

1 **OVERTURE 22** from the South Florida Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend BCO 13-2 to clarify Teaching Elder Presbytery Membership”
3

4 **Whereas**, BCO 8-7 and 13-2 both speak to the location where a Teaching Elder’s presbytery
5 membership should be held; and
6

7 **Whereas**, BCO 8-7 and 13-2 can be read as inconsistent with each other. BCO 8-7 requires
8 a TE’s membership to be held in the presbytery “within whose bounds he *labors*” but
9 BCO 13-2 says that his membership is to be held within the “geographical bounds he
10 *resides*”; and
11

12 **Whereas**, it is possible to reside in the geographical bounds of one presbytery, but labor in
13 the geographical bounds of a neighboring presbytery; and
14

15 **Whereas**, the following sentence of BCO 13-2 confirms the intention that a TE be a member
16 of the presbytery where he labors when it says, “When a minister *labors* outside the
17 geographical bounds....”; and
18

19 **Whereas**, it is proper and expedient for a presbytery to have jurisdiction over the TEs who
20 labor within its geographical bounds (see Morton Smith, *Commentary on the Book of*
21 *Church Order*, 142).
22

23 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the South Florida Presbytery hereby overtures the 51st General
24 Assembly to amend BCO 13-2 as follows (underlining for additions, ~~striketrough~~ for
25 deletions):
26

27 13-2. A minister shall be required to hold his membership in the Presbytery within whose
28 geographical bounds he ~~resides~~ labors, unless there are reasons which are satisfactory to
29 his Presbytery why he should not do so. When a minister labors outside the geographical
30 bounds of, or in a work not under the jurisdiction of his Presbytery, at home or abroad, it
31 shall be only with the full concurrence of and under circumstances agreeable to his
32 Presbytery, and to the Presbytery within whose geographical bounds he labors, if one
33 exists. When a minister shall continue on the rolls of his Presbytery without a call to a
34 particular work for a prolonged period, not exceeding three years, the procedure as set
35 forth in BCO 34-10 shall be followed. A minister without call shall make or file a report
36 to his Presbytery at least once each year.
37

38 So that the amended section will read as follows:
39

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42 Presbytery why he should not do so. When a minister labors outside the geographical
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2 particular work for a prolonged period, not exceeding three years, the procedure as set
3 forth in BCO 34-10 shall be followed. A minister without call shall make or file a report
4 to his Presbytery at least once each year.

5

6 *Adopted by South Florida Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 13, 2024.*

7 *Attested by /s/ TE Robbie Crouse, Stated Clerk*