

1 **OVERTURE 64** from the Canada West Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 23-2 to Establish Associate Membership for Honorably Retired TEs”
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4 **Whereas** retired ministers are to be held in high regard for their faithful gospel service and
5 valued for their continued wisdom, experience, and usefulness at all levels of church
6 government; and,
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8 **Whereas** *BCO* 23-2 permits honourably retired TEs to retain their membership in the regional
9 Presbytery and, by implication, to continue participating in the General Assembly;
10 and,
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12 **Whereas** retaining membership at the Presbytery level currently precludes holding formal
13 membership at the congregational level; and,
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15 **Whereas** retired ministers tend not to receive the same active oversight and accountability
16 from their regional Presbytery (and local Session) that they once received; and,
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18 **Whereas** many retired ministers no longer attend the PCA congregation(s) they once served,
19 and are nowhere required in our *BCO* to have a regular, local church home; and,
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21 **Whereas** retired ministers (and their spouses) are in as much need of pastoral care and
22 accountability as other members of Christ’s church; and,
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24 **Whereas** *BCO* 46-4 already provides a paradigm and precedent for associate membership;
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26 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 53rd General Assembly amend *BCO* 23-2 as follows
27 (~~strikethrough~~ for deletions; underlining for additions):
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29 **23-2.** The Presbytery may designate a minister as honorably retired when the
30 minister by reason of age wishes to be retired, or as medically disabled when by reason
31 of infirmity is no longer able to serve the church in the active ministry of the Gospel.
32 A minister ~~medically disabled or honorably retired~~ so designated shall may continue
33 to hold membership in his Presbytery, ~~He may serve on committees or commissions if~~
34 ~~so elected or appointed.~~ with all the rights and privileges thereof, provided that he
35 also maintain an active associate membership (or its equivalent) in a faithful local
36 church, subject to the same limitations as *BCO* 46-4.
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38 So that the amended passage would read:
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40 **23-2.** The Presbytery may designate a minister as honorably retired when the
41 minister by reason of age wishes to be retired, or as medically disabled when by reason
42 of infirmity is no longer able to serve the church in the active ministry of the Gospel.
43 A minister so designated may continue to hold membership in his Presbytery, with all
44 the rights and privileges thereof, provided that he also maintain an active associate

1 membership (or its equivalent) in a faithful local church, subject to the same
2 limitations as *BCO* 46-4.

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5 *Adopted by the Canada West Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 6, 2026*

6 *Attested by RE Eric Nederlof, Stated Clerk*