary clause not explained.

Response: We apologize for not including the rationale for the Presbytery’s use of the extraordinary. That rationale was provided to the Presbytery in the Docket for the 40th Stated Meeting, but not included in the Minutes. That rationale is provided below, as presented to and accepted by the Presbytery.

“Mr. [name omitted] was ordained in the PCA over 30 years ago. He faithfully served in Evangel Presbytery (in the area of what is now Providence Presbytery) for nearly 10 years. Mr. [name omitted] planted and pastored [church name omitted], now in Providence Presbytery. He transferred to the EPC for several years while serving [church name omitted] in St. Louis.

Upon his return to the Huntsville area, he was asked to pastor a small ARP church in southern Tennessee. He transferred into the ARP about 10 years ago. After serving their small congregation, he has been honorably retired for the past several years. During this time, he and his wife have been at [church name omitted] [member church of Providence Presbytery].

Also as per *BCO* 21-4d, the trial parts that the Committee recommends *BCO* 21-4 be omitted are as follows: *BCO* 21-4.c.1-4 and that TE [name omitted] be examined on his Christian experience and views as if transferring from another Presbytery in the PCA as defined in *BCO* 13-6.”

Exception: Nov 8, 2018 (*BCO* 21-1; 22-2) – TE’s change in call not recorded. No record of congregational meeting for associate pastor or presbytery approval of call.

Response: We failed to follow the requirements of the *BCO* in this case and are without excuse. We will endeavor to not make this mistake in the future.

Exception: Nov 8, 2018 (*BCO* 21-4) – Stated differences not recorded in candidate’s own words.

Response: This Exception refers to the same Candidate & Exception noted (Nov 8, 2018 p. 5, line 26 (*BCO* 21-4) – Stated differences not recorded in candidate’s own words.) and answered above.

Exception: General (*BCO* 13-11) No attachments were included even though referenced throughout.

Response: We apologize for the oversight of referencing attachments in our Minutes, but failing to make sure they are included with the Minutes. We will endeavor to rectify that in future sets of Minutes provided to RPR.

70. That the Minutes of **Rio Grande** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 21-22, 2019.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General; Apr 29-30, 2019; Sep 23-24, 2019.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: General (*BCO* 13-9.b) – No record of review of records of church Sessions.

Exception: Apr 29-30, 2019 (*BCO* 13-6; 21-4) – Incomplete record of transfer exam of TE transferring into presbytery.

Exception: Sep 23-24, 2019 (*BCO* 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer for minister. Type of transfer from a Korean language presbytery or another denomination not specified.

Exception: Sep 23-24, 2019 (*BCO* 21-4) – No record of requiring statement of differences with our Standards.

Exception: Sep 23-24, 2019 (*BCO* 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer for minister from another presbytery.

Exception: Sep 23-24, 2019 (*BCO* 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer exam for minister from another denomination.

d. **That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**

Exception: (*BCO* 13-6) – No record of TE transfer being examined on Christian experience and views as explained in *BCO* 13-6.

Response: The original text reads: The Presbytery examined TE [name omitted] in his views and sustained his examination.

The text has been corrected to read: The Presbytery examined TE [name omitted] in his Christian experience and views and sustained his examination.

Exception: (*BCO* 20-9) – No record of release from presbytery in TE transfer

Response: The record has been updated to include TE [name omitted]’s release from the Susquehanna Presbytery. Change of Ministerial Roll at attachment 1.

Exception: (*BCO* 21-4) – Failure to record the specific areas of the floor examination of Clark and Huff.

Response: The original text of TE [name omitted]’s paragraph reads: The Court examined Mr. [name omitted] and specifically asked for his articulation of his exception to *WCF* Chapter 21, paragraph 8 as to recreation on the Sabbath Day. (Text at Attachment 2) The Court determined that his exception, while of substance, was not out of accord with the fundamental system of doctrine of the Church of the PCA.

The text has been changed to read: The Court examined Mr. [name omitted] on his experiential religion, knowledge of Greek and Hebrew, Bible content, theology, the Sacraments, Church history, the history of the PCA, the principles of church government. and specifically asked for his articulation of his exception to *WCF* Chapter 21, paragraph 8 as to recreation on the Sabbath Day. (Text at Attachment 6) The Court determined that his exception, while of substance, was not out of accord with the fundamental system of doctrine of the Church or the PCA.

The original text of TE [name omitted]’s paragraph reads: The Court examined Mr. [name omitted] and specifically asked for his articulation of his exception to *WCF* Chapter 21, paragraph 8 as to recreation on the Sabbath Day (text at Attachment 3). The Court determined that his exception, while of substance, was not out of accord with the fundamental system of doctrine of the Church or the PCA.

The text has been changed to read: The Court examined Mr. [name omitted] on his experiential religion, knowledge of Greek and Hebrew, Bible content, theology, the Sacraments, Church history, the history of the PCA, the principles of church government and specifically asked for his articulation of his exception to *WCF* Chapter 21, paragraph 8 as to recreation on the Sabbath Day (text at Attachment 8). The Court determined that his exception, while of substance, were not out of accord with the fundamental system of doctrine of the Church or the PCA.

Exception: (*BCO* 21-4) – Installation commission did not have at least 2 RE’s.

Response: Commission Report of Installation of TE [name omitted] records the commission to consist of:

TE [name omitted]

TE [name omitted]

TE [name omitted]

RE [name omitted]

RE [name omitted]

RE [name omitted]

- e. That 2020 minutes shall be submitted to the following GA, as they were not received.

71. That the Minutes of **Rocky Mountain** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Jan 23, 2020; Oct 1, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: General 2020 (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of review of records of church Sessions.

Exception: Jan 23, 2020; Oct 1, 2020 (BCO 21-4.a, c) – Incomplete ordination exam (no Hebrew/Greek requirement completed; no internship completed).

Exception: Aug 6, 2020 (RAO 16-3.c.1) – No record of call for called meeting.

Exception: Oct 1, 2020 (BCO 13-6; 21-4.c) – Incomplete exam for transfer from another denomination.

Exception: Oct 1, 2020 (BCO 13-5) – Minister transferring from another denomination with no call to a definite work without deeming the transfer necessary.

