

1 **OVERTURE 21** from the Westminster Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 13-6 to Clarify Exams for Ministers from Another Denomination”
3

4 **Whereas**, prior to the 52nd General Assembly, *BCO* 13-6 required applicants from other
5 denominations to be examined thoroughly in their *knowledge* and *views* as required in
6 *BCO* 21-4;
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8 **Whereas**, the recent amendment removed the specific “knowledge and views” language and
9 instead requires that all portions of *BCO* 21-4 be followed;
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11 **Whereas**, ordinarily a minister transferring from another denomination for his “knowledge
12 and views” examination does not prepare a theological thesis or an exegetical paper
13 on an assigned portion of Scripture in the original languages, as is required for
14 candidates under *BCO* 21-4;
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16 **Therefore**, Presbytery overtures the 53rd General Assembly to amend *BCO* 13-6 to clarify the
17 minimum examination requirements for a minister transferring from another
18 denomination. *BCO* 13-6.b would be amended as follows (underlining for additions;
19 ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions):
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21 b. If an applicant comes from another denomination, the Presbytery shall examine
22 him thoroughly as required by the trials listed in *BCO* 21-4.a, 21-4.c(1), 21-4.c(4),
23 and 21-4.e and any additional trials deemed necessary by the Presbytery. ~~and~~
24 ~~require him~~ He shall also be required to answer in the affirmative the questions
25 put to candidates at their ordination (*BCO* 21-5). Ordained ministers from other
26 denominations being considered by Presbyteries for reception may come under
27 the extraordinary provisions set forth in *BCO* 21-4.
28

29 So that the amended *BCO* 13-6.b would read:
30

31 b. If an applicant comes from another denomination, the Presbytery shall examine
32 him thoroughly as required by the trials listed in *BCO* 21-4.a, 21-4.c(1), 21-4.c(4),
33 and 21-4.e and any additional trials deemed necessary by the Presbytery. He shall
34 also be required to answer in the affirmative the questions put to candidates at
35 their ordination (*BCO* 21-5). Ordained ministers from other denominations being
36 considered by Presbyteries for reception may come under the extraordinary
37 provisions set forth in *BCO* 21-4.
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40 *Adopted by Westminster Presbytery at its stated meeting, November 8th, 2025*

41 *Attested by /s/ TE Thomas E. Rickard, Stated Clerk*
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43 NOTE: If both this overture and Overture 25 pass, the references to *BCO* 21-4 will be adjusted
44 as follows:

45 *BCO* 21-4.a [line 22] becomes *BCO* 21-3.a

46 *BCO* 21-4.c(1) [line 22] becomes *BCO* 21-4.b

Overture 21, Westminster Presbytery

- 1 *BCO* 21-4.c(4) [line 22] becomes *BCO* 21-4.d(3)
- 2 *BCO* 21-4.e [line 23] becomes *BCO* 21-4.a
- 3 *BCO* 21-5 [line 25] becomes *BCO* 21-6
- 4 *BCO* 21-4 [line 27] becomes *BCO* 21-5