

1 **OVERTURE 14** from Potomac Presbytery (to AC, CCB, OC)
2 "Form Ad Interim Committee to Revise *RAO*"
3

4 **Whereas**, the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America governs all of the courts of the
5 church and may only be amended by the action of two General Assemblies with the
6 advice and consent of two-thirds of the Presbyteries; and
7

8 **Whereas**, each court of the church may adopt rules which set out how that court will administer
9 its own responsibilities under the Constitution, but may not by those rules either add to
10 nor take away from Constitutional requirements; and
11

12 **Whereas**, no court of the church may adopt rules which bind other courts of the church apart
13 from the regular constitutional process referred to above; and
14

15 **Whereas**, it appears that certain of the *Rules of Assembly Operations* attempt to require of the
16 Presbyteries actions that are without constitutional warrant (e.g., *RAO* 16-3.e.5); and
17

18 **Whereas**, however laudable the intention and valuable the outcome, the practice of such rule-
19 making is a threat to our constitutional order; and
20

21 **Whereas**, the provisions in question have proven to be important to preserve good order and
22 uniformity in General Assembly oversight of Presbytery proceedings;
23

24 **Therefore be it resolved** that the 36th General Assembly appoint an ad interim committee to
25 review the *Rules of Assembly Operations* and report to the 37th General Assembly:
26

- 27 1. those rules which offend as described above;
- 28
- 29 2. with respect to the rules offending, if they are needful for good order and uniformity
30 in General Assembly oversight of Presbytery proceedings, proposals to amend *The*
31 *Book of Church Order* that they may be adopted in a constitutional manner; and
32
- 33 3. if the proposed amendments are finally adopted by the 38th General Assembly, proposals
34 to delete the offending rules from the *Rules of Assembly Operations*.
35

36 The ad interim committee shall be funded by the Administrative Committee.
37

38 *Adopted by Potomac Presbytery at the 80th Stated Meeting on March 15, 2008*

39 *Attested by /s/ RE Richard R. Larson, Stated Clerk*