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Rivers & Lakes Presbytery hereby respectfully overtures the 46th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church:

Whereas it belongs to synods and councils to make provision for the better administration of the government of the Visible Kingdom through the Order of the church (WCF 31.2); and

Whereas that earthly government must be maintained through diligence since it may err and need to be corrected or improved upon (WCF 31.3); and

Whereas *The Book of Government* grants the authority and responsibility of Presbyteries “to overture the General Assembly on those matters it believes vital or helpful to the whole Church,” (BOG 194.C.2);

Therefore, be it resolved that Rivers & Lakes Presbytery overtures the 46th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church regarding three matters as enumerated below:

- Overture #1 - Proposed amendments to *The Book of Government* 5-10.
(Approved with a vote of 44 in favor, 0 opposed)
- Overture #2 - Proposed amendments to *The Book of Government* 9-5.
(Approved with a vote of 23 in favor, 14 opposed)
- Overture #3 - Proposed amendments to *The Book of Government* 19-3.
(Approved with a vote of 42 in favor, 0 opposed)

Approved by Rivers & Lakes Presbytery at its 46th Stated Meeting, January 23, 2026.


RE George Kalemkarian, Moderator


TE Annie Rose, Stated Clerk

Overture #2

Original Text	Proposed Revisions
<p>G.9-5 The office of Teaching Elder</p> <p>D. Administrator A court of the Church or one of its agencies may call a Teaching Elder to serve in some administrative capacity. An organization deemed proper by the Presbytery may also issue a similar call. In such cases, it is always the responsibility of the Administrator to seek opportunity to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments.</p> <p>E. Chaplain A court of the Church, a hospital, the military, institutions, universities, or other appropriate fields of service may call a Teaching Elder as Chaplain if the Presbytery deems it appropriate. In such cases, the Chaplain shall always have as a primary responsibility the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>G.9-5 The office of Teaching Elder</p> <p>D. Administrator A court of the Church church or one of its agencies, or an organization deemed proper by the Presbytery may call a Teaching Elder to serve in some administrative capacity provided that the nature of the work is appropriate to the gospel ministry and requiring ordination. In such cases, it is always the responsibility of the Administrator to seek opportunity to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments.</p> <p>E. Chaplain A court of the Church church, a hospital, the military, institutions, universities, or other appropriate fields of service may call a Teaching Elder as Chaplain if the Presbytery deems it appropriate. In such cases, the Chaplain shall always have as a primary responsibility the sharing of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ.</p>

Rationale:

- From the “Notes For The 2024-2025 Edition” of the EPC Constitution: Volume One, “Church – when capitalized, refers to the universal church (defined in *Book of Government*, Chapter 1). The reference in G.9-5.D seems to be to the Universal Visible Church and should be ‘church’ rather than ‘Church.’ There may be additional instance of this terminological inconsistency (ex: G.9-5.E; G.9-6.A) that should be sought out.
- The proposed revision condenses the three spheres of Administrative work: EPC church courts and agencies, or an organization deemed proper by the Presbytery.
- The proposed addition mirrors the language of G.10-8.B.2.a – calls approved by the Presbytery from a church or agency outside the bounds of the Presbytery.