

1 **OVERTURE 37** from the Southeast Alabama Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 12-3 so that a Session May Elect One of Its Members as Moderator in
3 Judicial Cases”
4

5 **Be it resolved** that *BCO* 12-3 is amended as follows (underlining for additions; ~~strikethrough~~
6 for deletions):
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8 **12-3.** When a church is without a pastor, the moderator of the Session may be
9 either a minister appointed for that purpose by the Presbytery, with consent of
10 the Session, or one invited by the Session to preside on a particular occasion,
11 or one of its own members elected to preside. In judicial cases, the Session may
12 elect one of its members to preside as moderator ~~shall be a~~ or invite a minister
13 of the Presbytery to which the church belongs to preside as moderator.
14

15 So that *BCO* 12-3 as amended would read:
16

17 **12-3.** When a church is without a pastor, the moderator of the Session may be
18 either a minister appointed for that purpose by the Presbytery, with consent of
19 the Session, or one invited by the Session to preside on a particular occasion,
20 or one of its own members elected to preside. In judicial cases, the Session may
21 elect one of its members to preside as moderator or invite a minister of the
22 Presbytery to which the church belongs to preside as moderator.
23

24 **RATIONALE:**
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26 Sessions should have discretion to elect a moderator in judicial cases. Some Sessions may
27 have ruling elders who are highly experienced in church discipline and cases of process, and
28 they should have the liberty to elect such a ruling elder to preside. In instances where this is
29 not the case, the revised provision retains the right of the Session to invite a minister of the
30 Presbytery to preside.
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33 *Adopted by the Southeast Alabama Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 22, 2025*

34 *Attested by TE Kevin Corley, stated clerk*