

1 **OVERTURE 4** from Central Indiana Presbytery (CCB, OC)
2 “Establish Study Committee for Judicial Rules Changes”
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4 **Be it resolved** that the 51st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America postpone
5 consideration of all overtures touching *Book of Church Order (BCO)* chapters 27–46 (“Rules
6 of Discipline”) and refer all such proposed overtures to a Study Committee for review and
7 recommendation to the Overtures Committee of the 52nd General Assembly. Quorum shall be
8 three Ruling Elders and three Teaching Elders; all members shall be from differing
9 presbyteries. The committee shall be self-funded: each committee member shall bear his own
10 expenses and be allowed to submit these expenses to his church or presbytery. The Moderator
11 of the 51st General Assembly shall have discretion to fill any vacancies by an officer of the
12 same order (*BCO* 7-2).
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14 The committee shall produce in its report recommendations on overtures referred to it. The
15 Committee’s report shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk by the deadline listed in the *Rules*
16 *of Assembly Operation (RAO)* for Overtures. Though the ad-hoc committee shall strive for
17 unanimity where at all possible, for any overtures recommended by the committee, a minority
18 report recommending an alternative shall be allowed if the minority includes at least two
19 Ruling Elders and two Teaching Elders. Nothing herein shall prevent the committee from
20 recommending germane amendments to any overtures referred to it by this Assembly.
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22 **Be it further resolved** that the 51st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America
23 suspend *RAO* 9-4, limiting committee membership to seven (7) members, and compose this
24 study committee of eleven elders from different presbyteries, with at least four Ruling Elders
25 and four Teaching Elders, with one alternate each, respectively, as follows, listed in
26 alphabetical order (each member has given his assent to serve in this capacity, should the
27 Assembly pass this overture):
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- 29 • TE Per Almquist (Northern New England)
- 30 • RE Dan Barber (Central Indiana)
- 31 • RE Howie Donahoe (Pacific Northwest)
- 32 • TE Jacob Gerber (Platte Valley)
- 33 • TE Fred Greco (Houston Metro)
- 34 • TE Larry Hoop (Ohio Valley)
- 35 • RE Trevor Laurence (Piedmont Triad)
- 36 • TE Paul Lee (Korean Northeastern)
- 37 • RE E. J. Nusbaum (Rocky Mountain)
- 38 • RE Bryce Sullivan (Nashville)
- 39 • (Alternate) TE Steve Tipton (Gulf Coast)
- 40 • RE Richard Wolfe (Arizona)
- 41 • (Alternate) RE Jim Wert (Metro Atlanta)
- 42

43 In the event that the Overtures Committee does not recommend that the 51st General Assembly
44 suspend *RAO* 9-4, or the Assembly itself declines to approve a recommendation to suspend,
45 then this Overture recommends that the Moderator of the 51st General Assembly appoint seven

1 (7) men to this Study Committee from this list of eleven (11), with the rest as advisory
2 members, and appoint its convener.

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4 **Rationale**

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6 There is likely to be no small number of overtures being proposed this year to the General
7 Assembly pertaining to judicial procedures beginning with investigation through the
8 completion of formal judicial process. Furthermore, the overtures being drafted have
9 dependencies upon one another: some items are being proposed to move from *BCO* 32 to *BCO*
10 31, and 35 to 32, etc. The only way to achieve these kinds of systematic (and helpful) changes
11 is to work on multiple overtures *en masse*. Approving this Overture will enable more extensive
12 review, discussion, and debate on the matters than would be possible during the normal work
13 of the Overtures Committee and will result in a report helpful for the 52nd GA Overtures
14 Committee when it considers the postponed 2023 overtures. **It is our hope that this overture**
15 **will encourage other presbyteries to consider submitting additional proposed changes**
16 **beyond our own.**

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18 We understand that the main reason the *RAO* limits committee membership to seven relates
19 to funding by the Administrative Committee, which has historically borne the full burden of
20 any study committee. Additionally, *Robert's Rules of Order (RONR)* helpfully explains that
21 larger committee composition may be desirable in certain circumstances:

22
23 “When a special committee is appointed for deliberation or investigation, however, it
24 should often be larger, and it should represent, as far as possible, all points of view in
25 the organization, so that its opinion will carry maximum weight. When such a
26 committee is properly selected, its recommendations will most often reflect the will of
27 the assembly” (12th ed., §50:18).

28
29 The proposed membership of this committee has been carefully selected to broadly represent
30 the variety of views within our fellowship, and each member has demonstrated the ability to
31 work collaboratively and collegially. Each one at some time or another served on Review of
32 Presbytery Records and/or Overtures Committee and has in his own right expertise and
33 experience in the *BCO* and to varying degrees with judicial process. It should be noted that
34 the proposed membership of this committee consists of:

- 35
36 • three current SJC members, two of whom served as judges, and one as clerk, on a
37 recent trial;
38 • two current CCB members and one alternate;
39 • five former trial representatives;
40 • three trained legal professionals;
41 • three General Assembly Moderators.

