

1 **OVERTURE 41** from the Savannah River Presbytery (to CCB, OC, AC, CDM,  
2 MNA, MTW, RUF)

3 “Amend *RAO* 4-9 to Require 2/3 Majority to Elect Stated Clerk and Coordinators”  
4

5 **Whereas**, the permanent committees and the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in  
6 America (PCA) play a vital role in carrying out the ministry and mission of the  
7 denomination between meetings of the General Assembly; and  
8

9 **Whereas**, the coordinators of these permanent committees serve as the chief administrative  
10 officers and are entrusted with significant leadership responsibilities that influence the  
11 direction, tone, and effectiveness of the committees’ work; and  
12

13 **Whereas**, the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church in America serves as the chief  
14 administrative officer of the Administrative Committee and the chief clerical officer  
15 of the General Assembly, responsible for overseeing denominational records,  
16 coordinating Assembly business, maintaining official communications and archives,  
17 and ensuring the proper execution of Assembly directives; and  
18

19 **Whereas**, the *Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO)* currently specify procedures for electing  
20 permanent committee coordinators (*RAO* 4-9), requiring only a simple majority for  
21 election or re-election; and  
22

23 **Whereas**, the increasing scope and visibility of coordinator roles requires that those who serve  
24 in such positions do so with the clear and broad confidence of the Assembly; and  
25

26 **Whereas**, it is essential that committee coordinators and the Stated Clerk have not merely  
27 institutional legitimacy but also a demonstrated mandate from the General Assembly  
28 in order to carry out their duties with credibility, moral authority, and effectiveness;  
29 and  
30

31 **Whereas**, requiring a two-thirds majority for election or re-election would ensure that only  
32 those candidates who can command widespread support from the commissioners are  
33 appointed to such strategic roles; and  
34

35 **Whereas**, historically, the General Assembly has recognized the value of supermajority  
36 requirements in matters requiring broad consensus and significant trust, such as  
37 constitutional amendments (*BCO* 26-2, 3), discipline (*BCO* 31-10; 34-8, 10), certain  
38 judicial appeals (*BCO* 42-6); modifications to permanent Committee and Agency  
39 budgets (*RAO* 4-11), etc.; and  
40

41 **Whereas**, the call for greater consensus in leadership elections echoes the Presbyterian  
42 principle of mutual submission and shared governance, ensuring that those in positions  
43 of influence serve not by mere majority rule but by the collective wisdom and unity of  
44 the broader church; and  
45

1 **Whereas**, in previous General Assemblies, the church has experienced seasons of tension  
2 surrounding coordinator elections, and a heightened threshold for election could foster  
3 greater peace, confidence, and unity in such decisions,  
4

5 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 53<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in  
6 America amend the *Rules of Assembly Operations* 4-9 as follows (underlining for  
7 additions):  
8

9 **4-9.** The four program Committees shall nominate annually a coordinator for  
10 election by the General Assembly. The Administrative Committee shall nominate  
11 annually a Stated Clerk for election by the General Assembly. If the nominee has  
12 not been examined by the Theological Examining Committee, such an examination  
13 must take place prior to the election when it is a first time employment. A new  
14 coordinator shall assume office at the end of the Assembly meeting, or at such time  
15 thereafter as designated by the General Assembly.  
16

17 A coordinator of a permanent Committee, and the Stated Clerk, shall be elected or  
18 re-elected only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the commissioners present  
19 and voting.  
20

21 So that the amended passage would read:  
22

23 **4-9.** The four program Committees shall nominate annually a coordinator for  
24 election by the General Assembly. The Administrative Committee shall nominate  
25 annually a Stated Clerk for election by the General Assembly. If the nominee has  
26 not been examined by the Theological Examining Committee, such an examination  
27 must take place prior to the election when it is a first time employment. A new  
28 coordinator shall assume office at the end of the Assembly meeting, or at such time  
29 thereafter as designated by the General Assembly.  
30

31 A coordinator of a permanent Committee, and the Stated Clerk, shall be elected or  
32 re-elected only by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the commissioners present and  
33 voting.  
34

35 **And be it further resolved** that this amendment, if adopted, shall take effect immediately and  
36 apply to all future elections and re-elections of permanent committee coordinators.  
37

38  
39 *Adopted by the Savannah River Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 24, 2026*

40 *Attested by RE W. Glynn Dyer, Stated Clerk*