Exception: Oct 1, 2020 (BCO 21-4.c; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not recorded in the minister’s own words (the minister said, “it is possible that I have a scruple or exception in connection with the language about ‘recreations’” but never said what that scruple is).

Exception: Oct 1, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational vote to dissolve relationship with pastor.
 - d. **That a response shall be submitted to the following GA as no response was received in 2021:**

Exception: Feb 1, 2018; Apr 26, 2018; Oct 4, 2018 (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational concurrence in dissolution of pastoral relations.
 - e. **That 2019 minutes shall be submitted to the following GA, as they were not received.**
72. That the Minutes of **Savannah River** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Apr 16, 2019; Jun 14, 2019.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Jan 25-26, 2019; Jul 19-20, 2019; Oct 15, 2019; Jan 24-25, 2020; May 18, 2020; Jul 18, 2020; Oct 20, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Oct 15, 2019 (BCO 41) – No constitutional basis for declaring a non-judicial reference out of order.

Exception: Oct 15, 2019 [(BCO 42-4) – No record of the court’s action regarding a timely filed appeal.

Exception: Jan 24-25, 2020 (BCO 13-6) – No record of two men transferring from another Presbytery being examined in views of the sacraments and church government.

Exception: May 18, 2020 (Bylaws, Section X) – No record of vote on motions to amend *Bylaws* (requires $\frac{2}{3}$).

Exception: May 18, 2020; Jul 18, 2020 (BCO 21-4.c. (1) (g)) – Although it is asserted that two candidates for ordination have been examined in history of the PCA, there is no record of them being examined in this area in either their licensure or ordination.

Exception: Jul 18, 2020 (Bylaws, Section X) – No record of required $\frac{2}{3}$ vote to approve *Bylaws* amendment.

Exception: Jan 25-26, 2019 (BCO 21-4.a, c) – No record of candidate’s academic credentials, experiential religion, or sustaining exams in sacraments, church history, and languages.

Exception: Jul 19, 2019 (BCO 21-4.a) – No record of academic credentials or experiential clause given for candidate for ordination.

Exception: Jan 24-25, 2020; May 18, 2020; Oct 10, 2020 (BCO 19-1, 2) – A candidate for licensure should be examined in accordance with *BCO* 13-6 if he is a member of another Presbytery, or under 19-2 if he is not, but he should not be examined under both as minutes record to be the case with the six candidates for licensure examined at those meetings.

Exception: May 18, 2020 [pp. 3-5] (BCO 19-2.b) – Candidates for licensure examined in the area of practical knowledge of Bible content but no record of that particular examination being approved; conversely record shows approval of an examination in the area of sacraments for both of these men that there is no record of being administered.

d. That responses shall be submitted to the following GA as no responses were received in 2021:

Exception: Apr 17, 2018 (BCO 15-1) – Records of commission not entered in Presbytery minutes (cf. *RAO* 16-3.e.4).

Exception: Apr 17, 2018 (BCO 13-11, RAO 16-3.e.7) – Overture not recorded.

Exception: Jul 20-21, 2018 (BCO 13-11) – Minutes of executive session not included.

73. That the Minutes of **Siouxlands** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 25, 2019; Apr 25, 2019; Mar 6, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Sep 27, 2019; Jan 4, 2020; Sep 24, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Sep 24, 2020 (BCO 21-1; RAO 16-3.e.6) – TE [name omitted]’s call was not included or signed.

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Apr 26, 2018; Sep 27, 2018 (BCO 20-1) – No record of call to definite work.

Response: The presbytery acknowledges its error in omitting the calls in our minutes. They were presented, reviewed and approved by the Presbytery at those stated meetings, but were inadvertently not included in our minutes. We have amended our minutes to include them. We will be diligent to include the calls in the future.

74. That the Minutes of **South Coast** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Sep 24, 2019; Jun 13, 2020; Sep 26, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Jan 26, 2019; May 4, 2019; Jul 23, 2019; Jan 25, 2020; Nov 17, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Jan 26, 2019; May 4, 2019; Sep 24, 2019 (BCO 15-1; RAO 16-3.2.4) – Minutes of commission not entered into Presbytery minutes.

Exception: General 2019 (BCO 13-9) – Annual review of session minutes not completed. (Only 3 of 20+ churches and no mention of unsubmitted.)

Exception: General 2020 (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of review of records of church sessions.

Exception: General 2020 (BCO 21-5) – No ordination/installation minutes for [name omitted].

Exception: Jan 25, 2020 (BCO 5-9.f) – No record of call/installation of Rev. [name omitted] as pastor of particularized church as listed in directory.

Exception: Jan 25, 2020 (BCO 13-6; 21-4) – Incomplete transfer exam (no theology, Bible content or Sacraments).

Exception: Jan 25, 2020 (BCO 19-2.a) – No exam/statement of Christian experience and inward call.

Exception: Jul 23, 2019 (BCO 13-6) – Incomplete record of transfer exam (no record of questions on views of sacraments or church government).

Exception: Jan 25, 2020 (BCO 19-7) – No indication of Mr. [name omitted] having completed his presbytery internship prior to ordination.

Exception: Jan 25, 2020 (BCO 21-4) – No record that theological thesis or exegetical papers submitted.

Exception: Nov 17, 2020 (RAO 16-3.a.1) – Purpose of called meeting not stated.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not judged.

Response: The minutes record two related motions. The first motion, deeming the exception to be “more than semantic, but not out of accord with any fundamental of our system of doctrine” passed as is recorded. The second motion, to judge the difference as “out of accord, that is, striking at the vitals of religion,” was recorded in the minutes incorrectly. That motion failed. The second motion will be struck from the minutes.

Exception: (BCO 15-1) – Minutes of commission not entered in Presbytery minutes (see RAO 16-3.e.4)

Response: The pastor was being installed to serve at a mission church, therefore the installation vows (BCO 21-9) were taken during the presbytery meeting. The minutes have been amended to add: “The minister took the vows (BCO 21-9) for an assistant minister.”

Exception: General (RAO 16-10) No record in minutes of 2017 exceptions take by GA and/or Presbytery approval of responses to the exceptions.

Response: The presbytery neglected to vote on the responses to the exceptions, and approved them unanimously at the September 24-25, 2019 stated meeting.

Exception: (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational/session meeting in dissolution of pastoral/assistant pastor relationship.

