

**OVERTURE 31** from Northwest Georgia Presbytery

(to CCB, OC)

“Amend *BCO* 22 Process for Assistant to Associate Pastor”

**Whereas**, a congregation may wish to elevate, by promotion-in-place, an assistant pastor, previously and duly called by the session, and now faithfully serving the congregation; and

**Whereas**, the *BCO* does not presently provide a process for this specific change in relation from assistant pastor to associate pastor; and

**Whereas**, the *BCO* does not prohibit such a change in relation from assistant pastor to associate pastor; and

**Whereas**, application of *BCO* 20-2 in this specific case is not appropriate because called pastors currently serve the church and no search is required; and

**Whereas**, a *BCO* process specifically suited to this case would be helpful to a congregation and its session to conduct its rightful business without undue confusion, work, or delay;

**Therefore, let it be resolved that** an existing assistant pastor, who has provided satisfactory service for one-year in this congregation, may be elected by the congregation as an associate pastor at the recommendation of the Session without the election of a pulpit committee.

Such that a new sentence (underlined) be added to *BCO* 22-2 to read:

~~The pastor and associate pastor are elected by the congregation using the form of call in *BCO* 20-6. — An existing assistant pastor, who has provided satisfactory service for one year in this congregation, may be elected by the congregation as an associate pastor at the recommendation of the Session without the election of a pulpit committee. Being elected by the congregation they become members of the Session.~~

The pastor and associate pastor are elected by the congregation using the form of call in *BCO* 20-6. An existing assistant pastor, who has provided satisfactory service for one year in this congregation, may be elected by that congregation as an associate pastor at the recommendation of the Session without the election of a pulpit committee. Being elected by the congregation they become members of the Session.

*Adopted by Northwest Georgia Presbytery at its stated meeting, August 15, 2020*  
*Approved by Northwest Georgia Presbytery at its January 16, 2021, meeting*  
*Attested by /s/ TE David E. Gilbert, stated clerk*