

1 **OVERTURE 34** from the Savannah River Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 9-2 Regarding the Expectation of the Establishment of a Diaconate”
3

4 **Whereas**, the floor debate at the 52nd General Assembly revealed there is some confusion
5 within the Presbyterian Church in America about whether a diaconate ought
6 ordinarily to be established; and,
7

8 **Whereas**, the difference in practice regarding the diaconate is causing tension among the
9 brothers in the PCA,
10

11 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 53rd General Assembly of the PCA amend the *Book of*
12 *Church Order* 9-2 as follows (~~strike through~~ for deletions, underlining for additions):
13

14 **9-2.** It is the duty of the deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to
15 the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the
16 grace of liberality in the members of the church, to devise effective methods of
17 collecting the gifts of the people, and to distribute these gifts among the objects to
18 which they are contributed. They shall have the care of the property of the
19 congregation, both real and personal, and shall keep in proper repair the church
20 edifice and other buildings belonging to the congregation. In matters of special
21 importance affecting the property of the church, they cannot take final action without
22 the approval of the Session and consent of the congregation.
23

24 In the discharge of their duties the deacons are under the supervision and authority
25 of the Session. In a church in which it is impossible ~~for any reason to secure deacons,~~
26 to secure the appointment of a sufficient number of Deacons due to the absence of
27 spiritually qualified men (*BCO* 9-3), the duties of the office shall devolve upon the
28 ruling elders, and not upon unordained persons within the church.
29

30 So that the amended passage would read:
31

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33 the friendless, and to any who may be in distress. It is their duty also to develop the
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39 importance affecting the property of the church, they cannot take final action without
40 the approval of the Session and consent of the congregation.
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42 In the discharge of their duties the deacons are under the supervision and authority
43 of the Session. In a church in which it is impossible to secure the appointment of a
44 sufficient number of Deacons due to the absence of spiritually qualified men (*BCO*
45 9-3), the duties of the office shall devolve upon the ruling elders, and not upon

1 unordained persons within the church.

2

3 *Adopted by the Savannah River Presbytery at its stated meeting, October 21, 2025*

4 *Attested by RE W. Glynn Dyer, Stated Clerk*