

1 **OVERTURE 10** from the Presbytery of the Ascension (to CCB, OC)  
2 Title: “Amend *RAO* 15-6.s by Adding New Paragraphs Dealing with the  
3 Content of Minority Reports”  
4

5 **Whereas**, minority reports from the Overtures Committee comprise an essential mechanism  
6 for allowing the General Assembly to hear and act upon different views that may arise  
7 in the Overtures Committee; and  
8

9 **Whereas**, minority reports allow a minority of the Overtures Committee to clear their  
10 consciences by expressing their differences to the General Assembly; and  
11

12 **Whereas**, the *RAO* currently contains no requirements on the content of minority reports; and  
13

14 **Whereas**, neither the Overtures Committee nor the General Assembly is well served if  
15 relevant proposals and arguments are presented by a minority to the Assembly that  
16 were not presented to the Overtures Committee in the course of its deliberations; and  
17

18 **Whereas**, it seems patently unfair and unhelpful to the General Assembly that the one  
19 presenting the view of the Overtures Committee could be given only fifteen (15)  
20 minutes to prepare to respond to proposals or arguments which he has not previously  
21 heard (see *RAO* 15-6.s.3)); and  
22

23 **Whereas**, there appear to have been some instances in the past where, for whatever reason,  
24 minority reports were presented the General Assembly with proposals and arguments  
25 that had not been made before the Committee; and  
26

27 **Whereas**, if, after the Overtures Committee concludes its action on a matter, a minority  
28 determines it has a new proposal or arguments that may sway the Committee, that  
29 minority may always ask the Committee to reconsider or rescind its previous action so  
30 as to hear the new proposal or arguments;  
31

32 **Therefore be it resolved** that the Presbytery of the Ascension hereby overtures the 48<sup>th</sup>  
33 General Assembly to amend *RAO* 15-6.s) by adding the following two new paragraphs  
34 following the three currently existing paragraphs (underlining for additions):  
35

36 ***RAO* 16.6**

37 4) No proposed action or proposed change in the wording of a  
38 recommendation from the Overtures Committee may be included in a  
39 minority report unless that proposal had been presented to the Overtures  
40 Committee and was defeated or tabled.

41 5) Ordinarily a minority report should employ arguments that were offered  
42 in the course of the Overtures Committee’s deliberations on the matter  
43 in question.  
44

45 *Adopted by the Presbytery of the Ascension at its stated meeting, November 2, 2020*

46 *Attested by: /s/ RE Frederick R. Neikirk, stated clerk*