

1 **OVERTURE 33** from the TE Fred Greco (to CCB, OC)

2 “Amend *BCO 57-2* re the Examination of Young Persons for Admission to the Sealing
3 Ordinances”

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5 **Be it resolved** that *BCO 57-2* be amended as follows (underlining for additions):

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7 **57-2.** The time when young persons come to understand the Gospel cannot be
8 precisely fixed. This must be left to the prudence of the Session, whose office it is to
9 judge, after careful examination, the qualifications of those who apply for admission
10 to sealing ordinances. The examination shall include an evaluation of the young
11 person’s credible profession of faith, the young person’s understanding of the meaning
12 of the Lord’s Supper, and the young person’s understanding of the questions in *BCO*
13 *57-5*.

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15 So that *BCO 57-2* as amended would read:

16
17 **57-2.** The time when young persons come to understand the Gospel cannot be
18 precisely fixed. This must be left to the prudence of the Session, whose office it is to
19 judge, after careful examination, the qualifications of those who apply for admission
20 to sealing ordinances. The examination shall include an evaluation of the young
21 person’s credible profession of faith, the young person’s understanding of the meaning
22 of the Lord’s Supper, and the young person’s understanding of the questions in *BCO*
23 *57-5*.

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25 **RATIONALE:**

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27 Current *BCO 57-2* properly highlights the fact that examining a young person for membership
28 is an inexact matter. There is no mandatory age for admission to sealing ordinances. Sessions
29 have discretion to use “prudence” in their examinations and the admission of young persons
30 to sealing ordinances.

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32 Guidance as to what would be the minimal elements of such an examination would be helpful
33 for Sessions, as well as reminding Sessions that such elements are mandatory: hence the
34 “shall” in the proposed language.

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36 This language is also a helpful companion to the proposed changes to *BCO 20-3, 24-3* and *25-*
37 *1* in Overture 22. Concerns that a young person would be more readily admitted to sealing
38 ordinances without sufficient understanding because he could be prohibited from voting on
39 various matters (e.g., a pastoral call) would be relieved by the explicit setting forth of the
40 content of the examination of young persons.

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43 *Rejected by Houston Metro Presbytery at its stated meeting on April 14, 2025*
44 *Attested by RE /s/ Eric Manthei, stated clerk*