

1 **OVERTURE 7** from the Presbytery of Northern New England (to CCB, OC, CMC)
2 “Remove Long Range Planning from CMC by deleting *RAO 7-3 c*”
3

4 **Whereas** *BCO 14-1.7* states that “The Assembly’s committees are to serve and not to direct
5 any Church judicatories. They are not to establish policy, but rather execute policy
6 established by the General Assembly”; and
7

8 **Whereas** the Cooperative Ministries Committee’s (CMC) mandated responsibility of “long-
9 range planning” (*RAO 7-3.c.*) gives it a platform to influence denominational policy,
10 and a leadership role that is more reflective of hierarchical church government than
11 presbyterianism; and
12

13 **Whereas** the CMC’s reports to General Assembly since its inception in 2006 indicate that
14 the majority of the committee’s time has been dedicated to the task of “long-range
15 planning,” with comparatively little time spent on matters of inter-agency cooperation;
16

17 **Therefore be it resolved**, that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America
18 amend *RAO 7-3* by deleting item 7-3.c and re-lettering the following 7-3 sections as
19 follows. [Deletion indicated by strike-through.]
20

21 7-3. Responsibilities
22

- 23 a. Consider only such matters as enumerated below or such matters
24 as referred to it by the Committees and Agencies of the General
25 Assembly.
26 b. Meet together to foster cooperative ministry among Committees
27 and Agencies in accordance with the PCA purpose statement
28 adopted by the 10th Assembly in 1982, upon recommendation of
29 the Committee on Mission to the United States:
30 It is the purpose of the PCA to bring glory to God as a
31 worshipping and serving community until the nations in
32 which we live are filled with churches that make Jesus
33 Christ and His Word their chief joy, and the nations of the
34 world, hearing the Word are disciplined in obedience to the
35 Great Commission.
36 ~~e. Facilitate integrated long range planning that supports progress~~
37 ~~toward the overall mission and ministry of the PCA. Such planning~~
38 ~~shall be with respect to matters that fall within the ordinary scope~~
39 ~~of the respective responsibilities of the PCA’s Committees and~~
40 ~~Agencies, particularly with a view toward the mission of the PCA~~
41 ~~as a whole. Any matters requiring General Assembly action shall~~
42 ~~be referred to the appropriate Committee or Agency for its~~
43 ~~consideration and recommendation.~~
44 d. Keep minutes of the meetings and distribute them to all chief
45 administrative officers and chairmen.
46 e. Establish appropriate subcommittees to deal with specific issues as
47 they are identified.

- 1 f. Send recommendations to chief administrative officers and their
2 respective Committees or Boards. Encourage them to deal with the
3 issues presented to them, and if necessary, for them to meet
4 together to resolve issues.
- 5 g. Monitor and evaluate the standards of effectiveness and efficiency
6 of permanent Committees and Agencies in light of the unique
7 ministry of each Committee or Agency, with particular attention to
8 inter-Committee-and-Agency communication, collaboration, and
9 cooperation.
- 10 h. Serve as a forum for resolving issues of inter-agency cooperation,
11 collaboration or conflict.
12

13 The newly amended section would then read as follows:
14

15 7-3. Responsibilities
16

- 17 a. Consider only such matters as enumerated below or such matters
18 as referred to it by the Committees and Agencies of the General
19 Assembly.
- 20 b. Meet together to foster cooperative ministry among Committees
21 and Agencies in accordance with the PCA purpose statement
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26 which we live are filled with churches that make Jesus
27 Christ and His Word their chief joy, and the nations of the
28 world, hearing the Word are disciplined in obedience to the
29 Great Commission.
- 30 c. Keep minutes of the meetings and distribute them to all chief
31 administrative officers and chairmen.
- 32 d. Establish appropriate subcommittees to deal with specific issues as
33 they are identified.
- 34 e. Send recommendations to chief administrative officers and their
35 respective Committees or Boards. Encourage them to deal with the
36 issues presented to them, and if necessary, for them to meet
37 together to resolve issues.
- 38 f. Monitor and evaluate the standards of effectiveness and efficiency
39 of permanent Committees and Agencies in light of the unique
40 ministry of each Committee or Agency, with particular attention to
41 inter-Committee-and-Agency communication, collaboration, and
42 cooperation.
- 43 g. Serve as a forum for resolving issues of inter-agency cooperation,
44 collaboration or conflict.
45

46 Adopted by the Northern New England Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 4, 2017
47 Attested by /s/ TE Per Almquist, stated clerk