

1 **OVERTURE 14** from the Great Lakes Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
2 “Amend *BCO* 38-1 to Indicate Ways a Court May Interact with an Offended Party”  
3

4 **Whereas** *BCO* 38-1 requires that “in any instances... pertinent to the offense against him or  
5 her;” and  
6

7 **Whereas** informing offended person(s), inviting offended person(s) to provide the court  
8 comment, and encouraging offended person(s) to enlist the help of an advisor in  
9 preparing such comments are all the responsibility of the court; and  
10

11 **Whereas** compliance with these responsibilities ordinarily requires multiple meetings of the  
12 court; and  
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14 **Whereas** in some circumstances it may be preferable for a designated individual to interact  
15 with an offended person rather than the court itself;  
16

17 **Be it resolved** that *BCO* 38-1 be amended by inserting the following language (underlining  
18 for additions; ~~striketrough~~ for deletions):  
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20 In any instances involving a personal offense (*BCO* 29-3), the ~~court~~ Moderator  
21 of the court or his designee shall attempt to inform the offended person(s) of that  
22 part of the Confession the court deems pertinent to the offense against him or her.  
23 The ~~court~~ Moderator of the court or his designee shall invite the offended person  
24 to provide the court comment on the Confession prior to final approval of the  
25 Confession by the confessor and the court. The ~~court~~ Moderator of the court or  
26 his designee shall encourage the offended person to enlist the help of an advisor  
27 in preparing any such comments. In all such instances, the court shall report the  
28 way such offended persons were informed of the parts of the Confession pertinent  
29 to them.  
30

31 So that the amended paragraph would read:  
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33 In any instances involving a personal offense (*BCO* 29-3), the Moderator of  
34 the court or his designee shall attempt to inform the offended person(s) of that  
35 part of the Confession the court deems pertinent to the offense against him or her.  
36 The Moderator of the court or his designee shall invite the offended person to  
37 provide the court comment on the Confession prior to final approval of the  
38 Confession by the confessor and the court. The Moderator of the court or his  
39 designee shall encourage the offended person to enlist the help of an advisor in  
40 preparing any such comments. In all such instances, the court shall report the way  
41 such offended persons were informed of the parts of the Confession pertinent to  
42 them.  
43

44 *Adopted by the Great Lakes Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 11, 2025.*

45 *Attested by Ryan Potter, stated clerk*