

1 “Amend RAO 11-2 and 11-10 to clarify who may submit an Overture”

2
3 **Be it resolved** that RAO 11-2 and 11-10 be amended as follows. (Strike-through for deletions,
4 underlining for new wording.)

5
6 **11-2.** Communications from individuals shall not be received by the General Assembly, unless
7 they originate with persons who have no other access to the Assembly. If the Assembly desires
8 to receive and consider any such communications, other than as information, the Stated Clerk
9 shall recommend reference to the proper Assembly committee. Letters, telegrams, emails, or
10 telephone calls from communicants or congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America are
11 not proper communications, and are not to be received by the Assembly.

12
13 **11-10.** No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to
14 a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come before the Assembly as the overture of
15 that court. An overture requested by ~~an individual communicant~~ a ruling elder commissioner to
16 presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the
17 Assembly, provided ~~the fact that it was rejected by the presbytery is clearly stated with the~~
18 ~~overture.~~ the overture includes as an attachment a copy of the minutes of the meeting at which
19 presbytery rejected the overture or correspondence from presbytery’s Stated Clerk confirming
20 presbytery’s rejection of the overture. Such an overture must be the same overture as that presented
21 to and rejected by the presbytery.

22
23 So that RAO 11-2 and 11-10 as amended, would read:

24
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26 unless they originate with persons who have no other access to the Assembly. If the
27 Assembly desires to receive and consider any such communications, other than as
28 information, the Stated Clerk shall recommend reference to the proper Assembly
29 committee. Letters, telegrams, emails, or telephone calls from communicants or
30 congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America are not proper communications, and
31 are not to be received by the Assembly.

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33 **11-10.** No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been
34 presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come before the Assembly
35 as the overture of that court. An overture requested by a ruling elder commissioner to
36 Presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented
37 to the Assembly, provided the overture includes as an attachment a copy of the minutes of
38 the meeting at which presbytery rejected the overture or correspondence from presbytery’s
39 Stated Clerk confirming presbytery’s rejection of the overture. Such an overture must be
40 the same overture as that presented to and rejected by the presbytery.

41
42 **RATIONALE:**

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44 The current provision in RAO 11-10 is confusing in that it implies that an individual communicant
45 member of a church may send an overture to the General Assembly. Communications from
46 individuals outside the PCA are to be dealt with in accordance with RAO 11-2. Individual PCA

1 members have access to the General Assembly indirectly through their Sessions and Presbyteries.
2 Overtures ordinarily are the request of a **Presbytery** for action by the General Assembly (RAO
3 11-4, emphasis added).

4
5 An individual member does not have the ability to move an overture for consideration by a
6 Presbytery, because unless that individual is a ruling elder commissioner to a Presbytery meeting,
7 he is not a member of the body and therefore does not have the privilege of making motions. Such
8 a member *could* have another *who is a member or a Session* make such a motion, but if the motion
9 for an overture is rejected by Presbytery, that other member or Session would need to present the
10 rejected overture to the General Assembly.

11
12 The revised language clarifies what is permissible in accordance with the RAO and Robert's Rules.