Response: On October 29, 2017, at 11:30 am, a congregational meeting was held with a quorum per BCO 25-3. The congregation was informed of session’s recommendation to consider calling TE [name omitted] as Lead Pastor and TE [name omitted] as Associate Pastor. TE [name omitted] presented his vision for [church name omitted] Church and the congregation had time to ask questions. On Nov 12, 2017, at 11:40 am, a congregational meeting was held with a quorum per BCO 25-3. The congregation voted unanimously to call TE [name omitted] as Lead Pastor and TE [name omitted] as Associate pastor. The minutes have been amended to reflect this communication.

75. That the Minutes of **South Florida** Presbytery: *Not Adopted* [see “e” below]

a. Be approved without exceptions: [see “e” below]

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: [see “e” below]

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: [see “e” below]

d. That responses shall be submitted to the following GA as no responses were received in 2021:

Exception: Feb 13, 2018; May 8, 2018 (BCO 21-4, RAO 16-3.e.5) – Differences of three candidates not judged to prescribed categories.

Exception: Feb 13, 2018; May 8, 2018 (BCO 21-4, RAO 16-3.e.5) – Differences not stated in candidates’ own words.

Exception: Nov 13, 2018 (BCO 13-4) – Minutes say no quorum present, and no record of attendance attached.

Exception: Feb 13, 2018 (BCO 15-1) – Ordination commission reported but no records of proceedings attached.

Exception: Nov 13, 2018 (BCO 8-7, 13-2) – TEs laboring out of bounds or without call reports missing.

Exception: Feb 13, 2018 (BCO 13-2) – A South Florida TE laboring out of bounds without concurrence of Presbytery within whose bounds he labors.

Exception: May 8, 2018 (BCO 19-16) – ¾ vote for waiving internship requirement not recorded.

Exception: May 9, 2017; Aug 8, 2017 (BCO 18-2; BCO 21-4) – Stated difference not recorded in the minister’s/candidate’s own words (RAO 16-3.e.5).

Response: Actually, it was. If the candidate says he is taking the “Continental Exception to the Sabbath per 21-8” then that is what he said in his own words.

Rationale: Candidate must state “specific instances in which he” (BCO 19-2.e) differs from WCF, LC, SC; not simply name a view.

- e. **That 2019 and 2020 minutes shall be reviewed for the following GA, as they were not received in time to be reviewed.**

76. That the Minutes of **South Texas** Presbytery:

Adopted

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Oct 25-26, 2019.**

- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Apr 26-27, 2019; Jan 24-25, 2020; Aug 7, 2020; Oct 30-31, 2020.**

- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Jan 25-26, 2019 (BCO 13-10) – Unclear if provision of 60-day notice followed consent of members to transfer.

Exception: Aug 9-10, 2019 (BCO 20-1) – No record of a proper call for a man changing from Assistant to Associate Pastor.

Exception: Jan 24-25, 2020 (BCO 20-6; 22-2) – No record of a call being extended by a congregation to an assistant pastor being called as associate pastor of the same congregation.

Exception: Aug 7, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational vote to release TE [name omitted] from call.

Exception: Aug 7, 2020 (BCO 13-5) – No record of the reasons to receive a man without a call as member of the Presbytery.

Exception: Oct 30-31, 2020 (BCO 20-1, 20-10) – No record of Presbytery extending the call to TE as pastor of mission church.

- d. **That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**

Exception: Jan 26-27, 2018; Apr 27-28, 2018; Aug 10-11, 2018 (BCO 21-4, RAO 16.3.e.5) – All specific requirements of ordination exam not recorded (No record of exegetical or theological papers. Unclear if ordinand had been previously licensed).

Response: The presbytery agrees with this exception and regrets the ambiguity. The presbytery will attempt to cross-reference previous actions of the presbytery concerning ordination from previous years to make it easier for the minutes to be reviewed. The

presbytery assures the General Assembly that while the individual elements were not readily evident from the individual set of minutes, when the minutes of the presbytery are taken in their totality, all elements required by the constitution for ordination were properly received and properly approved by the presbytery.

Exception: Jan 26-27, 2018 (BCO 19-2.f) – Candidate does not state in his stated differences from what particular part of our standards he differs.

Response: The presbytery agrees with this exception and will be more diligent to have candidates cite the specific parts of the standards by chapter and section number with which they differ.

77. That the Minutes of **Southeast Alabama** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Aug 11, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2020; Jan 27, 2020; Oct 27, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Jan 27, 2020; Oct 27, 2020 (BCO 21-4) – Stated differences not judge with prescribed categories (RAO 16-3.e.5).

Exception: Jan 27, 2020; Jun 2, 2020 (BCO 13-11; 14-6.c; 40-1; RAO 16-3.e.7) – Presbytery entered Executive Session but did not provide minutes.

Exception: Jun 2, 2020 (BCO 13-10) – Dissolution of church occurred without designation of members to Presbytery’s care or another Session.

d. That responses shall be submitted to the following GA as no responses were received in 2021:

Exception: Apr 23, 2018 (BCO 21-4) – Stated differences not judged with prescribed categories, and not recorded in candidates’ own words.

Exception: Aug 25, 2018 (BCO 13-12) – Call for meeting not in order or recorded.

e. That 2020 minutes shall be reviewed for the following GA, as they were not received in time to be reviewed.

78. That the Minutes of **Southern Louisiana** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 26, 2019; Apr 27, 2019; Jul 2, 2019; Oct 27, 2019; Jan 26, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Oct 24, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: General 2020 (BCO 13-9, b) – No record of review of Session Minutes.

Exception: Oct 24, 2020 (BCO 13-11; RAO 16-3.e.7) – Complaint not recorded in the minutes.

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: April 28, 2018 (BCO 21-4) – Stated differences in candidates’ own words referenced but left out of minutes.

Response: My apologies for not including TE [name omitted]’s differences in his own words in Southern Louisiana Presbytery’s April 2018 minutes. Please find his written statements below regarding his differences on the Sabbath and WLC #107.

