

1 **OVERTURE 6** from Evangel Presbytery

(to AC)

2 “Direct the Administrative Committee to Do a Feasibility Study for a
3 Bi-annual General Assembly”

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5 **Whereas**, since the inception of the Presbyterian Church US and later the Presbyterian
6 Church in America the denomination has conducted an annual General Assembly;
7 and

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9 **Whereas**, in the earliest days of General Assemblies it was important and necessary to meet
10 on an annual basis for communications and reports within the denomination because
11 of the lack of effective communication otherwise; and

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13 **Whereas**, in the last decade new technology has rapidly developed enabling instant
14 communication and contact via the internet and other technological advances making
15 it a simple matter to communicate within the denomination and its Committees and
16 Agencies; and

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18 **Whereas**, what once was a primary purpose of the General Assembly can now be
19 accomplished with reports electronically submitted; and

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21 **Whereas**, denominational issues that once were debated on the floor of GA are now
22 resolved and presented in a refined and reasoned manner causing the floor process to
23 lose much energy and interest with commissioners spending considerable time away
24 from the meeting to visit the exhibitions during the presentations of Committees and
25 Agencies; and

26
27 **Whereas**, in addition to declining interest in the conduct of business, travel and lodging
28 expenses have affected GA and attendance during the last five years has declined
29 annually while the ratio of Teaching Elders in attendance has increased and the
30 number of Ruling Elders has declined;

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32 **Now therefore be it resolved** that Evangel Presbytery overture the 38th General Assembly
33 to direct the Administrative Committee to conduct a study for the feasibility of
34 conducting General Assemblies on a bi-annual basis and to incorporate
35 recommendations for contiguous presbyteries to cooperate on an alternate years to
36 join two or three day meetings that can be conducted in churches and smaller venues
37 where travel and lodging are less expensive. During such regional meetings
38 Committees and Agencies can participate with reports and ministries can present
39 displays if so requested and approved by the Administrative Committee.