

1 **OVERTURE 57** from the South Texas Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 12-7, 13-9, and 25-5 to Explicitly Require Minutes of Congregational
3 Meetings Be Included in Session Records”
4

5 **Whereas**, *BCO* 25-11 requires church bylaws to conform to the Constitution of the PCA; and
6

7 **Whereas**, congregational meetings must be conducted in conformity to our Constitution
8 (*BCO* 25); and
9

10 **Whereas**, church congregations make important decisions in congregational meetings,
11 including elections of officers and pastors (*BCO* 20 and 24); and
12

13 **Whereas**, the Committee on Constitutional Business received a non-judicial reference
14 requesting guidance on whether congregational meeting minutes are required to be
15 submitted to Presbyteries; and
16

17 **Whereas**, the Committee on Constitutional Business could only answer by saying “it is *clear*
18 *by implication* that such records must be maintained” [emphasis added] with regards
19 to congregational meeting minutes; and
20

21 **Whereas**, the constitutional definition of “records” does not explicitly include congregational
22 meeting minutes; and
23

24 **Whereas**, the Standing Judicial Commission in Case No. 2021-12: *Complaint of Christian*
25 *Michelson and Stuart Michelson v. Northwest Georgia Presbytery* has stated that a
26 “Presbytery could take note of a Constitutional deficiency in a congregational meeting
27 in their review of the records of the Session (note *BCO* 25-5, last sentence and *BCO*
28 13-9(b))” (*M49GA*, 2022, 822–825, 823); and
29

30 **Whereas**, it would benefit Sessions and Presbyteries to make this practice explicit;
31

32 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 53rd General Assembly amend *BCO* 12-7, 13-9.b, and 25-
33 5 as follows (~~strikethrough~~ for deletions, underlining for additions):
34

35 **12-7.** Every Session shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings and the
36 proceedings of congregational meetings, which record shall be submitted at least once
37 in every year to the inspection of the Presbytery.
38

39 **13-9.b.** To review the records of church Sessions (including minutes of congregational
40 meetings), redress whatever they may have done contrary to order and take effectual
41 care that they observe the Constitution of the Church;
42

43 **25-5.** A clerk shall be elected by the congregation to serve at that meeting or for a
44 definite period, whose duty shall be to keep correct minutes of the proceedings and of
45 all business transacted and to preserve these minutes in a permanent form, after they

1 have been attested by the moderator and the clerk of the meeting. He shall also send
2 a copy of these minutes to the Session of the church to be included in the record of the
3 church Session.

4
5 So that the amended passages would read:

6
7 **12-7.** Every Session shall keep an accurate record of its proceedings and the
8 proceedings of congregational meetings, which record shall be submitted at least once
9 in every year to the inspection of the Presbytery.

10
11 **13-9.b.** To review the records of church Sessions (including minutes of congregational
12 meetings), redress whatever they may have done contrary to order and take effectual
13 care that they observe the Constitution of the Church;

14
15 **25-5.** A clerk shall be elected by the congregation to serve at that meeting or for a
16 definite period, whose duty shall be to keep correct minutes of the proceedings and of
17 all business transacted and to preserve these minutes in a permanent form, after they
18 have been attested by the moderator and the clerk of the meeting. He shall also send
19 a copy of these minutes to the Session of the church to be included in the record of the
20 church Session.

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23 *Adopted by the South Texas Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 31, 2026*

24 *Attested by RE Barry McBee, Stated Clerk*