Concerning the Sabbath:

“My view of the Sabbath or Lord’s Day is that it is to be a day set aside for rest and worship. We avoid normal weekly activities on the Lord’s Day, but I do think the Confession and Catechisms are unnecessarily restrictive regarding all types of recreation,

which would seem to include things like taking a walk with my family or playing in the yard with my kids. This being said, I do embrace the Biblical thrust of the Catechisms and Confession in that the Lord's day is to be set aside for worship and rest."

Concerning WCF #107:

"My view concerning the second commandment is that I see no place for images of God to be used in worship, but I believe the use of images of Jesus for pedagogical purposes, such as in a children's storybook Bible or other education curriculum, does not violate the second commandment."

79. That the Minutes of **Southern New England** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 19, 2019; Apr 26-27, 2019; Jan 18, 2020; Jun, 27, 2020; Aug 22, 2020; Oct 24, 2020; Nov 21, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Sep 21, 2019; General 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Dec 14, 2019 (RAO 16-3.c.1) – Purpose of called meeting not stated.
Exception: Sep 19, 2020 (BCO 13-9b; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not judged with the prescribed categories.
 - d. **No response to previous assemblies required.**
80. That the Minutes of **Southwest Florida** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 9, 2019; May 14, 2019; Sep 14, 2019; Nov 12, 2019; Feb 8, 2020; Mar 16, 2020; Sep 12, 2020; Nov 10, 2020.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **None.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
 - d. **That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:**
Exception: Standing Rules (BCO 11-4, 16-2, 20-1) – Presbytery rules as written appear to forbid local churches from issuing calls prior to consulting the presbytery shepherding committee
Response: Our current Presbytery Standing Rule Article 6-1 reads:
ARTICLE 6 - CALLING OF PASTORS; SUPPLIES
1. Churches are not to extend calls to Teaching Elders to become pastors, or Sessions to invite Teaching Elders to become stated supply or interim supply, without first consulting with the Shepherding Committee.
Our proposed Presbytery Response is: The Presbytery of Southwest Florida agrees with the exception and corrects its Standing Rule Article 6-1 to read as follows: Churches are not to ~~extend~~ finalize calls to Teaching Elders to become pastors, or Sessions to invite Teaching Elders to become stated supply or interim supply, without first consulting with the Shepherding Committee
81. That the Minutes of **Suncoast Florida** Presbytery: *Adopted*
- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 12, 2019; May 14, 2019; Sep 10, 2019.**
 - b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2020; Directory 2020; Feb 11, 2020; Oct 13, 2020.**
 - c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Feb 11, 2020 (BCO 8-7) – TE permitted to minister out of bounds but no record of Presbytery being shown that TE will have the freedom to maintain and teach the doctrine of the PCA.

Exception: Apr 28, 2020 (BCO 13-12) – No indication of 10-day notice of called meeting.

Exception: Dec 15, 2020 (BCO 23-1) – No record of congregational meeting to dissolve pastoral relations.

d. That the following response to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Feb 13, 2018; Sep 11, 2018 (BCO 19-16) – $\frac{3}{4}$ vote for waiving internship requirements not recorded.

Response: MSP to answer the 47th General Assembly as follows: Suncoast Florida Presbytery recognizes that the record does not show that a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote was attained in waiving 6 internship requirement. All six of those votes to waive the internship requirements were unanimous. We apologize for the oversight and will note the requirement in the future regarding such records.

82. That the Minutes of **Susquehanna Valley** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 9, 2019; May 18, 2019; Sep 17, 2019; Nov 16, 2019; Feb 8, 2020; May 16, 2020; Jun 20, 2020; Jul 11, 2020; Aug 1, 2020; Sep 8, 2020; Oct 24, 2020; Nov 21, 2020.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Sep 20, 2020 (RAO 16-3.e.6; BCO 14-6.c; 40-1) – No executive session minutes. No mention pp. 1759-60 (11/21/20).

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: May 19, 2018 (BCO 21-4) – No reason given for a man ordained as an assistant pastor to be commissioned as an evangelist.

Response: At the time, the candidate for ordination was serving as a hospital chaplain that included sacramental duties. The presbytery felt compelled to empower the candidate as an evangelist to fulfill his duties to this out of bounds call. We apologize for not providing that explanation in our minutes and pledge to provide these details in future meeting minutes.

Exception: May 19, 2018 (RAO 11-3.c.5) – Minutes do not list all specific requirements for ordination.

Response: The candidate for ordination had satisfied all of his other ordination exam requirements at prior stated meetings of presbytery in 2017. Completing his coursework in Greek and Hebrew was his final requirement that was approved at our May 19, 2018 meeting. We acknowledge it would have been easier for the reviewer to include those details in our May 2018 minutes. We pledge to follow this course in future meeting minutes.

83. That the Minutes of **Tennessee Valley** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Jan 12, 2019; Apr 13, 2019; Jul 9, 2019; Oct 15, 2019; General 2020; Jul 14, 2020; Oct 13, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Jan 12, 2019 (BCO 23-1; 22-4) – Presbytery approved the dissolution of pastoral relations with no record of congregational meeting or any record of the church commissioners appearing before Presbytery.

Exception: Jul 9, 2019 (BCO 21-6) – TEs installed as assistant pastors, but constitutional questions were addressed to the congregation instead of the session.

Exception: Jul 9, 2019 (BCO 13-6) – The commission record indicates that presbytery re-ordained a minister transferring from another denomination.

Exception: Jan 11, 2020 (BCO 19-2) – Stated differences with standards not recorded in licensure examination.

Exception: Jun 13, 2020 (BCO 13-12) – Committee report given that was not included in the purpose of called meeting.

Exception: Jul 14, 2020 (BCO 13-11) – Complaint appealed to Presbytery not recorded in the minutes.

d. No response to previous assemblies required.

84. That the Minutes of **Tidewater** Presbytery: *Adopted*

a. Be approved without exceptions: **May 5, 2019; Oct 3, 2019.**

b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Feb 2, 2019; Aug 1, 2019; Feb 2, 2020; Oct 1, 2020.**

c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:

Exception: Feb 2, 2019 (BCO 21-4; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not judged with the prescribed categories.

Exception: Feb 2, 2019 (BCO 13-5) – TE on roll of presbytery without examination or explanation.

Exception: Aug 1, 2019 (BCO 19-5) – Incomplete record of a licensure transfer exam.

