

1 **OVERTURE 16** from Georgia Foothills Presbytery (to CCB, OC)

2 “Amend the *RAO* to Provide for a Moderator-Elect and Vice-Moderator by Revision  
3 of *RAO* 1-4, Addition of *RAO* 1-6, 1-7, and 1-8, and Revision of *RAO* 2-1, 2-3”

4  
5 **Whereas**, the role of Moderator of the General Assembly is a complicated responsibility. It  
6 will be helpful for a man to have a year’s notice in order to prepare for his duties,  
7 and

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9 **Whereas**, some PCA presbyteries have a Moderator-In-Nomination rule in their Standing  
10 Rules, and

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12 **Whereas**, other Presbyterian denominations, such as the Associate Reformed Presbyterian  
13 Church and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church elect a Moderator-Elect or Vice-  
14 Moderator, and

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16 **Whereas**, the Assembly subsequent to the election of a Moderator-Elect or Vice-Moderator  
17 still would have the option of electing another man as Moderator, and

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19 **Whereas**, since we use electronic voting rather than voting cards or paper ballots, it is no  
20 longer necessary to specify that paper ballots be used, and

21  
22 **Whereas**, it is customary that the Moderator yield the chair at times. The revision to *RAO* 2-1  
23 specifies who the Moderator *pro tempore* may be, and

24  
25 **Whereas**, under *Robert’s Rules of Order* the term “privileges of the floor” only means that  
26 one is allowed to be present during a meeting and does not mean that one has the  
27 right to speak (*RONR* [11<sup>th</sup> ed.] p. 29, footnote). The original purpose of *RAO* 2-3  
28 was to give a former Moderator of the General Assembly the right to participate in  
29 debate. One must be a commissioner in order to vote.

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31 **Therefore, be it resolved** that Georgia Foothills Presbytery overtures the Forty-seventh  
32 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to amend the *Rules of*  
33 *Assembly Operations* by revision of *RAO* 1-4; by addition of *RAO* 1-6, 1-7, and 1-8;  
34 and by revision of *RAO* 2-1, 2-3 to provide for a Moderator-Elect and a Vice-  
35 Moderator as follows:

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37 **ARTICLE I. ORGANIZATION OF A GENERAL ASSEMBLY’S MEETING**

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39 **1-4.** If more than one commissioner is nominated, election shall be by  
40 secret ballot, ~~on ballots provided by the Stated Clerk. Tellers appointed by the~~  
41 ~~Stated Clerk shall gather and count the ballots, and report the tabulation to the~~  
42 ~~Stated Clerk.~~ If no nominee receives a majority of the votes cast, a second  
43 ballot shall be called on the two nominees who received the highest number of  
44

1 votes on the first ballot. The Moderator shall declare an election when a  
2 nominee receives a majority of the votes cast by the commissioners present  
3 and voting.

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5 **1-5.** No change.

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7 **1-6.** After the Moderator has been elected, he shall preside over the election  
8 of a Moderator-elect. There shall be only one nominating speech not to  
9 exceed five minutes for each nominee. No seconding speeches shall be  
10 permitted.

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12 **1-7.** If more than one commissioner is nominated, election shall be by  
13 secret ballot. If no nominee receives a majority of the votes cast, a second  
14 ballot shall be called on the two nominees who received the highest number of  
15 votes on the first ballot. The Moderator shall declare an election when a  
16 nominee receives a majority of the votes cast by the commissioners present  
17 and voting.

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19 **1-8.** The Moderator-Elect shall be placed in nomination for Moderator at  
20 the subsequent General Assembly. Additional nominations may be made  
21 from the floor.

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23 **ARTICLE II. THE MODERATOR**

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25 **2-1.** The Moderator shall preside at all sessions of the Assembly except  
26 when he may invite the Moderator-Elect (Vice-Moderator), a former  
27 Moderator, or another commissioner to act temporarily as the presiding  
28 officer.

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30 **2-2.** No change.

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32 **2-3.** Any former Moderator attending a General Assembly shall have the  
33 privileges of the floor, may participate in debate, and, if he is a commissioner,  
34 may vote.

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36 *Approved by Georgia Foothills Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 26, 2019*

37 *Attested by /s/ TE Don Aldin, stated clerk*