

OVERTURE 49 from the Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to OC, AC, CC, CDM, CTS,
“Erect an Ad Interim Committee on AI” Geneva, MNA, MTW, PCAF, RH, RUF)

Be it resolved that the General Assembly erect a study committee of seven members, consisting of teaching or ruling elders, with an annual budget of \$15,000 (funded by gifts to the Administrative Committee), tasked to:

- a. Write a report by the 54th General Assembly (June 2027) on the teaching of Scripture and the *Westminster Standards*, with a particular reference to our anthropology (*WCF* 4, 7) and ecclesiology (*WCF* 25), and suggest general principles for the use or limits of artificial intelligence technology (AI) in the Church;
- b. Then apply these general principles to the following suggested areas:
 - i. *Pastoral Ministry*: AI use in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care
 - ii. *Church Administration*: AI use in local churches, Presbyteries, and the General Assembly, also addressing security concerns
 - iii. *Church Discipline*: suggest criteria for assessing AI-generated evidence in church courts, especially in disciplinary cases
 - iv. *Christian Vocation and Diaconal Ministry*: a Reformed approach to work and service amid AI-driven changes in the workplace and economy, with diaconal strategies for affected church members
 - v. *Christian Education*: implications for PCA institutions (e.g., Covenant College, Covenant Seminary), especially on education philosophy and practice
 - vi. *Medical Ethics*: boundaries for AI use in medical practice with particular emphasis in recovering natural function vs. enhancing human ability beyond natural limitations
 - vii. *Evangelism and Apologetics*: strategies to proclaim the gospel and encourage Christian discipleship in contrast to AI-influenced ideologies (i.e., transhumanism, etc.)
 - viii. *Ethical Issues*: copyrighted materials illicitly used to train AIs; the impact of over-use of energy and water by server farms on poor communities; the use of AI to create simulated relationship and pornography
 - ix. Any other significant applications the committee finds during this study.
- c. Consult theological, technical, or legal specialists as needed to aid in this study
- d. Propose amendments to the *Book of Church Order (BCO)* or changes to agency policies, if warranted by their findings.

Be it further resolved that all General Assembly permanent committees, commissions, and agencies submit a report to the study committee within six months (December 31, 2025) specifying their current and proposed AI usage to help inform the study

1 committee, and include that report in their annual reports to the 53th General Assembly
2 (June 2026).
3

4 **Rationale**

5 The revolutionary character of artificial intelligence technology (AI) is already having
6 an inevitable impact on every aspect of society and therefore on the Church and individual
7 Christian living. AI presents opportunities and challenges requiring a serious engagement
8 grounded within our confessional heritage. Scripture and our Standards affirm God's
9 sovereignty over all creation, the sufficiency of Scripture to guide to our faith and practice,
10 and our call to exercise dominion with wisdom, which includes taking responsibility for
11 technological innovations and their intended or unintended effects. AI's growing influence is
12 wide-reaching, ranging from sermon or educational preparation tools to major career
13 realignments to potential "deepfake" evidence, and many other areas. It impacts pastoral and
14 church ministry, Christian vocation and education, apologetic confrontations with new
15 ideologies, significant impacts on the quality of human relationships, and other ethical and
16 theological questions that need attention. There is a serious risk of losing critical thinking,
17 knowledge, and wisdom as such skills are surrendered to AI. The PCA must shepherd its
18 members and proclaim the gospel faithfully amidst these rapid changes, and a modest
19 investment of \$15,000 annually can enable a study to help the Church with a biblical guide
20 for their Christian witness under these new conditions.
21
22

23 *Adopted by the Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 9, 2025*

24 *Attested by TE Jerid Krulish, stated clerk*