Exception: Feb 1, 2020 (BCO 15-1; RAO 16-3.e.4) – Minutes of commission (to ordain and install) TEs [names omitted] not entered into presbytery minutes.

Exception: Jul 28, 2020 (BCO 13-12) – Criteria for calling a called meeting not recorded (three TEs, three REs from three different churches).

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Oct 4, 2018 (BCO 15-1) – The report of a judicial commission was not included in the appendix as noted.

Response: The report of the commission was included in the appendix, labeled as “Tidewater Presbytery Commission Minutes.” The actions of the commission are noted at the end of the minutes and were received by the TWP at the following Stated Meeting. I believe I submitted a revised version of the minutes in question with an edited version of the Commission report that had the actions report more clearly marked.

Exception: June 2, 2016; October 6, 2016 (BCO 21-4, RAO 16-3.e.5) – Stated differences not recorded in the minister’s own words.

Response: The failure to include the differences as part of the appendices of the minutes of June 2, 2016 and October 6, 2016 were an oversight on the part of the Clerk. He has made changes to his storage and minutes preparation to prevent this from happening in the future

Rationale: Stated differences not submitted.

Response [2020]: My apologies to the General Assembly. This was simply overlooked on my part. The minutes have been corrected at our end, electronically and in our paper copy we keep on file.

The candidate's differences have been submitted to the Clerk and are included in an updated copy of the June 2, 2016 Minutes. A copy has been submitted to the RPR for your records. **Upon reinvestigating the October 6, 2016 minutes**, the views statements of both candidates mentioned in the minutes are found in the Membership Report that was included with the original minutes. A copy of these minutes has also been submitted to the RPR for your records.

85. That the Minutes of **Warrior** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **None.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Directory 2019; Jan 22, 2019; Apr 16, 2019; Aug 13, 2019; General 2020; Directory 2020; Jan 28, 2020; Oct 20, 2020.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
 - Exception: General (RAO 16-10.a, b)** – No response to the Assembly concerning disposition of any exceptions of substance.
 - Exception: Apr 16, 2019 (BCO 23-1; 22-4)** – Presbytery approved the dissolution of pastoral relations with no record of congregational meeting or any record of the church commissioners appearing before Presbytery.
 - Exception: Apr 16, 2019 (BCO 13-6)** – Record of transfer exam does not appear to be complete; no record of examining candidate's Christian experience nor specifics concerning his views.
 - Exception: Oct 15, 2019 (BCO 21-4.c)** – No record of $\frac{3}{4}$ approval of Presbytery's use of extraordinary clause.
 - Exception: Oct 15, 2019 (BCO 15-1)** – Report of commission not included.
 - Exception: Jan 28, 2020 (BCO 15-1; RAO 16-3.e.4)** – Minutes of commissions to install TEs [names omitted] not entered into Presbytery minutes.
 - Exception: Oct 20, 2020 (BCO 21-4.c.(a), (b))** – Ordinand was not examined in his seminary degree or his knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew languages.
- d. **That a response shall be submitted to the following GA as no response was received in 2021:**
 - Exception: Oct 16, 2018 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of congregational meeting to dissolve the call of a pastor.

86. That the Minutes of **West Hudson** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Feb 7, 2019; Apr 17, 2019; Feb 6, 2020; May 11, 2020; Sep 17, 2020.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Directory 2019; May 6, 2019; Sep 12, 2019; Nov 14, 2019; Nov 12, 2020.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
 - Exception: Nov 12, 2020 (BCO 12-7; 13-9.b; RAO 16-3.e.6)** – Record does not indicate that all 2019 Session records were reviewed by Presbytery in 2020.
 - Exception: May 6, 2019 (BCO 23-1)** – No record of congregational meeting requesting Presbytery to change TE [name omitted] from senior pastor to associate and TE [name

omitted] from associate to senior at [church name omitted] or a record of the requisite 80% congregational vote by secret ballot.

d. No response to previous assemblies required.

87. That the Minutes of **Westminster** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Mar 9, 2019; Jun 18, 2019; Aug 10, 2019; Nov 9, 2019; Mar 14, 2020; Aug 8, 2020; Nov 14, 2020.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **Directory 2020.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance: **None.**
- d. No response to previous assemblies required.**

88. That the Minutes of **Wisconsin** Presbytery: *Adopted*

- a. Be approved without exceptions: **Jan 25, 2020; Jul 11, 2020.**
- b. Be approved with exceptions of form: **General 2019; Jan 26, 2019; Apr 27, 2019; Jul 20, 2019; Sep 28, 2019; Sep 26, 2020.**
- c. Be approved with exceptions of substance:
Exception: Jan 26, 2019; Apr 27, 2019; Jul 20, 2019; Sep 28, 2019 (BCO 21-4.f; RAO 16-3.e.5) – Candidates for Ordination not asked about differences with WCF.
Exception: Jan 26, 2019; Apr 27, 2019; Jul 20, 2019; Sep 28, 2019 (BCO 21-4.c.1, 2) – No record of approval of theological papers or examination in languages.
Exception: Jan 26, 2019; Apr 27, 2019; Jul 20, 2019; and Sep 28, 2019 (BCO 21-4.c) – Unclear if ordinands are being given a careful examination in Bible, Theology, and Polity as BCO 21-4 requires.
Exception: Jan 26, 2019 (BCO 19-2.f; RAO 16-3.e.5) – No record of candidate’s stated difference on creation and no record of Presbytery’s adjudication of that difference.
Exception: Apr 27, 2019 (BCO 19-16) – No record of $\frac{3}{4}$ vote or explanation for extraordinary clause.
Exception: Sep 26, 2020 (BCO 13-9.b) – No record of all church records being reviewed. Several churches were not recorded as having been reviewed.
Exception: Sep 28, 2019 (BCO 19-2.f; RAO 16-3.e.5) – The recorded differences are too vague to be in candidates' own words and sufficient for adjudication.
Exception: Jan 26, 2019 (SR 16-1) – No record of $\frac{2}{3}$ vote to suspend the rules.

d. That the following responses to the 48th GA be found satisfactory:

Exception: Jan 27, 2018 (BCO 13-11) – No record of call.

