

1 **OVERTURE 15** from West Hudson Presbytery (CCB, OC)

2 “Amend *RAO* 11-5 to Prevent Confusion and Possible Contradictory
3 Actions on Overtures by Multiple Committees of Commissioners”
4

5 **Whereas**, Presbyteries (ordinarily) and other bodies (in some circumstances) request action
6 by the General Assembly on specific matters by means of an Overture (*RAO* 11-4);
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8 **Whereas**, an Overture may contain subject matter that could appear pertinent to more than
9 one Committee of Commissioners;
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11 **Whereas**, currently *RAO* 11-5 states that “the Stated Clerk shall refer all overtures requesting
12 amendment of the *Book of Church Order* or the *Rules of Assembly Operations* to the
13 Committee on Constitutional Business for its advice to the Overtures Committee”;
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15 **Whereas**, the term “shall” in the *BCO* delineates an obligatory rather than a permissible
16 action, requiring the Stated Clerk to refer such overtures to the Committee on
17 Constitutional Business, which then shall forward such overtures (along with CCB’s
18 advice) to the Overtures Committee;
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20 **Whereas**, if an Overture requesting amendment to the *BCO* or the *RAO* was also referred to
21 another Committee of Commissioners (CoC), the result could be confusion as to which
22 Committee’s recommendation, whether Overtures or another CoC, should be taken up
23 by the Assembly; and
24

25 **Whereas**, it is possible that in such instance contradictory recommendations could be brought
26 to the Assembly by two (or more) CoCs;
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28 **Therefore, be it resolved**, that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America
29 amend *RAO* 11-5 with the following additions (additions are underlined):
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31 **11-5.** Upon receipt the Stated Clerk shall refer all overtures requesting
32 amendment of the *Book of Church Order* or the *Rules of Assembly Operations*
33 to the Committee on Constitutional Business for its advice to the Overtures
34 Committee. Upon receipt, the Stated Clerk shall forward all overtures concerning
35 presbytery boundaries or a new presbytery to the permanent Committee on
36 Mission to North America. Any overture, other than an overture proposing
37 amendment to the Constitution (which shall be referred to the Committee on
38 Constitutional Business for its advice to the Overtures Committee), having to
39 do with the nature or responsibilities of a permanent Committee or Agency shall
40 be referred by the Clerk to the appropriate permanent Committee or Agency or
41 ad interim committee. All other overtures shall be referred to the Overtures
42 Committee. No overture shall be referred for consideration and recommendation
43 to more than one Committee of Commissioners, permanent Committee or
44 Agency or ad interim committee; an overture, however, may be referred for
45 informational purposes only to another Committee of Commissioners, permanent
46 Committee or Agency or ad interim committee. All overtures shall be published
47 in the *Commissioner Handbook* with reference for consideration indicated.
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49 *Adopted by West Hudson Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 7, 2019*

50 *Attested by /s/ TE Christopher M. Diebold, stated clerk*