

1 **OVERTURE 26** from the Westminster Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
2 “Amend *BCO* 26-2 to Only Count Presbyteries Who Submit Votes”  
3

4 **Whereas**, the *Book of Church Order* currently requires “the advice and consent of two-thirds  
5 (2/3) of the Presbyteries” for certain actions; and  
6

7 **Whereas**, under *Robert’s Rules of Order*, abstentions are not counted in the total vote, only  
8 votes actually cast are considered (RONR § 44:3); and  
9

10 **Whereas**, a Presbytery that fails to submit a vote is not abstaining but is absent, and counting  
11 such Presbyteries in the total would effectively treat their silence as a “no” vote; and  
12

13 **Whereas**, if a Presbytery desires to have its voice heard on a proposed action, the best way to  
14 accomplish this is to cast a vote rather than remain silent; and  
15

16 **Whereas**, if a Presbytery fails to submit its vote and later desires to cast it, the General  
17 Assembly may defer the action for one year (*BCO* 26-6); and  
18

19 **Whereas**, fairness and sound parliamentary procedure require that the two-thirds calculation  
20 be based only on Presbyteries that officially submit their vote;  
21

22 **Therefore**, Westminster Presbytery overtures the 53<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly to amend *BCO* 26-  
23 2.2 to specify that the two-thirds (2/3) requirement applies only to Presbyteries that  
24 submit their vote prior to the convening of the next General Assembly (underlining for  
25 additions):  
26

27 2. The advice and consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the voting Presbyteries.  
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29 *Adopted by the Westminster Presbytery at its stated meeting, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025.*

30 *Attested by /s/ TE Thomas E. Rickard, Stated Clerk*  
31