

1 **OVERTURE 59** from the Calvary Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 38-3.a. to Recognize the Non-Punitive Removal of Individuals from
3 Membership Roll”
4

5 **Whereas**, an individual church member may request to dissolve his church membership
6 immediately; and,
7

8 **Whereas**, not all such requests for dissolution of membership are directly related to judicial
9 matters, or indicative of an individual’s intent not to fulfil the terms of his membership
10 vows in some “branch of the Visible Church” (*BCO* 2-2); and,
11

12 **Whereas**, an individual may develop or clarify some conscientious objection to the doctrine
13 or practice of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) as a whole, or one of the
14 PCA’s constituent courts in particular; and,
15

16 **Whereas**, the current mechanisms available to Sessions for granting an individual church
17 member’s request to withdraw from church membership as found in *BCO* 38-3 and
18 38-4 do not make explicit allowance for such situations; and,
19

20 **Whereas**, the only mechanism available to Sessions to act on such a request in a non-punitive
21 fashion (*BCO* 38-3.a.) requires that the church member seeking to withdraw also
22 indicate “his new membership” in a different church recognized as being a “branch of
23 the visible Church”; and,
24

25 **Whereas**, the only mechanisms available to Sessions to act on such a request when the church
26 member seeking to withdraw does not indicate “his new membership” in a different
27 church recognized as being a “branch of the visible Church” are strictly punitive and
28 disciplinary in nature, albeit as cases without process (*BCO* 38-3.b., 38-4);
29

30 **Therefore, be it resolved** that Calvary Presbytery hereby overtures the 53rd General
31 Assembly to amend *BCO* 38-3.a. to allow for and recognize the non-punitive removal
32 of members from membership rolls so that the amended section will read as follows
33 (underlining for addition):
34

35 **38-3.**
36 **a.** When a member or officer in the Presbyterian Church in America shall attempt
37 to withdraw from the communion of this branch of the visible Church by affiliating
38 with some other branch (*BCO* 2-2) or by communicating his intent to affiliate with
39 some other branch, if at the time of the attempt to withdraw he is in good standing, the
40 irregularity shall be recorded, his new membership or intentions acknowledged, and
41 his name removed from the roll. But if at the time of the attempt to withdraw there is
42 a record of an investigation in process (*BCO* 31-2), or there are charges (*BCO* 32-3)
43 concerning the member or minister, the court of original jurisdiction may retain his
44 name on the roll and conduct the case, communicating the outcome upon completion
45 of the proceedings to that member or minister. If the court does not conduct the case,

1 his new membership or intentions shall be acknowledged, his name removed from the
2 roll, and, at the request of the receiving branch, the matters under investigation or the
3 charges shall be communicated to them.
4

5 So that the amended passage would read:
6

7 **38-3.**

8 **a.** When a member or officer in the Presbyterian Church in America shall attempt
9 to withdraw from the communion of this branch of the visible Church by affiliating
10 with some other branch (*BCO 2-2*) or by communicating his intent to affiliate with
11 some other branch, if at the time of the attempt to withdraw he is in good standing, the
12 irregularity shall be recorded, his new membership or intentions acknowledged, and
13 his name removed from the roll. But if at the time of the attempt to withdraw there is
14 a record of an investigation in process (*BCO 31-2*), or there are charges (*BCO 32-3*)
15 concerning the member or minister, the court of original jurisdiction may retain his
16 name on the roll and conduct the case, communicating the outcome upon completion
17 of the proceedings to that member or minister. If the court does not conduct the case,
18 his new membership or intentions shall be acknowledged, his name removed from the
19 roll, and, at the request of the receiving branch, the matters under investigation or the
20 charges shall be communicated to them.
21

22 *Adopted by Calvary Presbytery at its stated meeting of February 7, 2026*

23 *Attested by /s/ RE Melton L. Duncan, Stated Clerk*