

1 **OVERTURE 81** from the Potomac Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 "Amend *RAO* 1-1 to Require Serving Wine and Grape Juice for the Lord's Supper at
3 General Assembly"

4
5 **Whereas**, the Holy Scriptures record that our Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of
6 the Lord's Supper using "the fruit of the vine" (Matthew 26:29), which in the historical
7 and biblical context of the Passover was fermented wine; and

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9 **Whereas**, the Westminster Confession of Faith 29.3 states that the minister is to give the
10 "wine" to the communicants, and the Larger Catechism Q. 168 and 169 specify "wine"
11 as the outward element signifying the blood of Christ; and

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13 **Whereas**, historical Presbyterian practice and biblical scholarship affirm that the scriptural
14 element is fermented wine, symbolizing joy, gladness, and the full benefits of Christ's
15 shed blood (Psalm 104:15; Isaiah 25:6); and

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17 **Whereas**, the PCA has historically allowed for the use of wine and/or grape juice at the local
18 church and Presbytery level to accommodate the consciences of the Presbytery,
19 Session, and the congregation; and

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21 **Whereas**, the General Assembly, as the highest court of the Church, should model a high
22 degree of conformity to the biblical and confessional patterns of worship; and

23
24 **Whereas**, many commissioners to the General Assembly hold a conviction of conscience that
25 wine is the proper biblical element for a fuller expression of the Sacrament;

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27 **Therefore, be it resolved** that *RAO* 1-1 be amended by adding a new sentence at the end of
28 the section to read as follows (underlining for additions):

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30 **1-1.** The General Assembly shall be called to order at the designated time by the
31 Moderator, and shall begin with a worship service, including a season of prayer,
32 a sermon or exhortation by the retiring Moderator, and the celebration of the
33 Lord's Supper. In the administration of the Lord's Supper at the General
34 Assembly, both wine and grape juice shall be provided and clearly identified, to
35 respect the consciences of all commissioners.

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38 **Be it further resolved** that if this amendment is approved, the Stated Clerk be directed to
39 incorporate it into future editions of the *RAO*, to communicate it to the Committee
40 responsible for General Assembly worship arrangements, and to ensure its
41 implementation beginning with the next General Assembly.

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44 *Adopted by the Potomac Presbytery at its called meeting, April 20, 2026*
45 *Attested by RE Doug Leepa, Moderator*