42
43 Because the Study Committee proposed in this Overture does not require funding from the
44 Administrative Committee, and due to the extended and deliberative nature of the proposed
45 items to be referred to it, we believe it should be relatively simple to suspend *RAO* 9-4.

1 Therefore, this Overture also proposes the 51st General Assembly Overtures Committee
2 recommend that the 51st General Assembly vote to suspend *RAO 9-4* in this instance so that
3 the committee can include eleven members. Their biographical sketches and relevant service
4 to the Presbyterian Church in America are listed below:

5 **TE Per Almquist**, Northern New England. BA Johns Hopkins ('96); M.Div. Covenant
6 Theological Seminary ('99); DMin Reformed Theological Seminary, dissertation
7 "Presbyterian Polity in Practice: A Commentary on the Book of Church Order;" Sr.
8 Pastor/planter, Free Grace Presbyterian Church, Lewiston, Maine. Presbytery committees
9 served: Recording clerk Northern New England Presbytery, Chm. Ministerial Relations
10 and Review of Sessional Records. GA committees served: Chm/Vice Chm Review of
11 Presbytery Records, Nominating Committee; Chairman, Committee on Constitutional
12 Business; various Committees of Commissioners.

13
14 **RE Dan Barber**, Central Indiana. B.S. Psychology, Georgia College (1998); M.Div.,
15 Covenant Seminary (2011) with an emphasis in Educational Ministries. Product specialist
16 and technology evangelist for NetApp, Inc. CDM Permanent Committee Class of 2026;
17 Review of Presbytery Records Class of 2022; Overtures Committee 2022, 2023. Ruling
18 Elder, 2013–2014, The Kirk of the Hills (St. Louis, MO); 2019–2021, Redeemer
19 Presbyterian Church (Indianapolis, IN); 2021–Present, Fountain Square Presbyterian
20 Church (Indianapolis; also Clerk of Session). 2022–Present, Moderator, Central Indiana
21 Presbytery. Review of Session Records team, CIP, 2021–Present. Served as a respondent
22 and/or representative in multiple cases for both Presbytery and General Assembly before
23 the Standing Judicial Commission in both complaints and judicial process. Authored/co-
24 authored several judicially-related overtures considered and/or passed by multiple General
25 Assemblies.

26
27 **RE Howie Donahoe**. Pacific Northwest. B.S. USAF Academy, M.A. Arizona State; AF
28 pilot 8 yrs., airline pilot 35 yrs.; PCA member 41 years, eight churches, four presbyteries;
29 RE 37 years; SJC member for 24 years. Moderator of 47th GA in Dallas. Appointed study
30 committees on Sexuality & on Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault. Six terms on the SJC:
31 classes of 2002 (elected '98), 2006, 2010, 2015, 2019, 2024, and will have served on the
32 SJC a total of 25 years in June 2024.

33
34 **TE Jacob Gerber**, Platte Valley. B.A. University of Nebraska-Lincoln (2006). M.Div.,
35 Beeson Divinity School (2009). Ph.D. Candidate, Puritan Reformed Theological
36 Seminary (Present). Professional Parliamentarian, Credentialed as a Professional
37 Registered Parliamentarian (National Association of Parliamentarians) and a Certified
38 Professional Parliamentarian-Teacher (American Institute of Parliamentarians) before
39 Retirement (2001–2011). Author, *Parliamentary Procedure for Presbyters: A Beginner's*
40 *Guide* (Presbyterian Polity, 2023). Interim Pastor for Crete Berean Church (Crete, NE;
41 2011) and First Evangelical Covenant Church (Lincoln, NE; 2011–2013). Assistant Pastor
42 at Redeemer Presbyterian Church (PCA) (2011–2015). Senior Pastor at Harvest
43 Community Church (PCA) (2015–Present). Stated Clerk, Platte Valley Presbytery (2018–
44 Current). PCA General Assembly Service: Floor Clerk (2017); Overtures Committee
45 (2018; 2023); Covenant Theological Seminary CoC (2019); Mission to the World CoC

1 (Secretary; 2021); Review of Presbytery Records (2020–Present); Ad-Hoc Rules
2 Subcommittee for RPR (2021–2022); Secretary for RPR (2023–2024); Assistant
3 Representative for RPR before SJC for BCO 40-5 Cases (2023).

