

1 **OVERTURE 40** from the Savannah River Presbytery (to CCB, OC, AC, CDM,
2 MNA, MTW, RUF)

3 “Amend *RAO* 4-9 to Set Calendar Year Terms for Stated Clerk and Coordinators”
4

5 **Whereas**, the permanent committees of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) are vital
6 to the ongoing ministry and mission of the denomination, with their coordinators
7 serving as key administrative and spiritual leaders, and the Stated Clerk being vital to
8 the ongoing operations of the denomination; and
9

10 **Whereas**, the *Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO)* currently require that program Committee
11 coordinators and the Stated Clerk be elected or re-elected annually by the General
12 Assembly (*RAO* 4-9); and
13

14 **Whereas**, this annual reelection structure creates significant uncertainty for the men serving
15 as coordinators and the Stated Clerk, who must face the possibility of being removed
16 from their role during the Assembly, potentially leaving them without employment or
17 clarity about their future within days; and
18

19 **Whereas**, this uncertainty places strain not only on the coordinators and their families but
20 also on the commissioners of the Assembly, many of whom are hesitant to vote against
21 a coordinator’s reelection out of concern for the personal and vocational consequences
22 to the man, rather than purely on the merits of his performance or suitability for
23 continued leadership; and
24

25 **Whereas**, such dynamics can inadvertently undermine open, fair, and dispassionate
26 deliberation and decision-making on the floor of the Assembly; and
27

28 **Whereas**, defining terms of service for permanent committee coordinators and the Stated
29 Clerk according to the calendar year (January 1 - December 31) would provide
30 appropriate lead time for transitions, reduce vocational volatility, and allow the
31 Assembly to vote without the burden of immediate personal consequences; and
32

33 **Whereas**, in the early years of the denomination, the relatively small size of the PCA allowed
34 for more informal transition practices, but as the Assembly has grown and the
35 responsibilities of coordinators and the Stated Clerk have expanded, greater structural
36 clarity has become necessary to uphold trust, fairness, and administrative health,
37

38 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 53rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in
39 America amend the *Rules of Assembly Operations* 4-9 as follows (~~strike through~~ for
40 deletions, underlining for additions):
41

42 **4-9.** The four program Committees shall nominate annually a coordinator for
43 election by the General Assembly. The Administrative Committee shall nominate
44 annually a Stated Clerk for election by the General Assembly. If the nominee has
45 not been examined by the Theological Examining Committee, such an examination

1 must take place prior to the election when it is a first time employment. ~~A new~~
2 ~~coordinator shall assume office at the end of the Assembly meeting, or at such time~~
3 ~~thereafter as designated by the General Assembly. The term of service for all~~
4 ~~coordinators of permanent committees and the Stated Clerk shall begin on January~~
5 ~~1 and end on December 31 of the same calendar year.~~
6

7 In the event that a coordinator or Stated Clerk is not re-elected by the General
8 Assembly, his current term shall continue through December 31 of that year.
9 Beginning January 1 of the following year, the permanent Committee shall appoint
10 a provisional coordinator, who shall not be a candidate for the permanent position
11 for the following year, and shall present a candidate for coordinator at the next
12 General Assembly.
13

14 So that the amended passage would read:

15
16 **4-9.** The four program Committees shall nominate annually a coordinator for
17 election by the General Assembly. The Administrative Committee shall nominate
18 annually a Stated Clerk for election by the General Assembly. If the nominee has
19 not been examined by the Theological Examining Committee, such an examination
20 must take place prior to the election when it is a first time employment. The term of
21 service for all coordinators of permanent committees and the Stated Clerk shall begin
22 on January 1 and end on December 31 of the same calendar year.
23

24 In the event that a coordinator or Stated Clerk is not re-elected by the General
25 Assembly, his current term shall continue through December 31 of that year.
26 Beginning January 1 of the following year, the permanent Committee shall appoint
27 a provisional coordinator, who shall not be a candidate for the permanent position
28 for the following year, and shall present a candidate for coordinator at the next
29 General Assembly.
30

31 **And be it further resolved** that this amendment, if adopted, shall take effect immediately and
32 apply to all future elections and re-elections of permanent committee coordinators.
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35 *Adopted by the Savannah River Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 24, 2026*
36 *Attested by RE W. Glynn Dyer, Stated Clerk*