

1 **OVERTURE 45** from the Covenant Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
2 “Amend *RAO* 8-4.i to Require that Floor Nominations for Committees and Agencies  
3 Come from Previously Submitted Presbytery Nominees”  
4

5 **Whereas**, the *Rules of Assembly Operations (RAO)* 8-4 currently permits floor nominations  
6 for individuals not included in the Nominating Committee’s report; and  
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8 **Whereas**, the Nominating Committee receives and evaluates nominations from each  
9 Presbytery, which commends men for service on the Permanent Committees and  
10 Agencies of the PCA; and  
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12 **Whereas**, the Nominating Committee has responsibilities to consider nominees’  
13 qualifications as well as the number of men representing different Presbyteries on our  
14 committees and boards, ensuring regional and Presbytery representation; and  
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16 **Whereas**, the current process allows for the possibility of floor nominations for individuals  
17 who have not been examined or commended by a Presbytery, and whose qualifications  
18 have not been reviewed through the ordinary means of connectional government; and  
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20 **Whereas**, the representative nature of Presbyterian polity calls for officers and representatives  
21 to be nominated by the courts of the church, not self-nominated or nominated without  
22 prior ecclesiastical review; and  
23

24 **Whereas**, this overture seeks to preserve the Assembly’s ability to elect individuals other than  
25 those recommended by the Nominating Committee, while ensuring that all  
26 nominations have passed through the same ordinary channel of Presbytery oversight  
27 and recommendation;  
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29 **Therefore be it resolved**, that *RAO* 8-4.i be amended by adding the following sentence  
30 (additions underlined):  
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32 Such additional nominations shall only be considered valid if the individual nominated  
33 was previously submitted by a Presbytery for consideration by the Nominating  
34 Committee but was not included in the Committee’s final report.  
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36 So that the amended *RAO* 8-4.i would read:  
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- 38 i. Additional nominations may be submitted either (1) in writing or (2) electronically,  
39 in either case on forms supplied by the Stated Clerk, which shall include consent of  
40 the nominee to serve, if elected, and a brief statement regarding the nominee. In the  
41 event that a nomination is submitted electronically, the nominator should be aware that  
42 responsibility for such nomination rests with the nominator and that non-delivery is  
43 the sole responsibility of the nominator. Because the nominator has sole responsibility  
44 for delivery of a nomination, the nominator should obtain a receipt verifying  
45 successful electronic delivery of the nomination. The nominee is to give consent to

1 only one nomination. In the event that the nominee is nominated for more than one  
2 position, the nominee may indicate to which nomination the nominee consents. The  
3 deadline for these nominations is the close of the afternoon session of the first full day  
4 of the Assembly. The Clerk’s office shall issue a supplement to the Assembly’s  
5 Nominating Committee report during the second day’s business sessions. Such  
6 additional nominations shall only be considered valid if the individual nominated was  
7 previously submitted by a Presbytery for consideration by the Nominating Committee  
8 but was not included in the Committee’s final report.

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10 Rationale:

- 11  
12 1. Upholds Presbyterian process: Requiring that floor nominations originate from individuals  
13 already nominated by their Presbyteries ensures that all candidates have first been  
14 examined and commended by a local court of the church. This aligns with our  
15 connectional polity and the representative nature of church government.  
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- 17 2. Promotes fairness and transparency: When floor nominations may be made for individuals  
18 who were never vetted through the regular nomination process, it risks undermining  
19 both the Committee on Nominations and the Presbyteries that participated in good  
20 order. This amendment provides a clear and fair standard, reducing confusion or  
21 perception of improvised decision-making.  
22
- 23 3. Encourages broader participation without bypassing structure: This overture does not  
24 restrict the number or variety of individuals eligible for nomination. It simply requires  
25 that all nominations—whether included in the Committee’s final report or not—have  
26 come through the Presbyteries. Thus, the Assembly retains its right to elect someone  
27 other than the committee’s recommendation, while ensuring the nomination reflects  
28 prior deliberation and accountability.  
29
- 30 4. Brings consistency with other Assembly procedures: The General Assembly already  
31 operates under a pattern in which a committee’s recommendation is treated as a  
32 majority report, with the possibility of minority reports. Floor nominations, when  
33 limited to individuals previously submitted by Presbyteries, function analogously to a  
34 minority report—providing an alternate recommendation from within the same  
35 process rather than introducing an entirely new path.  
36
- 37 5. Parallels what the Assembly did with “personal resolutions”: In 2016, the Assembly  
38 amended our *RAO* to prevent personal resolutions that take the form of overtures,  
39 except for those that had been previously considered and rejected by the  
40 commissioners’ Presbytery (*RAO* 11-10). This proposal on floor nominations follows  
41 a similar logic, namely, Presbyteries have the right to propose nominations and should  
42 not be bypassed in that process.  
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45 *Adopted by the Covenant Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 10, 2026*

1 *Attested by TE Robert Browning, Stated Clerk*