4
5 **TE Fred Greco**, Houston Metro. BA University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY; MA University
6 of Chicago, Chicago, IL; JD University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI; MDiv Reformed
7 Theological Seminary. Currently serves as senior pastor of Christ Church, Katy, TX,
8 2006-present. Previously worked as an attorney focusing on corporate, real estate, and
9 employment law. Current member of Standing Judicial Commission, 2009-present;
10 service on SJC includes as secretary (2011-13) and chairman (2014-17; 2019–2022).
11 Chaired numerous panels and has worked to improve efficiency of SJC using technology.
12 General Assembly Moderator (50th); other service includes Nominating Committee;
13 Theological Examining Committee (2004-05); and numerous committees of
14 commissioners, including Administration and Overtures. Presbytery service includes
15 Moderator (2009-11) and chairman of Ministerial Relations and Candidates & Credentials
16 Committees.

17
18 **TE Larry Hoop**, Ohio Valley. B.A. Miami University (1972); M.Div. Trinity Evangelical
19 Divinity School (1984); D.Min. Covenant Theological Seminary (2004). Campus Staff,
20 IVCF, OH (1972-80); Director of Christian Education (1983-85) and Associate Pastor
21 (1985-88), Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elgin, IL; Pastor, Colfax Center
22 Presbyterian Church, Holland, IA (1988-2012); Supply Pastor, Russellville (OH)
23 Presbyterian Church (2014-17) and Wheat Ridge (West Union, OH) Presbyterian Church
24 (2014-22). Church and Presbytery Relations Representative, PCA Administrative
25 Committee (2015-21); byFaith News Editor (2021-). Stated Clerk, Northern Illinois
26 Presbytery (1987-88), Ohio Valley Presbytery (2015 -). GA Service: CCB (Alternate,
27 2001-02; Member, 2002-06, 2007-11, 2013-17, 2018-23; secretary, 2008-11; Chairman,
28 2014-17, 2021-23); RPR (1991-93, 2019-22; vice-chairman, 1992; secretary, 1993);
29 Nominating Committee (2023-); CoCs: Bills and Overtures/Overtures (1987, 1995, 1997,
30 1999, 2001-03, 2008-09; secretary, 1997), IRC (1998, 2014-16, chairman, 2016), MTW
31 (2004, chairman), CTS (2005, 2012), RUF (2006), AC (2007, 2010-11), MNA (2013).
32 Has served as Presbytery Prosecutor and Respondent, and Representative of Complainant,
33 arguing three cases before SJC Judicial Panels and two before the full SJC.

34
35 **RE Trevor Laurence**, Piedmont Triad. B.A. Religion, University of Florida (2009);
36 M.A., Christian Thought, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (2013); Ph.D.,
37 Theological Ethics, University of Exeter (2020). Executive Director, Catechesia Institute
38 (2019–); Research Associate, Centre for the Study of Bible and Violence (2019–).
39 Author, *Cursing with God: The Imprecatory Psalms and the Ethics of Christian Prayer*
40 (Baylor University Press, 2022); Co-Editor, *Violent Biblical Texts: New Approaches*
41 (Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2022). Church Planter and Pastor, Trinity Church, Winston-
42 Salem, NC (2012–2016); Ruling Elder, Trinity Church, Winston-Salem, NC (2016–).
43 Presbytery Service: Leadership Development Team, Piedmont Triad Presbytery (2017–
44 2019); Moderator (2023). General Assembly Service: Overtures Committee (2019, 2021–
45 2023).

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TE Paul Lee, Korean Northeastern. Previous service in Korean Eastern: Philadelphia Shepherding Committee, Chair (May 2005 – Jun 2007); Youth Committee, Member (Nov 2002 – Feb 2006); Candidate Examining Committee, Member (Jan 2006 – Oct 2011), Chair (Dec 2008 – Jun 2009); Presbytery Stated Clerk, Jun 2009 – Oct 2011. Korean Northeastern Presbytery (formed Oct 2011 out of Korean Eastern): Candidate Examining Committee, Secretary (Feb 2012 – Sep 2014), Chair (Jun 2013 – current); Presbytery Stated Clerk, Oct 2013 – current. General Assembly service includes: GA Recording Clerk, 2015-2018 (43-46 GA), 2021-2023 (48GA-50GA) GA Computing Clerk, 2019 (47GA); Standing Judicial Commission, Member (2019-2024 term); Interchurch Relations Committee, Member (2016-2018); Theological Exam Committee, Alternate (2009, 2010); Nominating Committee Appointee (2011, 2014, 2015-17, 2018-2023); Chair (2017); Review of Presbytery Records Committee Appointee (2010, 2014-2023) and Alternate (2011); Secretary (2016, 2017), Assistant Secretary (2018), Vice Chair (2019, 2020-21), Chair (2022, 2023); Overtures Committee, Appointee (2011, 2014-2023), Secretary (2018); Floor Clerk, Appointee (2010 and 2011); Communion Elder, Appointee (2010, 2011, 2014, and 2015).

