

1 **OVERTURE 32** from the Presbytery of Eastern Pennsylvania (to CCB, OC, AC, CC,
2 “Amend *BCO* 23 to Address Dissolution of Call CDM, CTS, GEN, MNA,
3 for those employed by a Committee or Agency” MTW, PCAF, RH, RUF)
4

5 **Whereas** RUF ministers are members of their local Presbytery and laboring within her
6 bounds; and
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8 **Whereas** all Teaching Elders serving on any permanent committee or agency are members of
9 their local Presbytery; and
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11 **Whereas** the Presbytery alone can “receive, dismiss, ordain, install, remove and judge
12 ministers” (*BCO* 13-9a); and
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14 **Whereas** the Presbytery alone has the authority to establish and dissolve pastoral relations
15 (*BCO* 13-9c); and
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17 **Whereas** the Presbytery is in the best position to appraise the validity, effectiveness and
18 necessity of RUF ministers within her bounds; and
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20 **Whereas** RUF is a program committee of our denomination which exists to serve the church
21 and labors under her authority (cf. *BCO* 14-1.12); and
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23 **Whereas** RUF, being a program committee, possesses no authority to ordain or dismiss
24 members of a Presbytery; and
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26 **Whereas** RUF’s “Affiliation Agreement” has no Constitutional authority (though it is being
27 advanced as being necessary or required for Presbyteries to have RUF ministers labor
28 within her bounds); and
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30 **Whereas** the *BCO* does not offer sufficient guidance as to the relationship between the local
31 Presbytery and RUF
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33 **Therefore, be it resolved,** that Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery hereby requests the 51st
34 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to add to our *Book of Church*
35 *Order* a new 23-2 (the two underlined paragraphs) and renumber the original items.
36

37 23-2. When any minister (teaching elder) shall tender his resignation of a call extended
38 by a PCA permanent committee or agency, the Presbytery shall cite the committee or
39 agency to appear by its appointed representative(s), to show cause why the Presbytery
40 should or should not accept the resignation. If the committee or agency fails to appear,
41 or if its reasons for retaining the minister be deemed insufficient, his resignation shall
42 be accepted and the relation be dissolved.
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44 If a committee or agency desires to dissolve the call of one of its ministers, they must
45 notify the minister and his Presbytery, and if the request is not uncontested, Presbytery

1 shall set a time and place to hear both parties. The Presbytery's decision whether or
2 not to dissolve such a call shall be binding on the committee or agency. The committee
3 or agency shall honor the decision of the Presbytery.
4

5 **23-23.** The Presbytery may designate a minister as honorably retired when the minister
6 by reason of age wishes to be retired, or as medically disabled when by reason of
7 infirmity is no longer able to serve the church in the active ministry of the Gospel. A
8 minister medically disabled or honorably retired shall continue to hold membership in
9 his Presbytery. He may serve on committees or commissions if so elected or appointed.
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11 **23-34.** A minister, being medically disabled or honorably retired, may be elected pastor
12 emeritus by a congregation which seeks to honor his past earnest labors among them.
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14 *Adopted by Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 9, 2024.*

15 *Attested by /s/ TE Thomas G. Keane, Jr., Stated Clerk*