

1 **OVERTURE 17** from the Westminster Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 5-2 Regarding the Dissolution of Mission Churches”
3

4 **Whereas**, *BCO* 13-10 expressly requires a Presbytery to give at least sixty (60) days’ notice
5 before the dissolution of a local church, allowing the congregation either to request
6 withdrawal through the proper channels of Chapter 25 or to petition the Presbytery;
7 and
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9 **Whereas**, *BCO* 25-10 expressly prohibits any officer or court from attempting to secure
10 possession of the property of any congregation against its will; and
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12 **Whereas**, these rights are protected in other portions of the *BCO*, and adding specific
13 references to them, together with requiring Presbyteries to follow the procedures
14 clearly laid out, can help safeguard the rights of congregations, ensuring their
15 fundamental protections against misuse of authority by higher courts; and
16

17 **Whereas**, the current *BCO* 5-2 stipulates that church members should be enrolled and cared
18 for according to the procedures of *BCO* 13-10, yet it does not require the sixty (60)
19 days’ notice, nor does it reference the prohibition found in *BCO* 25-10;
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21 **Therefore**, Westminster Presbytery overtures the 53rd General Assembly to amend *BCO* 5-
22 2.c by the additions that are underlined below.
23

24 Should it become necessary, the Presbytery may dissolve the mission church
25 according to the procedures of *BCO* 13-10 and *BCO* 25-10. Church members
26 enrolled should be cared for according to the procedures of *BCO* 13-10.
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28 So that the amended *BCO* 5-2.c would read:
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30 Should it become necessary, the Presbytery may dissolve the mission church
31 according to the procedures of *BCO* 13-10 and *BCO* 25-10. Church members
32 enrolled should be cared for according to the procedures of *BCO* 13-10.
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35 *Adopted by Westminster Presbytery at its stated meeting, November 8th, 2025*

36 *Attested by /s/ TE Thomas E. Rickard, Stated Clerk*