

1 **OVERTURE 6** from Calvary Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Revise *RAO* 9 to Require that Recommendations from Ad Interim
3 Committees Be Referred to OC”
4

5 Revise *Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO)*, Article IX, by adding 9-6 (underlining for
6 addition):
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8 **ARTICLE IX. AD INTERIM COMMITTEES**
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10 **9-1.** The Assembly may elect or appoint ad interim or study committees
11 of a temporary character to handle particular matters of business as
12 designated by the Assembly.
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14 **9-2.** Recommendations for the appointment of ad-interim or study
15 committees shall arise only by way of overtures from Presbyteries, which
16 shall be submitted to the Overtures Committee for recommendations to the
17 General Assembly.
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19 **9-3.** Only two (2) ad interim study committees may be appointed or
20 continued in any given year, (with no committee continuing with
21 undesignated Administrative Committee funding beyond the third year of
22 its inception and no more than two [2] committees existing in any one [1]
23 year), and any additional committees would have to be approved by a two-
24 thirds vote of commissioners, with financing provided from outside the
25 Administrative Committee budget.
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27 **9-4.** The total number of committee members per committee is not to
28 exceed seven (7) members. Each committee’s appointment and/or
29 extension must be ratified by a majority vote of the commissioners.
30

31 **9-5.** All ad interim and study committees shall be considered by the
32 General Assembly for appointment or extension at the time during the
33 General Assembly docket of the Administrative Committee’s report so that
34 due consideration be given as to their priority and their effect on the
35 budgets.
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37 **9-6.** Recommendations from all future ad interim and study committees
38 shall be referred to the Overtures Committee.
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40 Rationale:

41 Calvary Presbytery suggests this amendment in hopes it will streamline the General
42 Assembly’s reception of study committee reports. The current policy of the General Assembly
43 is that study committees report directly to the General Assembly, so that the Assembly may
44 fully edit the deliverances of any study committee report.
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1 As we saw at the 2016 General Assembly, this process is time-consuming and inefficient
2 because of the number of commissioners at General Assembly and the limited time allowed
3 for debating a particular issue.

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5 In order to address these issues, we recommend adding a sixth section to *RAO IX* which would
6 send all future recommendations from study committees to the overtures committee. This
7 would allow the overtures committee, which proportionally represents the presbyteries and is
8 the proper venue for full debate and discussion at the General Assembly level, to have a full
9 discussion with the option of editing any of the recommendations a study committee might
10 bring.

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12 The recommendations of the study committee would then be brought to the floor and governed
13 in the same manner as overtures. The General Assembly would still have the power to affirm,
14 reject, or recommit the recommendations as it sees fit. We hope that this would make the
15 General Assembly's reception of study committee reports more efficient and expedient.

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17 *Adopted by Calvary Presbytery at its stated meeting, October 26, 2017*

18 *Attested by /s/ RE Melton L. Duncan, stated clerk*