

OVERTURE 10 from the Presbytery of the Ascension (to CCB, OC)
Title: “Amend *RAO* 15-6.s by Adding New Paragraphs Dealing with the
Content of Minority Reports”

Whereas, minority reports from the Overtures Committee comprise an essential mechanism for allowing the General Assembly to hear and act upon different views that may arise in the Overtures Committee; and

Whereas, minority reports allow a minority of the Overtures Committee to clear their consciences by expressing their differences to the General Assembly; and

Whereas, the *RAO* currently contains no requirements on the content of minority reports; and

Whereas, neither the Overtures Committee nor the General Assembly is well served if relevant proposals and arguments are presented by a minority to the Assembly that were not presented to the Overtures Committee in the course of its deliberations; and

Whereas, it seems patently unfair and unhelpful to the General Assembly that the one presenting the view of the Overtures Committee could be given only fifteen (15) minutes to prepare to respond to proposals or arguments which he has not previously heard (see *RAO* 15-6.s.3)); and

Whereas, there appear to have been some instances in the past where, for whatever reason, minority reports were presented the General Assembly with proposals and arguments that had not been made before the Committee; and

Whereas, if, after the Overtures Committee concludes its action on a matter, a minority determines it has a new proposal or arguments that may sway the Committee, that minority may always ask the Committee to reconsider or rescind its previous action so as to hear the new proposal or arguments;

Therefore be it resolved that the Presbytery of the Ascension hereby overtures the 48th General Assembly to amend *RAO* 15-6.s) by adding the following two new paragraphs following the three currently existing paragraphs (underlining for additions):

***RAO* 16.6**

4) No proposed action or proposed change in the wording of a recommendation from the Overtures Committee may be included in a minority report unless that proposal had been presented to the Overtures Committee and was defeated or tabled.

5) Ordinarily a minority report should employ arguments that were

offered in the course of the Overtures Committee's deliberations on the matter in question.

Adopted by the Presbytery of the Ascension at its stated meeting, November 2, 2020

Attested by: /s/ RE Frederick R. Neikirk, stated clerk