

1 **OVERTURE 84** from the Northwest Georgia Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
2 “Amend *BCO* 12 and 13 to Require Annual Attestation of Officer’s Views”  
3

4 **Whereas**, officers in the Presbyterian Church in America are to be examined for their  
5 theological views; and  
6

7 **Whereas**, in accordance with our practice of Good Faith Subscription, candidates for the  
8 gospel ministry may state in their own words any differences with the *Confession of*  
9 *Faith* and *Catechisms* (*RAO* 16-3); and  
10

11 **Whereas**, when an ordained minister finds himself out of accord with any of the fundamentals  
12 of this system of doctrine, he bears the ethical burden on his own initiative to make  
13 known to appropriate courts the change in his views (*BCO* 24-6); and  
14

15 **Whereas**, in exercising review and control, courts currently have no mechanism by which  
16 they can initiate their own recertification of officers’ views; and  
17

18 **Whereas**, there is a real danger of doctrinal drift, and it is the duty of the Presbytery to promote  
19 and safeguard the “faith once for all delivered” to the saints as preached in its pulpits  
20 (Jude 3); and  
21

22 **Whereas**, this proposed practice will help each court give a good report as to its care for its  
23 officers and so promote the honor of Christ; and  
24

25 **Whereas**, Scripture commands us, “Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that  
26 all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist  
27 in this, for by doing so you will save both yourself and your hearers” (1 Tim. 4:15-  
28 16);  
29

30 **Therefore, be it resolved**, that Northwest Georgia Presbytery overture the 53<sup>rd</sup> General  
31 Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to add subparagraph 12-5.g and  
32 paragraph 12-6 to *BCO* 12 and renumbering *BCO* 12-6 through 12-9 as *BCO* 12-7  
33 through 12-10; and to add subparagraph 13-9.i and paragraph 13-10 to *BCO* 13 and  
34 renumbering *BCO* 13-10 through 13-13 as *BCO* 13-11 through 13-14 (underlining for  
35 additions):  
36

37 **12-5.**

38 **g.** To maintain sound doctrine among its elders and deacons.  
39

40 **12-6.** The vows taken by ruling elders and deacons to uphold our doctrinal standards  
41 are foundational. It is incumbent upon church courts to hold these officers to their  
42 vows. To that end, each Session shall annually record an attestation from every ruling  
43 elder and deacon in its jurisdiction indicating whether his views remain unchanged or,  
44 if they have changed, in what regard he is now dubious or in disagreement with any  
45 aspects of the *Confession of Faith* or *Catechisms*. The court shall make a record in its

1 minutes if the officer has no changes in his view(s), or if the officer has changed his  
2 view(s), any change(s) shall be recorded in his own words, along with the court's  
3 judgment, consistent with the categories provided in RAO 16-3.e.7.  
4

5 **13-9.**

6 **h.** To maintain sound doctrine among its teaching elders.

7  
8 **hi.** And, finally, to propose to the Assembly such measures as may be of  
9 common advantage to the Church at large.

10  
11 **13-10.** The vows taken by ministers to uphold our doctrinal standards are  
12 foundational. It is incumbent upon church courts to hold these men accountable to  
13 their vows. To that end, each Presbytery shall annually record an attestation from every  
14 teaching elder (or man licensed to preach) in its jurisdiction indicating whether his  
15 views remain unchanged or, if they have changed, in what regard he is now dubious  
16 or in disagreement with any aspects of the *Confession of Faith* or *Catechisms*. The  
17 court shall make a record in its minutes if the man has no changes in his view(s), or if  
18 the man has changed his view(s), any change(s) shall be recorded in his own words,  
19 along with the court's judgment, consistent with the categories provided in RAO 16-  
20 3.e.7.  
21

22 So that the amended sections will read as follows:

23  
24 **12-5.**

25 **g.** To maintain sound doctrine among its elders and deacons.

26  
27 **12-6.** The vows taken by ruling elders and deacons to uphold our doctrinal standards  
28 are foundational. It is incumbent upon church courts to hold these officers to their  
29 vows. To that end, each Session shall annually record an attestation from every ruling  
30 elder and deacon in its jurisdiction indicating whether his views remain unchanged or,  
31 if they have changed, in what regard he is now dubious or in disagreement with any  
32 aspects of the *Confession of Faith* or *Catechisms*. The court shall make a record in its  
33 minutes if the officer has no changes in his view(s), or if the officer has changed his  
34 view(s), any change(s) shall be recorded in his own words, along with the court's  
35 judgment, consistent with the categories provided in RAO 16-3.e.7.  
36

37 **13-9.**

38 **h.** To maintain sound doctrine among its teaching elders.

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40 **i.** And, finally, to propose to the Assembly such measures as may be of  
41 common advantage to the Church at large.

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43 **13-10.** The vows taken by ministers to uphold our doctrinal standards are  
44 foundational. It is incumbent upon church courts to hold these men accountable to  
45 their vows. To that end, each Presbytery shall annually record an attestation from every

1 teaching elder (or man licensed to preach) in its jurisdiction indicating whether his  
2 views remain unchanged or, if they have changed, in what regard he is now dubious  
3 or in disagreement with any aspects of the *Confession of Faith* or *Catechisms*. The  
4 court shall make a record in its minutes if the man has no changes in his view(s), or if  
5 the man has changed his view(s), any change(s) shall be recorded in his own words,  
6 along with the court's judgment, consistent with the categories provided in *RAO 16-*  
7 *3.e.7*.

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10 *Adopted by the Northwest Georgia Presbytery at its 60<sup>th</sup> stated meeting, April 14, 2026*

11 *Attested by TE Robby Baxter, Stated Clerk*