

1 **OVERTURE 2025-49** from the Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to OC, AC, CC, CDM, CTS,
2 “Erect an Ad Interim Committee on AI” Geneva, MNA, MTW, PCAF, RH, RUF)

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4 **THE 52nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY REFERRED THIS OVERTURE**
5 **TO THE 53rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY**
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7 **Be it resolved** that the General Assembly erect a study committee of seven members,
8 consisting of teaching or ruling elders, with an annual budget of \$15,000 (funded by
9 gifts to the Administrative Committee), tasked to:

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11 a. Write a report by the 54th General Assembly (June 2027) on the teaching of
12 Scripture and the *Westminster Standards*, with a particular reference to our
13 anthropology (*WCF* 4, 7) and ecclesiology (*WCF* 25), and suggest general
14 principles for the use or limits of artificial intelligence technology (AI) in the
15 Church;
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17 b. Then apply these general principles to the following suggested areas:
18 i. *Pastoral Ministry*: AI use in preaching, teaching, and pastoral care
19 ii. *Church Administration*: AI use in local churches, Presbyteries, and the
20 General Assembly, also addressing security concerns
21 iii. *Church Discipline*: suggest criteria for assessing AI-generated evidence in
22 church courts, especially in disciplinary cases
23 iv. *Christian Vocation and Diaconal Ministry*: a Reformed approach to work
24 and service amid AI-driven changes in the workplace and economy, with
25 diaconal strategies for affected church members
26 v. *Christian Education*: implications for PCA institutions (e.g., Covenant
27 College, Covenant Seminary), especially on education philosophy and
28 practice
29 vi. *Medical Ethics*: boundaries for AI use in medical practice with particular
30 emphasis in recovering natural function vs. enhancing human ability beyond
31 natural limitations
32 vii. *Evangelism and Apologetics*: strategies to proclaim the gospel and encourage
33 Christian discipleship in contrast to AI-influenced ideologies (i.e.,
34 transhumanism, etc.)
35 viii. *Ethical Issues*: copyrighted materials illicitly used to train AIs; the impact of
36 over-use of energy and water by server farms on poor communities; the use
37 of AI to create simulated relationship and pornography
38 ix. Any other significant applications the committee finds during this study.
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40 c. Consult theological, technical, or legal specialists as needed to aid in this study
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42 d. Propose amendments to the *Book of Church Order (BCO)* or changes to agency
43 policies, if warranted by their findings.
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1 **Be it further resolved** that all General Assembly permanent committees, commissions, and
2 agencies submit a report to the study committee within six months (December 31,
3 2025) specifying their current and proposed AI usage to help inform the study
4 committee, and include that report in their annual reports to the 53th General Assembly
5 (June 2026).
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7 **Rationale**

8 The revolutionary character of artificial intelligence technology (AI) is already having
9 an inevitable impact on every aspect of society and therefore on the Church and individual
10 Christian living. AI presents opportunities and challenges requiring a serious engagement
11 grounded within our confessional heritage. Scripture and our Standards affirm God’s
12 sovereignty over all creation, the sufficiency of Scripture to guide to our faith and practice,
13 and our call to exercise dominion with wisdom, which includes taking responsibility for
14 technological innovations and their intended or unintended effects. AI’s growing influence is
15 wide-reaching, ranging from sermon or educational preparation tools to major career
16 realignments to potential “deepfake” evidence, and many other areas. It impacts pastoral and
17 church ministry, Christian vocation and education, apologetic confrontations with new
18 ideologies, significant impacts on the quality of human relationships, and other ethical and
19 theological questions that need attention. There is a serious risk of losing critical thinking,
20 knowledge, and wisdom as such skills are surrendered to AI. The PCA must shepherd its
21 members and proclaim the gospel faithfully amidst these rapid changes, and a modest
22 investment of \$15,000 annually can enable a study to help the Church with a biblical guide
23 for their Christian witness under these new conditions.
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26 *Adopted by the Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 9, 2025*

27 *Attested by TE Jerid Krulish, stated clerk*