

1 **OVERTURE 7** from Southern New England Presbytery (to CCB, AC, CDM, MNA, MTW,
2 Amend *RAO* 4-21.d for Committees of RUF, CC, CTS, PCAF, Geneva, RH)
3 Commissioners to Review Committee and
4 Board Compliance and Policies
5

6 [Note: The title and reference have been revised since the original posting of this
7 overture.]
8

9 **Be it resolved** that *RAO* 4-21.d be amended by adding paragraph (4) as follows (underlining
10 for new section):

11 d. The contents of the minutes should include the following items:

- 12 1. The names of persons leading in opening and closing prayers at all sessions;
- 13 2. In the event of a called meeting, the portion of the call stating the purpose of
14 the meeting should be recorded verbatim in the minutes;
- 15 3. A recording of the actions of the Committee or Board, including all motions
16 adopted and business transacted, together with such additional information as
17 the Committee or Board deems desirable for historical purposes. Ordinarily in
18 church courts, motions that are lost are not included in the record unless an
19 affirmative vote for the lost motion is recorded, in which case the lost motion
20 must be shown. Each main motion should normally be recorded in a separate
21 paragraph. Subsidiary and procedural motions may be recorded in the same
22 paragraph with the main motion to which they pertain. Main motions may be
23 recorded in the same paragraph, if they are closely related and pertain to the
24 same item of business.
- 25 4. A recording of information sufficient to demonstrate the Committee's or
26 Board's implementation of instructions received from General Assembly and
27 of policies adopted by the Committee or Board.

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29 **Rationale:**

30 Boards and Committees are creations of General Assembly and are governed by it through the
31 appointment of Board and Committee members, by direct instruction from the Assembly, and
32 by the approval of material policies. Boards and Committees are required to provide their
33 policies to the Assembly annually by *RAO* 4-21.j and to report changes in these policies to
34 General Assembly (as directed by the adoption of Overture 24 at the 47th General Assembly).
35 However, because no requirement exists to document compliance with policies and Assembly
36 instructions, no mechanism exists for responding if there are lapses in these policies or failures
37 to implement them.
38

39 Under the current requirements a Board or Committee does not have a requirement to
40 communicate its compliance with policies. If a deviation from policies were to be
41 communicated in discussions with the Board or Committee's respective Committee of
42 Commissioners, the Assembly would have no means to address the deviation until the
43 subsequent Assembly. Under this change, a Committee of Commissioners could instead
44 identify the deviation from adopted policy as an exception of substance under *RAO* 14-11.

Overture 7, Southern New England Presbytery

1 These requirements broadly reflect those already imposed upon Presbyteries and Sessions by
2 higher courts. *BCO* 12 and *BCO* 13 lay out affirmative requirements for lower courts; when
3 these requirements are not demonstrated by lower courts, a higher court may issue an
4 exception to the court's minutes under *BCO* 40. While it would not be appropriate to record
5 all requirements of each Board and Committee in the church's constitution, these requirements
6 are recorded in the manuals and bylaws of each Agency and Committee. This amendment
7 provides a mechanism to ensure that General Assembly maintains the ability to review and
8 control the implementation of these requirements.

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10 *Approved by Southern New England Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 21, 2023*

11 *Attested by /s/ RE Ron Heald, stated clerk*