Response: It is not entirely clear to the Presbytery what the exception is or to what it is referring. It is the Wisconsin Presbytery’s understanding that RAO 16-3.e.6 means that the details of a pastor’s call do not need to be documented in presbytery minutes, but merely the fact of presbytery’s review and approval of each new call. However, in an effort to correct the exception, the Presbytery would like to clarify that it dealt with the following calls at this meeting:

The Call from Wisconsin Presbytery to TE [name omitted] as the church planting pastor of the [church name omitted] (Mission) effective January 27, 2018, was reviewed, approved, and is attached hereto.

The Call from [church name omitted] to TE [name omitted], as senior pastor, effective February 25, 2018, pending appropriate congregational action on February 11, 2018, was reviewed, approved, and is attached hereto.

The Call from [church name omitted] to TE [name omitted], as Associate Pastor, effective March 11, 2018, pending appropriate congregational action on January 28, 2018, was reviewed, approved, and is attached hereto.

Exception: Jan 27, 2018; Apr 28, 2018 (BCO 15-1) – Records of commission not entered into presbytery minutes.

Response: Records of the Commission to organize [church name omitted] as a particular church and install TE [name omitted] as senior pastor on February 25, 2018, are attached hereto.

Records of the Commission to install TE [name omitted] as Associate Pastor at [church name omitted] on March 11, 2018, are attached hereto.

Exception: Apr 28, 2018 (BCO 13-11) – No record of call.

Response: It is not entirely clear to the Presbytery what the exception is or to what it is referring. It is the Wisconsin Presbytery's understanding that *RAO* 16-3.e.6 means that the details of a pastor's call do not need to be documented in presbytery minutes, but merely the fact of presbytery's review and approval of each new call. However, in an effort to correct the exception, the Presbytery would like to clarify that it dealt with the following calls at this meeting.

The Call from Wisconsin Presbytery to TE [name omitted] to serve as the Director of the *On Wisconsin* network, was reviewed, approved, and is attached hereto.

Exception: Jan 27, 2018 (BCO 18-2) – No record of six months membership of candidate.

Response: Wisconsin Presbytery sends it apologies to the Review of Presbytery Records Committee for failing to record that the Wisconsin Presbytery deemed [name omitted]'s application for care to be extraordinary, such that he was unable to have his membership with a church of the Wisconsin Presbytery for six months prior. [Name omitted] and his family live in Taiwan as full-time missionaries. While [church name omitted] Presbyterian Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin, is their sending church and provides some degree of oversight, [name omitted] and his wife are members in good standing at a Presbyterian church in Taiwan. He sought care from the Wisconsin Presbytery to have consistent and valuable oversight from the Presbytery in which he hopes to eventually be ordained.

VII. Officers Elected for 2021-2022

Chairman: TE Hoochan Paul Lee

Vice-Chairman: TE Stephen Tipton

Secretary: TE Eddie Lim

Assistant Secretary: TE Freddy Fritz

VIII. Roster of Members Present

Presbytery

Arizona

Ascension

Blue Ridge

Calvary

Canada West

Catawba Valley

Central Carolina

Central Florida

Central Indiana

Representative

TE Tom Troxell

TE Stephen Tipton

TE Taylor Rollo

TE Dan Dodds

RE Eric Nederlof

TE Steve Stout

TE Stan Layton

TE Kevin Gardner

RE Dan Barber

Chesapeake	TE Donald Dove
Chicago Metro	TE Dan Adamson
Columbus Metro	TE Nate Conrad
Covenant	TE James Codling
Eastern Carolina	RE Dan Prins
Eastern Pennsylvania	TE Doug Tharp
Fellowship	TE Chip McArthur
Grace	TE Grover Gunn
Gulfstream	RE Dan Hudson
Heartland	RE Peter Griffith
Houston Metro	TE Dennis Hermerding
Iowa	TE Brian Janssen
James River	RE Robert Rumbaugh
Korean Capital	TE Moses Lee
Korean Northeastern	TE Hoochan Paul Lee
Korean Southeastern	TE Eddie Lim
Lowcountry	TE Alex Mark
Metro Atlanta	TE Herschel Hatcher
Mississippi Valley	TE Chris Wright
Missouri	TE Tim LeCroy
Nashville	TE Bryce Sullivan
New River	TE Seth Young
New York State	TE Kenneth McHeard
Northern New England	TE Ian Hard
Northwest Georgia	TE David Gilbert
Ohio	TE Jason Piland
Ohio Valley	TE Larry Hoop
Pacific Northwest	RE Howie Donahoe
Pee Dee	RE Paul Goodrich
Philadelphia Metro West	RE Gerald Kunze
Piedmont Triad	TE Ethan Smith
Pittsburgh	TE David Schweissing
Platte Valley	TE Jacob Gerber
Potomac	TE Billy Boyce
Providence	TE Adam Tisdale
Savannah River	TE John Barrett
South Coast	TE Eric Chappell
South Florida	RE Terry Murdock
Southeast Alabama	TE Reed DePace
Southern Louisiana	RE Ken Kostrzewa
Southern New England	TE Curran Bishop
Southwest Florida	TE Freddy Fritz
Suncoast Florida	TE David Stewart
Susquehanna Valley	TE Peter Rowan
Tennessee Valley	TE Jake Bennett
Tidewater	TE Ken Christian
Westminster	TE Thomas Rickard

COMMITTEE ON REVIEW OF PRESBYTERY RECORDS MINORITY REPORT

On Recommendation 4: Calvary Presbytery

(Regarding the Revising a Presbytery's Right to Restrict the Teaching of Exceptions and the Mechanism to Resolve the Problem)

Background: Calvary Presbytery has on a few occasions limited the teaching of exceptions by some of its teaching elders. The RPR began citing Calvary with an exception of substance for this practice in response to their 2017 minutes, stating that limiting teaching was out of accord with our polity. Calvary responded that this practice is in harmony with the Preliminary Principles of the *BCO* (specifically 1, 2, and 7 concerning liberty of conscience), is in harmony with PCA polity, including Good-faith subscription, and is in harmony with historic rulings of the SJC and other General Assembly judicatories. The full rationale for the response is detailed in Attachment A.

