

1 NOTE: This Overture was presented to and rejected by Chesapeake Presbytery, *RAO* 11-10.

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3 **OVERTURE 15** from the Session of New Covenant PCA, Abingdon, Maryland (to CCB, OC)
4 “Revise *RAO* 11-2 to Disallow Electronic Communications Regarding
5 Voting at the General Assembly”
6

7 **Whereas** *RAO* 11-2 states that:

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9 Communications from individuals shall not be received by the General
10 Assembly, unless they originate with persons who have no other access
11 to the General Assembly. If the General Assembly desires to receive
12 and consider any such communications, other than as information, the
13 Stated Clerk shall recommend reference to the proper General Assembly
14 committee. Letters, telegrams, or telephone calls from communicants
15 or congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America are not proper
16 communications and are not to be received by the General Assembly;

17 and

18
19 **Whereas** *RAO* 11-3 states that: “The Stated Clerk shall recommend to the General Assembly
20 reference for all proper communications”; and
21

22 **Whereas** the framers of the original *Rules of General Assembly Operations* could not conceive
23 of Facebook Messenger, Twitter, e-mail, or instant message, though they mention
24 letters, telegrams, and telephone calls; and
25

26 **Whereas** it has been alleged that there is a political director of the National Partnership, a
27 secretive group of PCA teaching elders and ruling elders that communicate through
28 e-mail and Facebook messenger, [https://www.theaquilareport.com/national-partnership-](https://www.theaquilareport.com/national-partnership-prepares-pca-general-assembly/)
29 [prepares-pca-general-assembly/](https://www.theaquilareport.com/national-partnership-prepares-pca-general-assembly/); and
30

31 **Whereas** digital communication has bypassed the Stated Clerk and has been disseminated while
32 in session to a significant portion of the General Assembly via Facebook Messenger
33 to members of the National Partnership; and
34

35 **Whereas** digital communication to a significant portion of the General Assembly originated
36 from members of the General Assembly; and
37

38 **Whereas** digital communication to a significant portion of the General Assembly was by its
39 nature withheld from the full General Assembly; and
40

41 **Whereas** to continue to allow secret digital communication and vote coordination to exclusive
42 groups within the General Assembly reveals a spirit of exclusivity, engenders distrust,
43 and promotes disunity; and

1 **Whereas** all communication to members of the General Assembly pertaining to business
2 before the General Assembly is to be submitted through the proper channels: through
3 overture, timely submitted letter to the Stated Clerk, or through speeches on the floor
4 before the whole General Assembly;

5
6 **Therefore, be it resolved** to insert as the second sentence of *RAO 11-2*: Nor should digital
7 communication for vote coordination be transmitted or received by any person or
8 portion of the General Assembly while in session.

9
10 EDITORIAL NOTE:

11 So that *RAO 11-2*, as amended, would read:

12 Communications from individuals shall not be received by the General
13 Assembly, unless they originate with persons who have no other access
14 to the General Assembly. Nor should digital communication for vote
15 coordination be transmitted or received by any person or portion of the
16 General Assembly while in session. If the General Assembly desires to
17 receive and consider any such communications, other than as
18 information, the Stated Clerk shall recommend reference to the proper
19 General Assembly committee. Letters, telegrams, or telephone calls
20 from communicants or congregations of the Presbyterian Church in
21 America are not proper communications and are not to be received by
22 the General Assembly.

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24 *Approved by the Session of New Covenant Presbyterian Church, October 1, 2019.*

25 *Attested by /s/ RE David A. O'Steen, Clerk of Session, New Covenant Presbyterian Church.*

26 *Presented to Chesapeake Presbytery, November 12, 2019, and Rejected by Chesapeake*

27 *Presbytery, January 14, 2020 (RAO 11-10). RE Timothy Persons, stated clerk.*