

1 **OVERTURE 28 from New Jersey Presbytery**

(to CCB, OC)

2 “Amend *RAO* 16-6.c.1. to Eliminate Conflict with *BCO* 40-5”

3
4 **Whereas** *BCO* 40-5 sets-forth the process by which the General Assembly is to address a
5 report of “any *important delinquency* or grossly unconstitutional proceedings” of a
6 Presbytery (emphasis added); and
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8 **Whereas** *BCO* 40-5, together with *BCO* 15-4 and *RAO* 17-2, mandates that the “first step”
9 the General Assembly take upon receiving and finding such a report credible is to cite
10 the Presbytery to appear in a judicial proceeding; and
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12 **Whereas**, it is the right and duty of the General Assembly to review, at least once a year, the
13 records of the presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church in America (*BCO* 40-1); and
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15 **Whereas** the General Assembly carries out this review through its Committee on Review of
16 Presbytery Records (CRPR); and
17

18 **Whereas** *RAO* 16 governs the Committee’s examination of presbytery records, and specifies
19 that the Committee shall note its finding with respect to Presbytery minutes under the
20 categories of exceptions of substance, exceptions of form, and notations, as
21 appropriate; and
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23 **Whereas** *RAO* 16-6.c.1 specifies that exceptions of substance are defined to include “matters
24 of impropriety and *important delinquencies*” (emphasis added); and
25

26 **Whereas** *RAO* 16-10.b. specifies that Presbyteries are to respond to the subsequent General
27 Assembly with respect to exceptions of substance; and
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29 **Whereas**, *RAO* 16-10.c. specifies the process by which the subsequent General Assembly
30 may cite a Presbytery with a continuing exception of substance to appear before the
31 SJC for proceedings according to *BCO* 40-5; and
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33 **Whereas** *RAO* 16-6.c.1. and *RAO* 16-10.c. appear to be in conflict with *BCO* 40-5 with respect
34 to how important delinquencies are handled, the former specifying a prolonged and
35 voluntary process of citation under 40-5, the latter specifying immediate and
36 mandatory citation; and
37

38 **Therefore be it resolved**, that the 51st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in
39 America amend *RAO* 16-6.c.1 such that the paragraph would read, if adopted
40 (strikethrough for deletions, underline for additions):

- 41 1) Exceptions of substance: Apparent violations of the Scripture or serious
42 irregularities from the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in
43 America, actions out of accord with the deliverances of the General
44 Assembly, and matters of impropriety and ~~important~~ substantive
45 delinquencies, and any non-compliance with *RAO* 16-3.e.5. should be
46 reported under this category.
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48 *Adopted by New Jersey Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 16, 2024*

49 *Attested by /s/ RE Richard Springer, stated clerk*