

REPORT OF THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

On February 6, 2026, the New River Presbytery overtured the 46th General Assembly to amend Section 9-3A of the *Book of Government* (the “**NRP 9-3A Overture**”). The Permanent Judicial Commission of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (the “**PJC**”) examined the proposed amendment for clarity and consistency of language, and for compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, in each case as required by Section G.21-3D.2.a.¹

The NRP 9-3A Overture is identical to an overture from the Presbytery of the Pacific Northwest (the “**PNW 9-3A Overture**”), which the PJC previously reviewed. Accordingly, after due consideration, the PJC determined that its conclusions regarding the PNW 9-3A Overture apply to, and therefore answer, the NRP 9-3A Overture with respect to the required “three-C” analysis. The NRP 9-3A Overture satisfies the requirement of clarity of language, but fails to satisfy the requirements of consistency of language and compatibility with other provisions of the Constitution.²

For the reasons stated in our prior analysis of the PNW 9-3A Overture, the Permanent Judicial Commission respectfully and prayerfully recommends that the General Assembly consider these conclusions in determining whether to accept or decline the NRP 9-3A Overture.

¹ The PJC’s task was limited. We did not determine the wisdom, necessity, or pastoral desirability of the NRP 9-3A Overture, but rather evaluated whether the proposed language is prepared for integration into the Constitution. Our evaluation of the “three-C” criteria helps the General Assembly determine whether an amendment is constitutionally serviceable in its present form, apart from the merits of the proposal itself.

² The PJC minority herein adopts and incorporates by reference the alternative analysis offered in the Minority Report for the PNW 9-3A Overture.