

1 **OVERTURE 24** from Houston Metro Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *RAO* 11-2 and 11-10 to Clarify Who May Submit an Overture”
3

4 **Be it resolved** that *RAO* 11-2 and 11-10 be amended as follows (strike-through for deletions,
5 underlining for new wording):
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7 **11-2.** Communications from individuals shall not be received by the General
8 Assembly, unless they originate with persons who have no other access to the
9 Assembly. If the Assembly desires to receive and consider any such
10 communications, other than as information, the Stated Clerk shall recommend
11 reference to the proper Assembly committee. Letters, telegrams, emails, or
12 telephone calls from communicants or congregations of the Presbyterian
13 Church in America are not proper communications, and are not to be received
14 by the Assembly.
15

16 **11-10.** No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first
17 has been presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come
18 before the Assembly as the overture of that court. An overture requested by ~~an~~
19 ~~individual communicant~~ a ruling elder commissioner to presbytery, a teaching
20 elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the
21 Assembly, provided ~~the fact that it was rejected by the presbytery is clearly~~
22 ~~stated with the overture.~~ the overture includes as an attachment a copy of the
23 relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting at which presbytery rejected
24 the overture or correspondence from presbytery’s Stated Clerk confirming
25 presbytery’s rejection of the overture. Such an overture must be the same
26 overture as that presented to and rejected by the presbytery.
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28 So that *RAO* 11-2 and 11-10 as amended, would read:
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30 **11-2.** Communications from individuals shall not be received by the General
31 Assembly, unless they originate with persons who have no other access to the
32 Assembly. If the Assembly desires to receive and consider any such
33 communications, other than as information, the Stated Clerk shall recommend
34 reference to the proper Assembly committee. Letters, telegrams, emails, or
35 telephone calls from communicants or congregations of the Presbyterian
36 Church in America are not proper communications, and are not to be received
37 by the Assembly.
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40 has been presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come
41 before the Assembly as the overture of that court. An overture requested by a
42 ruling elder commissioner to presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but
43 rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the Assembly, provided the
44 overture includes as an attachment a copy of the relevant extract from the
45

1 minutes of the meeting at which presbytery rejected the overture or
2 correspondence from presbytery's Stated Clerk confirming presbytery's
3 rejection of the overture. Such an overture must be the same overture as that
4 presented to and rejected by the presbytery.

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6 **RATIONALE:**

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8 The current provision in *RAO* 11-10 is confusing in that it implies that an individual
9 communicant member of a church may send an overture to the General Assembly.
10 Communications from individuals outside the PCA are to be dealt with in accordance with
11 *RAO* 11-2. Individual PCA members have access to the General Assembly indirectly through
12 their Sessions and Presbyteries. Overtures ordinarily are the request of a Presbytery for action
13 by the General Assembly (*RAO* 11-4, emphasis added).

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15 An individual member does not have the ability to move an overture for consideration by a
16 Presbytery, because unless that individual is a ruling elder commissioner to a Presbytery
17 meeting, he is not a member of the body and therefore does not have the privilege of making
18 motions. Such a member could have another who is a member or a Session make such a
19 motion, but if the motion for an overture is rejected by Presbytery, that other member or
20 Session would need to present the rejected overture to the General Assembly.

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22 The revised language clarifies what is permissible in accordance with the *RAO* and *Robert's*
23 *Rules*.

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25 *Adopted by Houston Metro Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 11, 2022*

26 *Attested by /s/ TE Lou Veiga, stated clerk*