

1 **OVERTURE 16** from Mississippi Valley Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 36-5 to Conform the Language to *BCO* 37-3 re Suspension from Office”
3

4 **Whereas** the censure of indefinite suspension is “administered to an accused who, upon
5 conviction, remains impenitent” (*BCO* 30-1), and is administered “until he exhibits
6 signs of repentance, or until by his conduct, the necessity of the greatest censure be
7 made manifest” (*BCO* 30-3), and
8

9 **Whereas** with respect to church officers, “suspension from Sacraments shall always be
10 accompanied by suspension from office. But suspension from office is not always
11 necessarily accompanied with suspension from Sacraments” (*BCO* 30-3), and
12

13 **Whereas** the language stipulated in *BCO* 36-5 to be used for the administration of the censure
14 of indefinite suspension does not address the case when an officer is indefinitely
15 suspended from his office but not from the Sacraments as clearly as it could, and
16

17 **Whereas** the language stipulated in *BCO* 37-3 to be used for the restoration of one who has
18 been indefinitely suspended more clearly addresses the case when an officer is
19 indefinitely suspended from his office but not from the Sacraments, and
20

21 **Whereas** there is wisdom in bringing the language of *BCO* 36-5 into conformity with the
22 language of *BCO* 37-3,
23

24 **Therefore, be it resolved** that *BCO* 36-5 be amended by adding “/or” to the word “and” in
25 “(and from the exercise of your office)” (underlining for additions):
26

27 **Whereas, you, _____ (here describe the person as a**
28 **teaching elder, ruling elder, deacon, or private member of the church) are**
29 **convicted by sufficient proof (or are guilty by your own confession) of the sin of**
30 **_____ (here insert the offense), we the _____**
31 **Presbytery (or Church Session) in the name and by the authority of the Lord**
32 **Jesus Christ, do now declare you suspended from the Sacraments of the Church**
33 **(and/or from the exercise of your office), until you give satisfactory evidence of**
34 **repentance.**
35

36 So that the amended section will read as follows:
37

38 **Whereas, you, _____ (here describe the person as a**
39 **teaching elder, ruling elder, deacon, or private member of the church) are**
40 **convicted by sufficient proof (or are guilty by your own confession) of the sin of**
41 **_____ (here insert the offense), we the _____**
42 **Presbytery (or Church Session) in the name and by the authority of the Lord**
43 **Jesus Christ, do now declare you suspended from the Sacraments of the Church**
44 **(and/or from the exercise of your office), until you give satisfactory evidence of**
45 **repentance.**

Overture 16, Mississippi Valley Presbytery

1

2 *Adopted by the Mississippi Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 4, 2025.*

3 *Attested by TE Chris Wright, stated clerk*