

1 **OVERTURE 26** from Northwest Georgia Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 7-3 Regarding Titling of Unordained People.”
3

4 **Whereas**, the offices of deacon and elder confer titles of dignity and authority in conformity
5 with the Word of God (Acts 6:2, 3, 6; 1 Tim 2:12, 3:1; 1 Peter 5:2-4) and in the *BCO*
6 (8-1, 9-1, 24-6, etc.); and
7

8 **Whereas**, God, by the Holy Spirit, makes officers in his church (Acts 20:28); and
9

10 **Whereas**, our Standards make clear ordained men should not take on themselves titles that
11 confer inappropriate spiritual weight or preeminence according to *BCO* 7-3; and
12

13 **Whereas**, the principles of *BCO* 7-3 apply morally to unordained persons as well (Exodus
14 20:16); and
15

16 **Whereas**, there is harm to the peace and purity of the church by presenting certain people as
17 something they are not by the misuse of biblical titles;
18

19 **Therefore be it resolved**, that *BCO* 7-3 be amended by adding the following sentence
20 (underlining for addition):
21

22 ***BCO* 7**

23 **7-3.** No one who holds office in the Church ought to usurp authority
24 therein, or receive official titles of spiritual preeminence, except
25 such as are employed in the Scripture. Furthermore, unordained
26 people should not be referred to as, or given the titles connected to,
27 the ecclesial offices of pastor, elder, or deacon.
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29 So that if adopted it would read:
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31 **7-3.** No one who holds office in the Church ought to usurp authority
32 therein, or receive official titles of spiritual preeminence, except
33 such as are employed in the Scripture. Furthermore, unordained
34 people should not be referred to as, or given the titles connected to,
35 the ecclesial offices of pastor, elder, or deacon.
36

37 *Adopted by Northwest Georgia Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 4, 2023*

38 *Attested by /s/ TE Robby Baxter, stated clerk*