

1 **OVERTURE 18** from the Westminster Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 5-4 to Allow a Mother Church to Call a Church Planter”
3

4 **Whereas**, *BCO* 5-2 states that ordinarily mission churches are established by presbyteries,
5 and *BCO* 5-3 expresses the transitional nature of mission churches, providing for a
6 temporary form of government and allowing for a Session of a particular church in a
7 mother–daughter relationship with the mission church; and
8

9 **Whereas**, *BCO* 5-4 specifies the origins from which the pastoral ministry for a mission church
10 may be supplied, currently allowing only for the calling of a pastor through the
11 Presbytery’s action, with pastoral service in a mission church dependent upon such a
12 call; and
13

14 **Whereas**, the mother–daughter model of church planting has proven highly successful within
15 the PCA, and the relationship between the mother church and the daughter church
16 often includes the use of a pastor who has previously served in some capacity at the
17 mother church (for example, through a residency or other position); and
18

19 **Whereas**, *BCO* Chapter 5 makes clear that mission churches are established by Presbyteries,
20 but also recognizes that pastoral ministry may originate from various sources—either
21 through Presbytery, through stated supply, or through qualified preachers approved by
22 the temporary government; and
23

24 **Whereas**, *BCO* 5-4 does not presently allow for the session of a mother church to issue a call
25 to a church planter, even though in most cases the majority of funding for the mission
26 church originates from the mother church;
27

28 **Therefore**, Westminster Presbytery overtures the 53rd General Assembly to amend *BCO* 5-4
29 to allow assistant pastors to serve in mission churches, permitting the call to
30 originate from a mother church, with such a call still requiring the approval of
31 Presbytery. *BCO* 5-4 would be amended as follows (underlining for additions;
32 ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions):
33

34 **5-4.** Pastoral ministry for the mission church may be provided:

- 35 a. by a minister of the Presbytery called by Presbytery to serve as pastor,
36 or
- 37 b. by a minister of the Presbytery called by a Session of the ‘mother’
38 church to serve as pastor (*BCO* 5-2.a.ii and *BCO* 5-3.b), or
39 ~~bc.~~ by stated, student, or ruling elder supply (*BCO* 22-5, -6), or
40 ~~ed.~~ by a series of qualified preachers approved by the temporary
41 government (*BCO* 12-5.e).
42

43 So that the amended *BCO* 5-4 would read:
44

45 **5-4.** Pastoral ministry for the mission church may be provided:

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- 1 a. by a minister of the Presbytery called by Presbytery to serve as pastor,
- 2 or
- 3 b. by a minister of the Presbytery called by a Session of the ‘mother’
- 4 church to serve as pastor (*BCO* 5-2.a.ii and *BCO* 5-3.b), or
- 5 c. by stated, student, or ruling elder supply (*BCO* 22-5, -6), or
- 6 d. by a series of qualified preachers approved by the temporary
- 7 government (*BCO* 12-5.e).
- 8
- 9

10 *Adopted by Westminster Presbytery at its stated meeting, November 8th, 2025*

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