Motion of the Minority Report

We, the minority, move the following to be adopted as a substitute motion to Recommendation VI. 4 of the RPR:

That the CRPR Report for Calvary Presbytery (Recommendation 4) be approved with the following substitutions:

1. That the exception of substance on January 26, 2019 [p. 1206] (2nd Exception under item 4.c) be stricken.
2. That the response to the exception of substance on April 27, 2017 (1st exception under item 4.e) be found satisfactory, and thus, requires no further action.
3. That the response to the exception of substance on October 25, 2018 (2nd exception under item 4.e) be found satisfactory, and thus, requires no further action.

Rationale for Minority Report

Assertion 1: The practice of a Presbytery limiting a TE from teaching exceptions is in concert with the practice of good faith subscription.

1. Stated Clerk Pro Tempore Dr. Bryan Chapell included the permissibility of such restrictions in a 2001 article that advocated for good faith subscription in the PCA.
 - a. He wrote, "A presbytery should exercise its right to determine its membership by judging whether the man's declared difference with our Standards is an allowable exception, *and whether the presbytery will in any way limit the teaching of that exception*" (Bryan Chapell, "Perspective on the Presbyterian Church in America's Subscription Standards," *Presbyterion* 27, no. 2 (Fall 2001): 67, emphasis added.)
 - b. Although he does not argue that good faith subscription would be consistent with automatically prohibiting *all* teaching of exceptions, Dr. Chapell acknowledges that it is consistent with good faith subscription to impose teaching restrictions when, in the presbytery's determination, "the 'peace and purity of the church' are clearly threatened" (Chapell, "Perspective," *Presbyterion*, 93).
 - c. Calvary Presbytery's practice is consistent with Dr. Chapell's articulation of good faith subscription.

2. The argument that the good faith subscription amendment eliminated the right to restrict the teaching of exceptions is inaccurate because the PCA has always held to good faith subscription. In fact, when the *BCO* was amended to affirm good faith subscription in 2003, it was *to affirm what was already considered the practice of the PCA* from the beginning. Note the following excerpts from the overture to amend *BCO* 21-4 from 2002:

And, whereas the PCA's original Good-faith [sic] subscription position has served the church well, but recently has been challenged by some who desire either a more Broad – or Strict – subscription position

And, whereas the inclusion of Good-faith [sic] subscription statement in our Book of Church Order is needed to state explicitly what has been the understanding and practice of the majority of the PCA from its beginning³

3. Additionally, the change in constitutional language (*RAO* 16-3.5) only established a way for men to be *admitted* into the Presbytery, while still holding exceptions. The new constitutional language did not establish any rights to preach or teach those exceptions.

Assertion 2: Restricting the teaching of exceptions does not meet the definition of what it means to bind the conscience.

Response:

Our Standards clearly define what it means to bind a conscience as one of two actions: (a) requiring someone to *believe* something contrary to God's Word; or (b) requiring someone to *obey* something contrary to God's Word:

WCF 20.2. God alone is Lord of the conscience, and hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are, in anything, **contrary to his Word**; or beside it, if matters of faith, or worship. So that, to **believe such doctrines**, or to **obey such commands**, out of conscience, is to betray true liberty of conscience...(cf. Preliminary Principle 1)

1. The case of *Robert D. Hopper v. James River Presbytery*, Case No. 94-1, *M20GA*, 160–65, provides controlling precedent in this case and held, “[I]t is no violation of liberty of conscience to limit [a Teaching Elder’s] teaching and preaching” when it is not proven that to forbid such a teaching is contrary to the word of God (*ibid.*, 164). The case cited previous GA precedent that held, “Presbyteries do have jurisdiction over TEs and have the authority to restrict a minister from preaching views which the presbytery is convinced may be harmful to the spiritual welfare of the churches under its care (*ibid.*, quoting *M18GA*, 205).
2. We hold the *Westminster Confession of Faith* and Catechisms to be "standard expositions of the teachings of Scripture in relation to both faith and practice" (*BCO* 29-1). Moreover, all Teaching Elders take a vow that they "sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the Catechisms of this Church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures" (*BCO* 21-5.2). The Presbytery limiting a man from teaching his exception is requiring the TE to teach the standards of the PCA in which he is ordained. It is hard to

³ Overture 10 adopted as amended, *M30GA*, 219–220 (language also included in Overtures 3, 11, 12, 31, and 32).

see how a TE could *both* uphold his vow *and* maintain that the doctrines included are contrary to God's Word (even if he personally disagrees with certain details).

3. The request is only to refrain from teaching a doctrine that is out of accord with our Standards. The RPR majority opinion does not identify how refraining from teaching something contrary to our Standards would require someone to obey something contrary to God's Word.
4. In the chapter on Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience, the *Westminster Confession of Faith* also explicitly identifies preventing people from teaching certain doctrines that affect the peace and unity of the church as not destroying liberty of conscience, but "mutually to uphold and preserve" it (*WCF* 20.4).
5. Our Standards explicitly put questions of conscience in the hands of church courts (*WCF* 31.2). The Seventh Preliminary Principle in the Preface to the *BCO* limits all church power as "only ministerial and declarative since the Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith and practice. No church judicatory may make laws to bind the conscience." *WCF* 31.2, however, explains what this means, in that synods and councils (in this case, a Presbytery) have the right ministerially to determine controversies of faith and cases of conscience.
6. When a Presbytery is concerned about what a candidate believes on a matter the Presbytery may disapprove of the minister's ordination or accept the man as a minister but instruct him to refrain from publicly teaching his view that the Presbytery finds concerning. It is up to a candidate to determine whether he can receive such a limitation on his teaching while keeping a clear conscience. If he cannot, he is not compelled to accept the call - in fact, he *cannot* accept the call.

Conclusion

- I. A presbytery has the right and duty to govern what is taught within its bounds, as long as that is consistent with scripture and the constitution of the PCA.
- II. RPR's reference to the SJC of this matter is unnecessary because Calvary Presbytery did not commit an exception of substance in limiting the teaching of an exception from our Standards.