RE E. J. Nusbaum, Rocky Mountain. Active-duty infantry officer from 1979 to 1985. Naval Reserve Officer from 1988 to 2007. Retired as a Captain (O-6) on 31 December 2007. Ordained as a Ruling Elder in 1987. Clerk of Session for 6 years. RMT MNA committee from 1998–2021, Shepherding Committee (Current), Moderator 2010–2011. CoC 21 of the last 24 assemblies, including Administration (26th GA), Ridge Haven (27th and 49th), Chairman of the Bills and Overtures Committee (29th GA); Overtures Committee for nine assemblies. Committee for Constitutional Business (2002–2007; 2008–2012) and the Standing Judicial Commission (2013-2022). Moderator of the 35th GA.

RE Bryce Sullivan, Nashville. B.S. Psychology, Georgia State University; MA, Psychology, and Ph.D. Clinical Psychology, Ohio State University (1997). Dean and Professor, Belmont University. RE Center Grove Church, Edwardsville, IL (Illiana). RE Covenant Presbyterian Church Nashville (Nashville). OC (2016, 2017, 2018, 2022); CC Board (2014-2018); RPR (2012, 2019-2022); Chair, CoC CTS (2012); CCB (alternate, 2021; member, 2022-present). Nashville Presbytery service: Moderator (2023), Leadership Development (credentialing, 2020-present), Judicial Commission (2021-2023), Campus Ministry (2010-2016), and Standing Rules. Covenant Presbyterian Church Committees: Personnel, Discipleship, Missions, Congregational Care, and Church Corporation. Member, National Association of Parliamentarians.

TE Steve Tipton, Gulf Coast. B.A. California State University, Fullerton; MDiv, Reformed Theological Seminary; PhD, Evangelical Theological Faculty, Leuven. Serves as Senior Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Panama City FL (2022 -). Served as Senior Pastor of Hillcrest Presbyterian Church, Volant PA (2010-2022). Served in Ascension Presbytery on the Administration Committee (2010-2022, Chairman 2012-2014, 2017), as Moderator (2019), and on several Judicial and Study Committees. Serves

1 Gulf Coast Presbytery as Assistant Parliamentarian (2022 -). Invited to moderate a
2 meeting of Central Indiana Presbytery for a difficult and sensitive matter. Service to the
3 General Assembly includes: Overtures Committee (2013 & 2021); Review of Presbytery
4 Records Committee (2012-2022, Chair 2018, Vice-Chair 2020-2022); Assistant
5 Parliamentarian (47th GA, 2019); Assisting the PCA Stated Clerk in answering submitted
6 BCO/Polity questions; and various Committees of Commissioners: RUM (2011); CTS
7 (2012); AC (2014, 2016, 2018); RBI (2015, Chairman 2017); IRC (2019); MNA (2022).
8 Taught Ecclesiology for a seminary in Asia (2018). Author of several articles on polity
9 and church related matters.

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11 **RE Richard Wolfe**, Arizona. University of California, Berkeley (BA), Rutgers Law
12 School, Camden, NJ (JD). Labor law attorney at the Staff Judge Advocate’s Office, Fort
13 Huachuca (16 years) after prior employment with Army’s 1st ID and 3rd ID in Germany
14 (20 years). Captain, Staff Judge Advocate, honorable discharge 1985. RE at Grace
15 Presbyterian Church, Sierra Vista (10 years). Stated Clerk, AZP (2017–Present). Came to
16 understand the doctrines of grace attending Tenth Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia,
17 while in law school, when Doctor James Boice was pastoring, who married Barbara and
18 him 42 years ago.

19
20 **RE Jim Wert**, Metro Atlanta. B.A. in Political Science and German, University of North
21 Carolina at Chapel Hill (1980); M.B.A., Baker Scholar, Harvard Business School (1985).
22 Managing Partner, Wert & Associates (2013-present). Over 33 years of experience across
23 marketing, financial, and management consulting fields; 16 years of board service on
24 various internationally focused non-profits, including church planting partnership. GA:
25 Moderator of the 43rd General Assembly (2015); chairman of Host Committee (2018);
26 Overtures Committee (2009-2017, 2022); PCA Strategic Planning Committee (2001-
27 2005); byFaith Oversight Committee (2018–present); PCA 50th Anniversary Celebration
28 Committee chair (2021-2023); Theological Examining Committee alternate (2023).
29 Presbytery: Moderator (2010, 2012, 2024); Credentials Committee (2001-present); MNA
30 (2009-present); Presbytery prosecutor for a complex case involving a TE (2015-2016).
31 Founding member, Intown Community Church; PCA member 45 years (officer 41 years).

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33 *Adopted by the Central Indiana Presbytery on November 10, 2023*

34 *Attested by /s/ TE Taylor Bradbury, Stated Clerk*