

1 **OVERTURE 19** from Tennessee Valley Presbytery (to AC)  
2 “Request Administrative Committee to Address Questions re Presbytery  
3 Jurisdiction and Committee/Agency Employment”  
4

5 **Whereas** the Tennessee Valley Presbytery (TVP) consists of a number of members who are  
6 employed by or serve with an Agency or Permanent Committee of the PCA; and  
7

8 **Whereas** BCO 8-4 does not address jurisdiction of those who are called to a “needful work”;  
9 and  
10

11 **Whereas** questions have arisen regarding jurisdiction over Presbytery members when an  
12 allegation (such as an abuse allegation) has been made against a member of  
13 Presbytery; and  
14

15 **Whereas** “Every court has the right to resolve questions of doctrine and discipline seriously  
16 and reasonably proposed” and “exercises exclusive original jurisdiction over all  
17 matters especially belonging to it” (BCO 11-4); and  
18

19 **Whereas** jurisdictional oversight can become complicated when a member of Presbytery is  
20 employed by or serves with an Agency or Permanent Committee of the Church which  
21 is bound by certain laws or accreditation; and  
22

23 **Whereas** recent events in other church bodies have demonstrated the need for transparency  
24 when allegations of abuse have arisen; and  
25

26 **Whereas** the TVP requested the Committee on Constitutional Business to give advice on  
27 “questions involving the Constitution” (BCO 41-2), but the CCB declined to answer  
28 since there was no “matter pending before the lower court” (BCO 41-1);  
29

30 **Therefore be it resolved** that the PCA request the Administrative Committee to study and  
31 answer the following questions and report back any recommendations to the 51st  
32 General Assembly:

- 33 1. When a Permanent Committee or Agency of the PCA receives an allegation (such  
34 as an abuse allegation) against a Teaching Elder serving with or employed by a  
35 Permanent Committee or Agency, must it notify the TE's Presbytery of the  
36 allegation?
- 37 2. If a Presbytery receives notice from a Permanent Committee or an Agency that it  
38 has received an allegation against a Teaching Elder, is the Presbytery required to  
39 open a [BCO] 31-2 investigation?
- 40 3. Is a Permanent Committee or Agency of the PCA, when it has received an  
41 allegation against a TE in its service or employ, permitted to conduct and conclude  
42 an investigation without informing the TE's Presbytery?
- 43 4. Is a Permanent Committee or Agency of the PCA permitted to terminate the  
44 service or employment of a TE without notifying the TE's Presbytery of the reasons  
45 for termination?  
46

47 *Adopted by the Tennessee Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, October 18, 2022*  
48 *Attested by /s/ TE Chris Powell, stated clerk*