

1 **OVERTURE 9** from the James River Presbytery (to CCB, OC, AC, CC, CDM, CTS,  
2 Geneva, MNA, MTW, PCAF, RH, RUF)

3 “Amend BCO 14-1 to Make AC Members Appointed by Committees and Agencies  
4 Non-voting Advisory Members”  
5

6 **Whereas** the permanent committees and agencies of the General Assembly exist to serve the  
7 church and to promote the Great Commission (*BCO* 14-1.5);  
8

9 **Whereas** the PCA has, since its founding, been committed to a grass roots system of church  
10 government;  
11

12 **Whereas** the General Assembly’s Administrative Committee exercises tremendous influence  
13 over the PCA’s national operations, including the nomination of the Stated Clerk; the  
14 preparation of budgets for the permanent committees and agencies; arranging for the  
15 General Assembly to meet each year; and the hiring, retention, and dismissal of  
16 numerous employees;  
17

18 **Whereas**, as presently constituted in *BCO* 14-1.12 and *RAO* Article V, the Administrative  
19 Committee consists of eleven (11) members elected at large by the General Assembly  
20 (*BCO* 14-1.12.a; *RAO* 5-1.a) and nine (9) members appointed by the permanent  
21 committees and agencies (*BCO* 14-1.12.b, *RAO* 5-1.b);  
22

23 **Whereas** this means that 45% of the votes on the Administrative Committee, as presently  
24 constituted, are cast by men appointed to the Committee rather than elected;  
25

26 **Whereas**, per *BCO* 14-1.12 and *RAO* 5-3, “The chief administrative officers of the program  
27 Committees and Agencies may attend any meeting of the Administrative Committee.  
28 They shall be entitled to the privilege of the floor, but shall not have a vote and must  
29 be excluded when an executive session is called;” and  
30

31 **Whereas** the PCA will be better served if the voting members of the Administrative  
32 Committee are directly elected by the General Assembly, making the Committee more  
33 directly accountable to the will of the Assembly; now, therefore,  
34

35 **Be it resolved** that *BCO* 14-1.12 is amended as follows (underlining for additions):  
36

37 By inserting the words “non-voting, advisory” into the stem of *BCO* 14-1.12.b between the  
38 word “One” and the word “member” and by inserting the following sentence at the end of the  
39 second paragraph: “The non-voting, advisory members appointed to the Administrative  
40 Committee pursuant to subparagraph (b) above shall have the privilege of the floor but shall  
41 not be entitled to vote and must be excluded when an executive session is called.” These  
42 changes shall result in an amended *BCO* 14-1.12 that reads:  
43

- 44 12. The Assembly permanent committees are the Administrative Committee of  
45 General Assembly, Committee on Discipleship Ministries, Committee on

1 Mission to North America, Committee on Mission to the World, and Committee  
2 on Reformed University Fellowship.

3 The Administrative Committee of General Assembly (AC) shall consist of  
4 twenty (20) members:

- 5 a. Eleven members in classes elected through the standard nomination  
6 and election procedure,
- 7 b. One non-voting, advisory member each from the following program  
8 committees or agencies:
  - 9 1. Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM);
  - 10 2. Covenant College (CC);
  - 11 3. Covenant Theological Seminary (CTS);
  - 12 4. Mission to North America (MNA);
  - 13 5. Mission to the World (MTW);
  - 14 6. PCA Foundation (PCAF);
  - 15 7. Geneva Benefits Group, Inc. (Geneva);
  - 16 8. Reformed University Fellowship (RUF);
  - 17 9. Ridge Haven Conference Center (RH).

18  
19 The eleven members at large shall serve a term of four years. The chairman  
20 of the Administrative Committee shall be one of its members at large. The non-  
21 voting, advisory members appointed to the Administrative Committee, pursuant  
22 to subparagraph (b) above, shall have the privilege of the floor but shall not be  
23 entitled to vote and must be excluded when an executive session is called.

24 Each program committee and agency shall designate its member each year  
25 at the last meeting of the committee or board before the meeting of General  
26 Assembly. The chief administrative officers of the program committees and  
27 agencies may attend any meeting of the Administrative Committee. They shall be  
28 entitled to the privilege of the floor but shall not have a vote and must be excluded  
29 when an executive session is called.

30 Committee on Discipleship Ministries, Committee on Mission to North  
31 America, Committee on Mission to the World, and Committee on Reformed  
32 University Fellowship shall consist of fifteen (15) men divided into five classes  
33 of three men each, with two men being TEs and one RE or two men being REs  
34 and one TE on alternate years, elected to serve five-year terms. Committees on  
35 Discipleship Ministries, Mission to North America, Mission to the World, and  
36 Reformed University Fellowship shall have one ruling and one teaching elder as  
37 alternates to fill any vacancy that may occur during the year.

38 Persons who have served for a full term, or for at least two years of a partial  
39 term, on one of the Assembly's permanent committees or agencies shall not be  
40 eligible for re-election to an Assembly committee until one year has elapsed.  
41 (Exceptions may be permitted in agency bylaws approved by the Assembly.)  
42

43 **Be it further resolved** that in order to harmonize the language in the *Rules of Assembly*  
44 *Operation* with this amendment to the *Book of Church Order*, at the time that this  
45 amendment is finally and fully adopted by the General Assembly, having met with the

1 approval of 2/3 of the presbyteries, *RAO* 5-1.b is amended as follows (underlining for  
2 additions):

3  
4 By inserting the words “non-voting, advisory” in the first line between the words “One” and  
5 “member” such that an amended *RAO* 5-1 reads:

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7 **5-1.** The Administrative Committee of General Assembly (AC) shall consist of twenty  
8 (20) members:

- 9 a. Eleven members in classes elected through the standard nomination  
10 and election procedure,  
11 b. One non-voting, advisory member each from the following program  
12 committees or agencies:  
13 1. Committee on Discipleship Ministries (CDM);  
14 2. Covenant College (CC);  
15 3. Covenant Theological Seminary (CTS);  
16 4. Mission to North America (MNA);  
17 5. Mission to the World (MTW);  
18 6. PCA Foundation (PCAF);  
19 7. Geneva Benefits Group, Inc. (Geneva);  
20 8. Reformed University Fellowship (RUF);  
21 9. Ridge Haven Conference Center (RH).

22  
23 **Be it further resolved** that in order to harmonize the language in the *Rules of Assembly*  
24 *Operation* with this amendment to the *Book of Church Order*, at the time that this  
25 amendment is finally and fully adopted by the General Assembly, having met with the  
26 approval of 2/3 of the presbyteries, *RAO* 5-2 is amended by adding the following  
27 sentence at the end the end of the paragraph, “For avoidance of doubt, the non-voting  
28 advisory members appointed to the Administrative Committee pursuant to *RAO* 5-1.b  
29 shall have the privilege of the floor but shall not be entitled to vote and must be  
30 excluded when an executive session is called.” This amendment will result in an  
31 amended *RAO* 5-2 that reads (underlining for additions):

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33 **5-2.** The eleven members at large shall serve a term of four years. The chairman of the  
34 Administrative Committee shall be one of its members at large. The non-voting,  
35 advisory members appointed to the Administrative Committee, pursuant to *RAO*  
36 5-1.b, shall have the privilege of the floor but shall not be entitled to vote and  
37 must be excluded when an executive session is called.

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40 *Adopted by the James River Presbytery at its stated meeting. January 18, 2025*  
41 *Attested by J. Christopher Rohde, stated clerk*