

1 **OVERTURE 3** from James River Presbytery (to OC)
2 "Amend *RAO* 14-9.h and *RAO* 15-8.g to Limit General Assembly Debate."
3

4 **Whereas** recommendations with minority reports from Committees of Commissioners or from
5 the Overtures committee have ample time to present a rationale for the main motion as
6 well as the substitute, and
7

8 **Whereas** floor debate, in case of a minority report, is limited to sixty (60) minutes unless
9 extended, and
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11 **Whereas** floor debate on all other recommendations without a minority report is limited to ten
12 (10) minutes unless extended, and
13

14 **Whereas** floor debate frequently entails a recapitulation of arguments previously presented
15 during extended debate, and
16

17 **Whereas** debate may be extended by a simple majority if desired by the Assembly,
18

19 **Therefore be it resolved** that *RAO* 14-9.h, sub-paragraph 3, be amended to limit debate on the
20 main motion and substitute to thirty (30) minutes [strike-through for deletions,
21 underlining for new wording], so the new sub-paragraph reads:
22

- 23 3) Debate on the main motion and the substitute shall be limited to a total of ~~sixty~~
24 ~~(60)~~ thirty (30) minutes unless extended. When the allotted time has elapsed
25 the Moderator shall put the question to the Assembly: "Will the Assembly
26 extend the time on the question ten (10) minutes?" A simple majority shall
27 extend the time; otherwise the Moderator shall put the question or questions as
28 the case may be. If time is extended, the question of extension shall again be
29 put every succeeding ten (10) minutes until the matter is concluded. Each
30 Commissioner shall be limited to five (5) minutes on the same question unless
31 the Court by a simple majority grants additional time.
32

33 **Be it further resolved** that *RAO* 15-8g, sub-paragraph 3, be amended to limit debate on the
34 main motion and substitute to thirty (30) minutes [strike-through for deletions,
35 underlining for new wording], so the new sub-paragraph reads:
36

- 37 3) Debate on the main motion and the substitute shall be limited to a total of ~~sixty~~
38 ~~(60)~~ thirty (30) minutes unless extended. When the allotted time has elapsed
39 the Moderator shall put the question to the Assembly: "Will the Assembly
40 extend the time on the question ten (10) minutes?" A simple majority shall
41 extend the time; otherwise the Moderator shall put the question or questions as
42 the case may be. If time is extended, the question of extension shall again be
43 put every succeeding ten (10) minutes until the matter is concluded. Each
44 Commissioner shall be limited to five (5) minutes on the same question unless
45 the Court by a simple majority grants additional time.
46

47 *Adopted by James River Presbytery at its stated meeting, on October 8, 2022*
48 *Attested by /s/ TE Joe Brown, stated clerk*