

1 **OVERTURE 27** from Westminster Presbytery (to AC)
2 “Study Possibility of Remote Voting at General Assembly”
3

4 **Whereas**, the Presbyterian Church in America was founded as a “grass-roots” denomination
5 with power and authority flowing from the bottom up; and
6

7 **Whereas**, the expense of sending a commissioner to the General Assembly has become
8 prohibitive for many small churches in the PCA; and
9

10 **Whereas**, many commissioners would attend the General Assembly, yet are unable because
11 of health restrictions; and
12

13 **Whereas**, the General Assembly meetings now have a small representation by ruling elders;
14 and
15

16 **Whereas**, it is in accordance with the founding principles of the PCA to have parity of the
17 teaching and ruling elders in authority; and
18

19 **Whereas**, it is in accordance with the founding principles of the PCA and our *BCO* to have
20 parity of teaching and ruling elders on General Assembly committees (*BCO* 14-1;
21 Principles for the Organization of the Assembly, item 10) and to have at least parity
22 of teaching and ruling elders at General Assembly court meetings (*BCO* 14-2); and
23

24 **Whereas**, the technology exists to have commissioners vote on issues of the General
25 Assembly from a distance while they watch the proceedings of the General Assembly
26 online; and
27

28 **Whereas**, the General Assembly as presently structured would continue with the exception of
29 a distance voting commissioner;
30

31 **Therefore**, Westminster Presbytery overtures the 47th General Assembly to instruct the PCA
32 Administrative Committee to investigate and report at the 48th General Assembly a
33 plan to create a DVC (Distance Voting Commissioner) which would entail the ability
34 of regularly elected commissioners to vote electronically at a distance from the site of
35 the General Assembly.
36

37 *Adopted by Westminster Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 9, 2019*

38 *Attested by /s/ TE Mark J. Blalack, stated clerk*