

1 **OVERTURE 25** from the Northwest Georgia Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
2 “Amend *BCO* 46-4 to Add a Class of Associate Membership for Honorably Retired  
3 TEs”  
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5 **Whereas** our current *BCO* 46-4 defines an associate member as those believers temporarily  
6 residing in a location other than their permanent homes;  
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8 **Whereas** the aim of this overture is pastoral and not for the purpose of changing our polity;  
9 or the needs of TEs called to works which are not to a local church. (Those differing  
10 calls as far as a defined relationship to a local church require a more complex study);  
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12 **Whereas** ministers of the gospel who have served the church well and received Honorably  
13 Retired (HR) status may need ongoing pastoral care and vital relationships that local  
14 churches can give but is not practical for Presbytery Shepherding committees or  
15 Pastoral Care Committee to implement. The pastoral care of an HR minister would be  
16 a good application of I Timothy 5:10 coupled with the charge of John 13:14 and more  
17 suitable for deacons and elders of a local church to tend to their needs, Paul’s  
18 Partnership with the Philippian church was vital to his wellbeing and sanctification.  
19 (Phil.1:1-4);  
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21 **Whereas** we already have a provision to assign ministers under discipline to a local church  
22 (*BCO* 46-8). We hold to two types of discipline, one being the regular preaching of  
23 the Word, and the other which is discipline for the unrepentant/repenting brother or  
24 sister. The assigning of an HR TE as an Associate member of a local church for what  
25 we describe as good discipline and retaining membership in a Presbytery would give  
26 to an HR what the *WCF* speaks of “so as to conduce to their mutual good, both in the  
27 inward and outward man... and saints are bound to maintain a holy fellowship and  
28 communion in the worship of God.” (*WCF* 26.1-2);  
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30 **Whereas** for an HR minister they may need to locate close to children and grandchildren for  
31 ongoing support and not be able to travel to Presbytery several times during the year.  
32 The gifted men on a church Session and diaconate may treat him and his wife  
33 pastorally (I Corinthians 12, Proverbs 24:17) without the awkwardness of an undefined  
34 relationship;  
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36 **Whereas** the HR minister should not have to give up his ministerial privileges and financial  
37 tax status by becoming demitted from the ministry to get care;  
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39 **Whereas** we have examples from Scripture of care given to aged leaders that resulted in  
40 mutual benefit from a close relationship: Moses & Joshua, David & his young men,  
41 Elijah & Elisha, Paul & Timothy, or the prophecy from Jesus (John 21:17b-19). In all  
42 these cases there was a close, local, and defined relationship;  
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44 **Therefore, be it resolved** that *BCO* 46-4 is amended as follows (underlining for additions;  
45 ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions):

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**46-4.** Associate members are of two kinds:

1. †Those believers temporarily residing in a location other than their permanent homes. Such believers may become associate members of a particular church without ceasing to be communicant members of their home churches.

2. A Teaching Elder in this Church that is Honorably Retired may continue to hold their membership with and are accountable to their Presbytery, and associate membership may be approved by both the Presbytery and the Session.

Every HR TE shall be a member of a Presbytery and have communicant fellowship in any PCA or NAPARC church. His Presbytery may request a Session to exercise pastoral care over him in its behalf. HR TEs may only vote at Presbytery or GA

An associate member shall have all the rights and privileges of that church, with the exception of voting in a congregational or corporation meeting, and holding an office in that church.

*Adopted by the Northwest Georgia Presbytery at its 57<sup>th</sup> stated meeting, April 1, 2025*  
*Attested by TE Robby Baxter, stated clerk*