

1 **OVERTURE 20** from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery (to AC)
2 "Consider Participation in General Assembly via Virtual Private Network"
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4 **Whereas** increasing costs make attendance at GA more and more difficult for a church
5 sending a delegate or delegates; and
6

7 **Whereas** the current economic realities in the US seem to indicate that this difficulty will be
8 around for a long time; and
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10 **Whereas** it is imperative that we exercise wise stewardship of the resources God has entrusted
11 to Christ's church; and
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13 **Whereas** there have been frequent discussions on the subject of how to increase participation
14 in General Assembly by Ruling and Teaching Elders; and
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16 **Whereas** increasing advances in technology could make it possible to have registered
17 commissioners watch the sessions over the internet and then vote under secure
18 circumstances from their home or office without incurring the costs of transportation
19 or hotels but simply incurring the cost of the \$400 (or whatever is determined) for
20 the registration as a commissioner; and
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22 **Whereas** an increased enrollment with possibly fewer onsite expenses might be a financially
23 beneficial outcome for the General Assembly; and
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25 **Whereas** physical attendance at the GA would always be required by members of the
26 Committees of Commissioners and other officers; and
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28 **Whereas** physical attendance at the General Assembly could always be an option for any
29 delegate that desired to attend; and
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31 **Whereas** a reduction in the number of people physically attending the General Assembly
32 could possibly allow the General Assembly to move from large convention centers to
33 smaller venues such as colleges and universities which might be more cost effective;
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35 **Therefore be it resolved** that the 38th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in
36 America instruct the Administrative Committee to:
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- 38 1. investigate what it would take for the General Assembly to set up a way to
39 participate in the General Assembly via secure Virtual Private Network or other
40 available technology;
- 41 2. put together a report on how that kind of General Assembly could function and
42 what the difference in costs would be;
- 43 3. and report back to the 39th General Assembly with a recommendation as to
44 whether or not the Administrative Committee believes this would be feasible in
45 the near or distant future.
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47 *Adopted by Susquehanna Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 20, 2010*

48 *Attested by /s/ RE Charles C Miller, stated clerk*