

1 **OVERTURE 49** from the Northwest Georgia Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
2 “Amend *BCO* 13-1 and 14-2 to Increase Ruling Elder Representation at Presbytery  
3 and GA”  
4

5 **Whereas**, the Presbyterian Church in America professes that there are only two offices in the  
6 Church, and that there is parity between the “teaching” and “ruling” elder orders of  
7 the first office (*BCO* 7-1),  
8

9 **Whereas**, “The Concerned Presbyterians” played an important part of the founding of our  
10 denomination and were concerned, among other things, with the decline in ruling elder  
11 participation at the presbytery and General Assembly levels,  
12

13 **Whereas**, ruling elder participation at the PCA’s first General Assembly in 1973 was 54  
14 percent of the Assembly (Zoe S. Erler for byFaith, February 27, 2018),  
15

16 **Whereas**, ruling elder participation has declined since and has remained around 20-30 percent  
17 of the General Assembly in recent years and this proposed amendment seeks to  
18 provide for increased RE participation without mandating additional expenses or  
19 affecting other balances,  
20

21 **Whereas**, a substantial increase in participation by additional ruling elders would  
22 correspondingly result in a substantial increase in revenue for the PCA Administrative  
23 Committee,  
24

25 **Therefore be it resolved** that *BCO* 13-1 & 14-2 be amended as follows (underlining  
26 for additions; ~~striketrough~~ for deletions):  
27

28 **BCO 13-1.**

29 **13-1.** The Presbytery consists of all the teaching elders and churches  
30 within its bounds that have been accepted by the Presbytery. When the  
31 Presbytery meets as a court it shall comprise all teaching elders and  
32 ruling elders as elected by their Session. Each congregation is entitled  
33 to ~~two~~ ~~(2)~~ three (3) ruling elder representatives for the first 350  
34 communing members or fraction thereof, and one additional ruling  
35 elder for each additional 500 communing members or fraction thereof.  
36

37 **BCO 14-2.**

38 **14-2.** The General Assembly, which is a permanent court, shall meet at  
39 least annually upon its own adjournment. It shall consist of all teaching  
40 elders in good standing with their Presbyteries, and ruling elders as  
41 elected by their Session. Each congregation is entitled to ~~two~~ three  
42 ruling elder representatives for the first 350 communing members or  
43 fraction thereof, and one additional ruling elder for each additional 500  
44 communing members or fraction thereof.  
45

1 So that if adopted the amended paragraphs would read:  
2

3 **13-1.** The Presbytery consists of all the teaching elders and churches  
4 within its bounds that have been accepted by the Presbytery. When the  
5 Presbytery meets as a court it shall comprise all teaching elders and  
6 ruling elders as elected by their Session. Each congregation is entitled  
7 to three (3) ruling elder representatives for the first 350 communing  
8 members or fraction thereof, and one additional ruling elder for each  
9 additional 500 communing members or fraction thereof.  
10

11 **14-2.** The General Assembly, which is a permanent court, shall meet at  
12 least annually upon its own adjournment. It shall consist of all teaching  
13 elders in good standing with their Presbyteries, and ruling elders as  
14 elected by their Session. Each congregation is entitled to three ruling  
15 elder representatives for the first 350 communing members or fraction  
16 thereof, and one additional ruling elder for each additional 500  
17 communing members or fraction thereof.  
18  
19

20 *Adopted by the Northwest Georgia Presbytery at its 59<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting, January 17, 2026*

21 *Attested by TE Robby Baxter, Stated Clerk*