

1 **OVERTURE 26** from the Northwest Georgia Presbytery (to OC, AC)  
2 “Erect Ad Interim Committee to Revise the Directory for Worship for Authoritative  
3 Use”  
4  
5 **Whereas** even prior to the establishment of constitutional documents in American  
6 Presbyterianism, American Presbyterians utilized the Westminster Form of  
7 Government and Directory for Public Worship, as adopted by the Synod of  
8 Philadelphia in 1729, thereby affirming the historic practice of ordering worship  
9 according to biblical and confessional principles;  
10  
11 **Whereas** all schisms within American Presbyterianism, including the Old Side–New Side  
12 division and the Old School–New School division, continued to use a Directory for  
13 Worship, demonstrating the enduring commitment to a biblically regulated and  
14 confessional approach to public worship;  
15  
16 **Whereas** in 1789, the newly organized Presbyterian Church in the United States of America  
17 (PCUSA) formally adopted a revised Directory for Worship, which was continued in  
18 usage throughout subsequent denominational developments, including the formation  
19 of the Presbyterian Church in the Confederate States (PCCSA) in 1861 and the  
20 Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) in 1865, and later maintained by the  
21 Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) as part of its *Book of Church Order* in 1973;  
22  
23 **Whereas** the *Westminster Confession of Faith* explicitly affirms that the Church has the  
24 authority to establish a Directory for Worship, provided that it commands only what  
25 is taught in Scripture and applies Christian prudence and the light of nature to  
26 circumstances of worship, as stated in *Westminster Confession of Faith* 1.6, 20.2, and  
27 31.3;  
28  
29 **Whereas** the Constitution is defined as including the Directory for Worship (Preface III, *BCO*  
30 26-1) with the *BCO* assuming the usefulness of the Directory for Worship; and  
31  
32 **Whereas** consideration of adopting a Directory for Worship was delayed at the First General  
33 Assembly until the Third General Assembly; and  
34  
35 **Whereas** the Third General Assembly placed a temporary preface to the Directory for  
36 Worship stating it “does not have the force of law” that was to be in place “until a  
37 more precise statement can be prepared by the Constitutional Documents Committee”;  
38 and  
39  
40 **Whereas** the Constitutional Documents Committee never finally reported and was dismissed  
41 in 1978; and  
42  
43 **Whereas** the 1980 General Assembly tasked the Permanent Committee on Judicial Business  
44 to re-write the Directory for Worship; and

1 **Whereas** these Committees failed to achieve the original goal of an authoritative Directory  
2 for Worship beyond chapters 56-58; and

3  
4 **Whereas** the Session is charged to order worship “in accordance with the Directory for  
5 Worship” in *BCO* 12-5.e; and

6  
7 **Whereas** the current Directory for Worship is greatly neglected due to its lack of  
8 constitutionality (except chapters 56, 57, 58, and section 59-3); and

9  
10 **Whereas** the current Directory for Worship is neglected due to being perceived as antiquated,  
11 or over-prescriptive; and

12  
13 **Whereas** a Directory for Worship gives needed guidance without the overprescription of a  
14 prayerbook, and

15  
16 **Whereas** our lack of an official Directory for Worship is unique and peculiar among orthodox  
17 and confessional Presbyterian denominations; and

18  
19 **Whereas** an updated Directory for Worship would be a great help to Sessions in ordering  
20 worship as well as a basis for biblical unity in the church (Ephesians 4); and

21  
22 **Whereas** Scripture commands the worship of God (Psalm 95:6, Psalm 100, Psalm 122:1, John  
23 4:24, Hebrews 12:22-24, Revelation 4:8, 19:10), and that the believers ought to  
24 worship in a decent and orderly manner (1 Corinthians 14:40),

25  
26 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the Northwest Georgia Presbytery hereby overtures the 52<sup>nd</sup>  
27 General Assembly to

- 28  
29 1. Form an ad hoc committee to finish the work of revising the “Directory for the  
30 Worship of God” not yet given full authority, in accordance with Scripture and the  
31 *Westminster Standards*, for authoritative use in the Presbyterian Church in America  
32 (PCA) according to the rules of the *Book of Church Order*,
- 33 a. Utilizing the various NAPARC denominations’ Directories of Public Worship  
34 as a guide
  - 35 b. Including Scriptural and confessional References
  - 36 c. Present various chapters to the General Assembly for adoption until their  
37 work is complete
- 38  
39 2. Authorize the Moderator to appoint the seven voting members of this Committee, per  
40 *RAO* 9-4 and *RAO* 19-1 (Robert’s Rules, RONR, 11th ed., pp. 174-175, pp. 495-496,  
41 and p. 579).
- 42  
43 a. These members shall be PCA teaching elders, or PCA ruling elders, and the  
44 Committee shall include at least three of each. (Anyone may suggest names

1                   to the Moderator.) The Moderator to make his appointments after the  
2                   Assembly adjourns

3                   b. The Stated Clerk shall serve as a non-voting advisor of the committee.  
4

5                   3. Committee budget shall be \$15,000. This expense shall be included in the  
6                   Administrative Committee budget. Presbyteries, churches, and individuals are highly  
7                   encouraged to contribute funds to the AC, designated for this work.  
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*Adopted by the Northwest Georgia Presbytery at its 57<sup>th</sup> stated meeting, April 1, 2025*

11 *Attested by TE Robby Baxter, stated clerk*