



46TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY | *Selected Acts & Deliverances, June 2018*

1) Approved to be sent down for the advice and consent of the Presbyteries:¹

- Overture 3, as amended, to amend *BCO* 32-19 to allow counsel by any communing member in all levels of courts (for the amended text see Appendix I below);
- Overture 10, to amend *BCO* 25-11 to require thirty-days' notice to withdraw from PCA Overtures 12 and 17 were answered in reference to this action (for the amended text see Appendix I below);
- Overture 20, as amended, to amend *BCO* 30-1 and 30-3 regarding definite suspension (these will come to Presbyteries as separate proposals);
- Overture 23, as amended, to amend *BCO* 35-11 not to disqualify automatically a member of a court who was called as a witness (for the amended text see Appendix I below);
- Overture 24, as amended, to grant *BCO* 59-3, "Solemnization of Marriage," full Constitutional status (the vote was 764-12-7.); Overtures 1, 2, 5 were answered in reference to this action (for the amended text see Appendix I below);
- Overture 27, to amend *BCO* 8-1; 8-3 regarding the qualifications of elders; Overtures 11 and 15 were answered in reference to this action.

2) Adopted:

- the four recommendations of the *Ad Interim* Committee on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation (see Appendix 2 below);
- Overture 14, as amended, to recommend budgeting contributions to Parakaleo/MNA to train pastors' wives;
- Overture 28, to direct AC to translate *BCO* into Spanish and Portuguese; Overture 30 was answered in reference to this action;
- Overture 35, as amended, to establish a subcommittee of AC for 50th Anniversary of PCA.

4) Declined to adopt:

- Overture 4, to amend *RAO* 9-4 to require three REs on each ad interim committee;
- Overture 6, to revise *RAO* 9 to require that recommendations from ad interim committees be referred to OC;
- Overture 7, to reduce assembly registration fee to \$100 for Ruling Elders;
- Overture 8, to revise *BCO* 34-8 and 37-8 regarding restoration of a deposed minister, sending the Overture back to Tennessee Valley Presbytery *without prejudice*;
- Overture 9, to Amend *BCO* 9-7 regarding assistants to deacons or deaconesses and amend *BCO* 24-11 by adding new 24-11 regarding women officers;
- Overture 13, to revise *BCO* 14-1.11 and the Corporate Bylaws of the PCA Article VI.1, 4; VI.2, 1; VI.3, 1, 2; VI-4, 1, 2; and VI-5, 3 to allow women to serve on boards of agencies;
- Overture 16, to amend *BCO* 46-8 regarding a deposed minister;
- Overture 21, to amend *BCO* 36-5 to add a paragraph of introduction before imposition of censure;

¹ Find the full text of the overtures at <http://www.pcaac.org/general-assembly/overtures/>

- Overture 25, to address the unordained diaconate;
- Overture 26, to amend BCO 14-1.1 and the Corporate Bylaws of the PCA VI.2 so that a minority of seats on the board of trustees of covenant college may be open to non-ordained members;
- Overture 29, to form study committee to study RPCNA report on sexual orientation;
- Overtures 31, 32, 36, 37, 38 and 40, as they were ruled out of order as failing to conform to the requirements of RAO 13-6 concerning Memorials;
- Overture 39, to urge presbyteries to fund a bible translation.

APPENDIX 1: Texts of Selected BCO Amendments Approved To Be Sent to Presbyteries²

Ov. 3: *BCO 32-19*. No professional counsel shall be permitted as such to appear and plead in cases of process in any court; but an accused person may, if he desires it, be represented before the Session ~~any church court~~ by any communing member of any church in that presbytery the same particular church, or before any other court, by any member of the Presbyterian Church in America that court. A member of the court so employed shall not be allowed to sit in judgment in the case.

Ov. 10: *BCO 25-11* [paragraph 3] Particular churches need remain in association with any court of this body only so long as they themselves so desire. The relationship is voluntary, based upon mutual love and confidence, and is in no sense to be maintained by the exercise of any force or coercion whatsoever. A particular church may withdraw from any court of this body at any time for reasons which seem to it sufficient, provided, however, the congregation is given at least thirty-days' notice of any meeting where the congregation is to vote on a proposed withdrawal from the Presbyterian Church in America.

Ov. 23: *BCO 35-11*. ~~A member of the court who has given testimony in a case becomes disqualified for sitting as a judge if either party makes objection. A member of the court shall not be disqualified from sitting as a judge by having given testimony in the case, unless a party makes an objection, and the court subsequently determines that such member should be disqualified. The subject of the objection retains the right to vote on the question of his disqualification. A member of the court who is the prosecutor in the case is disqualified from sitting as a judge.~~

Ov. 24: *BCO 59-3*. Marriage is only to be between one man and one woman (Gen 2:24, 25; Matt 19:4-6, 1 Cor 7), in accordance with the Word of God. Ministers shall only solemnize a marriage between one man and one woman.

APPENDIX 2: “*Ad Interim* Study Committee on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation”

The Ad Interim Study Committee on Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation (TE Kevin Smith, chairman, TE Carl Ellis, RE Alexander Jun, TE Sean Lucas, TE Jonathan Seda, TE Richie Sessions, TE Alex Shipman, voting members; RE Sylvester Brown, RE Otis Pickett, TE Russ Whitfield, advisory members) reported to the Assembly. The 67-page Report included an introduction recounting a summer of PCA history with respect to the topic assigned, defining relevant terms, and an explanation of the Report’s guiding principle in several affirmations and denials. Next came a clear exposition of Biblical and theological foundations, followed by a very fine discussion of the application of the Westminster Standards to the topics of the Report, particularly the ethical directions of the Larger Catechism in its

² Text added identified by underscore; text removed by strikethrough.

exposition of the Ten Commandments. The Report includes a discussion of pastoral considerations and the mission of the Church, and well as a discussion of the 38 pages of survey data results included in the Report. The Report concludes with a number of suggestions for racial reconciliation addressed to congregations, presbyteries, academic institutions and the General Assembly. The Committee's recommendations were adopted.

1. That the General Assembly receive the report of the ad interim committee on racial reconciliation and distribute it to the presbyteries and congregations of our denomination.
2. That the General Assembly direct the Committee on Discipleship Ministries to publish this report for sale and distribution, along with the other actions of the Assembly related to racial reconciliation, especially the actions of the 30th, 32nd, and 44th Assemblies, as the PCA's statements on the Gospel and racial reconciliation.
3. That the General Assembly direct the Committee on Mission to North America to budget and plan for renewing the research with LifeWay Research Services, or some other research service, to report back to the 51st General Assembly (2023) in order to establish a longitudinal study of our denomination on the issue of racial reconciliation.
4. That the General Assembly dismiss the committee with its thanks.