

1 **OVERTURE 47** from the Suncoast Florida 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
7

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
11

12 **Whereas**, the current process allows for the possibility of floor nominations for individuals
13 who have not been examined or commended by a presbytery, and whose qualifications
14 have not been reviewed through the ordinary means of connectional government; and
15

16 **Whereas**, the representative nature of Presbyterian polity calls for officers and representatives
17 to be nominated by the courts of the church, not self-nominated or nominated without
18 prior ecclesiastical review; and
19

20 **Whereas**, this overture seeks to preserve the Assembly’s ability to elect individuals other than
21 those recommended by the Nominating Committee, while ensuring that all
22 nominations have passed through the same ordinary channel of presbytery oversight
23 and recommendation;
24

25 **Therefore be it resolved**, that *RAO* 8-4.i be amended by adding the following sentence
26 (underlining for additions):
27

28 Such additional nominations shall only be considered valid if the individual
29 nominated was previously submitted by a Presbytery for consideration by the
30 Nominating Committee but was not included in the Committee’s final report.
31

32 So that the amended *RAO* 8-4.i would read:
33

34 i. Additional nominations may be submitted either (1) in writing or (2) electronically,
35 in either case on forms supplied by the Stated Clerk, which shall include consent of
36 the nominee to serve, if elected, and a brief statement regarding the nominee. In the
37 event that a nomination is submitted electronically, the nominator should be aware that
38 responsibility for such nomination rests with the nominator and that non-delivery is
39 the sole responsibility of the nominator. Because the nominator has sole responsibility
40 for delivery of a nomination, the nominator should obtain a receipt verifying
41 successful electronic delivery of the nomination. The nominee is to give consent to
42 only one nomination. In the event that the nominee is nominated for more than one
43 position, the nominee may indicate to which nomination the nominee consents. The
44 deadline for these nominations is the close of the afternoon session of the first full day
45 of the Assembly. The Clerk’s office shall issue a supplement to the Assembly’s

1 Nominating Committee report during the second day’s business sessions. Such
2 additional nominations shall only be considered valid if the individual nominated was
3 previously submitted by a Presbytery for consideration by the Nominating Committee
4 but was not included in the Committee’s final report.
5
6

7 **Rationale:**

- 8 **1. Upholds Presbyterian process:** Requiring that floor nominations originate from
9 individuals already nominated by their Presbyteries ensures that all candidates have
10 first been examined and commended by a local court of the church. This aligns with
11 our connectional polity and the representative nature of church government.
12
13 **2. Promotes fairness and transparency:** When floor nominations may be made for
14 individuals who were never vetted through the regular nomination process, it risks
15 undermining both the Nominating Committee and the Presbyteries that participated in
16 good order. This amendment provides a clear and fair standard, reducing confusion or
17 perception of improvised decision-making.
18
19 **3. Encourages broader participation without bypassing structure:** This overture
20 does not restrict the number or variety of individuals eligible for nomination. It simply
21 requires that all nominations—whether included in the Committee’s final report or
22 not—have come through the Presbyteries. Thus, the Assembly retains its right to elect
23 someone other than the committee’s recommendation, while ensuring the nomination
24 reflects prior deliberation and accountability.
25
26 **4. Brings consistency with other Assembly procedures:** The General Assembly
27 already operates under a pattern in which a committee’s recommendation is treated as
28 a majority report, with the possibility of minority reports. Floor nominations, when
29 limited to individuals previously submitted by Presbyteries, function analogously to a
30 minority report—providing an alternate recommendation from within the same
31 process rather than introducing an entirely new path.
32
33

34 *Adopted by the Suncoast Florida Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 10, 2026*
35 *Attested by TE David L. Stewart, Stated Clerk*