Minority Report Signers

TE Dan Dodds, Calvary Presbytery
TE Jacob Gerber, Platte Valley
TE David Gilbert, Northwest Georgia Presbytery
RE Dan Hudson, Gulfstream Presbytery
TE Alex Mark, Lowcountry Presbytery
TE Thomas Rickard, Westminster Presbytery
RE Robert Rumbaugh, James River Presbytery

Attachment A
Calvary Presbytery's Response to RPR Exceptions

Exception: (Preliminary Principle #7) – Presbytery adopted a statement asserting its right to “declare certain exceptions unteachable.” Presbytery may rule any stated difference unacceptable but may not “make laws to bind the conscience.” Meeting Date: Oct 25, 2018

Response: Calvary Presbytery vigorously defends Preliminary Principle #1, as it affirms liberty of conscience, specifically that, “the rights of private judgment in all matters that respect religion are universal and inalienable.” At the same time, we also affirm the “perfect consistency” with Preliminary Principle #2 which states that “every Christian Church, or union or association of particular churches, is entitled to declare terms of admission into its communion and the qualifications of its ministers and members, as well as the whole system of its internal government which Christ has appointed.” Since Calvary Presbytery is necessarily vested with this power to declare terms of its admission, this statement is in accord with both principles. Therefore, an objection to our statement based on Preliminary Principle #7 misses the mark; we are not “making laws to bind the conscience,” but are exercising our duties “to examine and license candidates for the holy ministry; to receive...[and] ordain...ministers” (*BCO* 13-9) in accord with Preliminary Principles #1 and #2.

Exception [2018]: Apr 27, 2017 (Preliminary Principle 1) – The resulting prohibition whereby a TE was prevented from teaching his accepted view is contrary to our practice of good faith subscription and the first preliminary principle.

Rationale [2019]: (Preliminary Principles 1, 7, *WCF* 20.1) Presbytery's response differs with the judgment of the 45th General Assembly that a TE was prevented from teaching his accepted view and is contrary to our practice of good faith subscription and the first and seventh preliminary principles.

Response [2020]: In contrast to the 2019 RPR's judgment, Calvary Presbytery respectfully asserts its constitutional prerogative to restrict the public teaching of certain exceptions to the Westminster Standards for the following reasons:

1. The Practice is in Harmony with Preliminary Principles #1 and #2:

We would vigorously defend Preliminary Principle #1, as it affirms liberty of conscience, specifically that, “the rights of private judgment in all matters that respect religion are universal and inalienable.” At the same time, we affirm the “perfect consistency” with Preliminary Principle #2 which states that “every Christian Church, or union or association of particular churches, is entitled to declare terms of admission into its communion and the qualifications of its ministers and members, as well as the whole system of its internal government which Christ has appointed.” Since Calvary Presbytery is necessarily vested with this power to declare terms of its admission, we acted in accord with both principles. It should be especially noted that the court did not injure the liberty of conscience of said TE. In accord with Preliminary Principle #1 this restriction did not injure “the rights of his private judgment at all,” because he was able to hold his difference, teach it to his family, and answer honestly if asked about it privately. We only restricted the public teaching and preaching of his view, which is in accord with Preliminary Principle #2.

Furthermore, as Preliminary Principle #2 states, granting membership is a “right,” and even if its terms of communion are “either too lax or narrow...it does not infringe upon the liberty or the rights of others...” As TE Guy Prentiss Waters has written, church office “is a privilege (not a right) that the court grants to those whom it deems qualified.” Therefore, an objection based on Preliminary Principle #7 misses the mark; we are not “making laws to bind the conscience. Calvary Presbytery merely exercised this right in harmony with Preliminary Principles #1, #2, and #7.

2. This Practice is in Harmony with PCA Polity

In the history of our own presbytery, we have occasionally restricted a man’s teaching concerning exceptions. Our Stated Clerk, TE Roy Taylor, in response to our inquiry on the question of PCA Polity & practice of restricting the teaching of certain views, said that “this issue was debated while hammering out the terms of good faith Subscription.” He asserts that it “has never been resolved,” and that “we have lived with differences of procedure among Presbyteries.” While there are several constitutional procedures concerning our method of subscription and the handling of examples (*BCO* 13-6, 13-7, 19-2.f, 21-4.b,e,f and *RAO* 16-3.e.5), yet none of these rules prohibit Presbytery from restricting a man from publicly teaching an exception. Furthermore, Calvary Presbytery in its consultation with other PCA Presbyteries concerning their practice of “Restricting the Teaching of Certain Views” has concluded that our view is not unique or isolated with the history and practice of PCA Polity. Therefore, Calvary Presbytery acted in harmony with polity within the PCA and is not in conflict with good faith subscription as enshrined in our constitution.

3. The Practice is in Harmony with Historic Rulings of General Assembly Judicatories

As TE Guy Prentiss Waters demonstrates, “not fewer than three Assemblies upheld the right of Presbytery to forbid a member from teaching his exception” (Guy Prentiss Waters, “Taking Exception,” reformation21.org, July 3, 2018). In 1992, the SJC upheld the action of James River Presbytery, by stating: “Presbyteries may exercise such power over the preaching and teaching of its members short of a determination that the forbidden teaching is heresy, without necessarily binding the consciences of the men under its care.... We must defer to presbytery, therefore, as the court most able to determine what may be harmful to the spiritual welfare of the churches under its care.” At the 14th GA, the annually appointed Judicial Commission (precursor to the SJC) also upheld the right of the court to restrict teaching six years earlier: “When a man is ordained with the allowance of exceptions to his full acceptance of the PCA standards, he thereby obtains (1) approval of his suitability to function within the ordained office, and (2) liberty to believe and live in some way not fully in accord with some portion of those standards. This allowance, however, does not warrant his teaching or preaching of that matter so as to disturb the peace and purity of the church.” Finally, in 1990, the SJC also affirmed the right of presbyteries to restrict teaching of exceptions: “Presbyteries do have jurisdiction over TEs and have the authority to restrict a minister from preaching views which the presbytery is convinced may be harmful to the spiritual welfare of churches under its care (*BCO* 13-9 and 34-5).” Therefore, Calvary Presbytery acted in harmony with historic rulings of General Assembly judicatories.

In closing, again we respectfully disagree with the RPR’s judgment of an exception of substance concerning the restricting of a minister at our April 27, 2017 meeting. As we have demonstrated, this practice is not in opposition to “good faith Subscription,” but is in harmony with PCA polity. It is also not opposed to the 1st Preliminary Principle but upholds liberty of conscience while harmonizing with the 2nd Preliminary Principle’s establishment of presbytery’s right to determine its membership. Therefore, we request that the exception of substance be removed and that our minutes be approved.