

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):
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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:

6
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):

32
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*