

OVERTURE 18 from Houston Metro Presbytery (CCB, OC)
“Amend *RAO* 11-5 to Prevent Confusion and Possible Contradictory
Actions on Overtures by Multiple Committees of Commissioners”

Whereas, Presbyteries (ordinarily) and other bodies (in some circumstances) request action by the General Assembly on specific matters by means of an Overture (*RAO* 11-4);

Whereas, an Overture may contain subject matter that could appear pertinent to more than one Committee of Commissioners;

Whereas, currently *RAO* 11-5 states that “the Stated Clerk shall refer all overtures requesting amendment of the *Book of Church Order* or the *Rules of Assembly Operations* to the Committee on Constitutional Business for its advice to the Overtures Committee”;

Whereas, the term “shall” in the *BCO* delineates an obligatory rather than a permissible action, requiring the Stated Clerk to refer such overtures to the Committee on Constitutional Business, which then shall forward such overtures (along with CCB’s advice) to the Overtures Committee;

Whereas, if an Overture requesting amendment to the *BCO* or the *RAO* was also referred to another Committee of Commissioners (CoC), the result could be confusion as to which Committee’s recommendation, whether Overtures or another CoC, should be taken up by the Assembly; and

Whereas, it is possible that in such instance contradictory recommendations could be brought to the Assembly by two (or more) CoCs;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America amend *RAO* 11-5 with the following additions (additions are underlined):

11-5. Upon receipt the Stated Clerk shall refer all overtures requesting amendment of the *Book of Church Order* or the *Rules of Assembly Operations* to the Committee on Constitutional Business for its advice to the Overtures Committee. Upon receipt, the Stated Clerk shall forward all overtures concerning presbytery boundaries or a new presbytery to the permanent Committee on Mission to North America. Any overture, other than an overture proposing amendment to the Constitution (which shall be referred to the Committee on Constitutional Business for its advice to the Overtures Committee), having to do with the nature or responsibilities of a permanent Committee or Agency shall be referred by the Clerk to the appropriate permanent Committee or Agency or ad interim committee. All other overtures shall be referred to the Overtures Committee. No overture shall be referred for consideration and recommendation to more than one Committee of

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Commissioners, permanent Committee or Agency or ad interim committee; an overture, however, may be referred for informational purposes only to another Committee of Commissioners, permanent Committee or Agency or ad interim committee. All overtures shall be published in the *Commissioner Handbook* with reference for consideration indicated.

Adopted by Houston Metro Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 18, 2019

Attested by /s/ TE Lou Veiga, stated clerk