

1 **OVERTURE 24** from the Westminster Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 15-2 to Clarify that Presbytery Itself Must Conduct Ordination Exams”
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4 **Whereas**, *BCO* 15-2 sets forth the limits of what a commission may do, stating that if an
5 ordination is to be carried out by a commission, the Presbytery is required to conduct
6 the previous examination; and
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8 **Whereas**, this wording does not explicitly prohibit a commission from conducting the entire
9 examination for a candidate for ordination; and
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11 **Whereas**, the examination for ordination is a significant responsibility of the Presbytery, and
12 it is important that the Presbytery itself conduct and sustain the trials required for
13 ordination; and
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15 **Whereas**, the current language could be clarified to ensure that the full ordination examination
16 is conducted before the Presbytery itself, while still permitting committees to conduct
17 thorough preliminary examinations;
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19 **Therefore**, Westminster Presbytery overtures the 53rd General Assembly to amend *BCO* 15-
20 2 to read (underlining for additions; ~~striketrough~~ for deletions):
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22 ~~When the ordination of a minister is committed to a commission, the Presbytery~~
23 ~~itself shall conduct the previous examination. Presbytery shall always conduct the~~
24 final trials of examination for ordination. A committee of Presbytery may conduct
25 preliminary examinations, but the examination required for ordination must be
26 sustained before the Presbytery itself.
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28 So that the amended *BCO* 15-2 would read:
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30 **15-2.** Among the matters that may be properly executed by commissions are the
31 taking of the testimony in judicial cases, the ordination of ministers, the
32 installation of ministers, the visitation of portions of the church affected with
33 disorder, and the organization of new churches.
34

35 Every commission appointed by Presbytery shall consist of at least two teaching
36 elders and two ruling elders, and the quorum shall be one more than half its
37 membership unless otherwise determined by the Presbytery. However, should a
38 Presbytery clothe a commission with judicial powers and authority to conduct
39 judicial process, or with power to ordain or install a teaching elder of the Gospel,
40 the quorum of such commission shall not be less than two teaching elders and two
41 ruling elders. The quorum for a commission appointed as an interim session need
42 not conform to the requirements of a judicial commission, but only to those of a
43 session (*BCO* 12-1). Presbytery shall always conduct the final trials of
44 examination for ordination. A committee of Presbytery may conduct preliminary

1 examinations, but the examination required for ordination must be sustained
2 before the Presbytery itself.

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

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