

1 **OVERTURE 60** from the Calvary Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 58-5 to Specify that Only Men Lawfully Ordained Shall Distribute the
3 Elements”
4

5 **Whereas**, the *Westminster Confession of Faith* (WCF 29.3) and the *Westminster Larger*
6 *Catechism* (WLC 169, 173, 176) as adopted by the Presbyterian Church in America
7 (PCA), together with various denominational declarations of the PCA (and its faithful
8 historical antecedents), consistently and univocally affirm that the Lord’s Supper is to
9 be administered by ministers of the Word and Sacrament, and that the keys of the
10 Kingdom of Heaven, together with the sacraments, are entrusted by Christ to the elders
11 He has appointed in His church (Matt. 16:19); and,
12

13 **Whereas**, the role of the local Session in church discipline pertains directly to the serving of
14 the Supper (*BCO* 30-3; see also, WCF 30.1-4); and,
15

16 **Whereas**, it is the responsibility of the Session to admit persons to the sealing ordinance of
17 the Lord’s Supper (*BCO* 12-5.a; 57), not only upon their initial admission but
18 throughout their walk, ensuring that members partake in a worthy manner, so as not to
19 eat and drink judgment to themselves (1 Cor. 11:27-32); and,
20

21 **Whereas**, the standards and practice of historic Presbyterianism have never delegated to non-
22 ordained persons the administration of the Lord’s Supper or the distribution of the
23 elements (e.g., Scots Confession of 1560, Ch. 22); and,
24

25 **Whereas**, Presbyterians have historically passed the elements while seated, recognizing that
26 the minister administers the sacrament from a visible place before the congregation,
27 and the elders of the congregation serve the congregation by distributing the elements
28 in a decent and orderly fashion; and,
29

30 **Whereas**, the appointment or designation of non-ordained persons to stand with or alongside
31 the minister to serve the Supper confuses the general office of believer (e.g., Exod.
32 19:6; 2 Peter 2:4-10) with the ordained office of elder (e.g., Exod. 18:21; 19:7; 1 Tim.
33 3:1; 4:14; 2 Tim. 2:15; Titus 1:5-9); and,
34

35 **Whereas**, there is no positive scriptural warrant for non-ordained persons to distribute and
36 serve the elements of the Lord’s Supper such that the historic Presbyterian practice
37 must be corrected; and,
38

39 **Whereas**, the Directory for the Worship of God specifies that “the elders in a convenient place
40 together” be positioned when the minister consecrates the elements of the Lord’s
41 Supper (*BCO* 58-5), indicating that it is the elders’ responsibility to oversee and
42 conduct the distribution of the Lord’s Supper;
43

44 **Therefore, be it resolved** that Calvary Presbytery hereby overtures the 53rd General
45 Assembly to amend *BCO* 58-5 to specify that only lawfully ordained officers are to

1 distribute the elements of the Lord’s Supper to the congregation so that the amended
2 section will read as follows (underlining for addition):
3

4 **58-5.** The table, on which the elements are placed, being decently covered, and
5 furnished with bread and wine, and the communicants orderly and gravely sitting
6 around it (or in their seats before it), the elders in a convenient place together, the
7 minister should then set the elements apart by prayer and thanksgiving. Only men
8 lawfully ordained as elders or deacons (when there is not a sufficient number of elders
9 present) shall assist the officiating minister in the distribution (or serving, as distinct
10 from merely passing) of the elements, for Christ our Lord has given to His specially
11 called and ordained elders the keys of His kingdom (Matthew 16:19; BCO 3-2; 12-
12 5.a).
13

14 So that the amended passage would read:

15
16 **58-5.** The table, on which the elements are placed, being decently covered, and
17 furnished with bread and wine, and the communicants orderly and gravely sitting
18 around it (or in their seats before it), the elders in a convenient place together, the
19 minister should then set the elements apart by prayer and thanksgiving. Only men
20 lawfully ordained as elders or deacons (when there is not a sufficient number of elders
21 present) shall assist the officiating minister in the distribution (or serving, as distinct
22 from merely passing) of the elements, for Christ our Lord has given to His specially
23 called and ordained elders the keys of His kingdom (Matthew 16:19; BCO 3-2; 12-
24 5.a).
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27 *Adopted by Calvary Presbytery at its stated meeting of February 7, 2026*

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