



1 **IX. General Assembly Task Force**

2 What follows is the finished product of hundreds of long and hard hours of work by the  
3 General Assembly Task Force of the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC). Five desirable  
4 outcomes guided the work:

- 5 1. Achieve a general balance between TE & RE commissioners to GA;
- 6 2. Make attendance at GA a significantly desirable and edifying experience;
- 7 3. Do the work of the court effectively and efficiently to allow significant time for  
8 events and activities that equip, connect, encourage, and inspire the leaders of the  
9 Church;
- 10 4. Make GA a self-supporting event; and
- 11 5. Create an atmosphere/meeting where only issues of significance are approved and  
12 debated on the floor of GA.

13 All of the changes for you to read and consider are being proposed to make future  
14 General Assembly meetings deliberate more effectively, work more efficiently, cost less,  
15 and become annual events that God uses to govern, edify, encourage, and expand the  
16 kingdom of God through the ministry of the PCA. In accomplishing these objectives,  
17 the most important aspects of GA not only will be preserved but also will be enhanced  
18 by additions that have been desired but illusive.

19 1. First, the rights of any minority to have its voice heard will be preserved. Any  
20 minority will have the full right to convince others of its position, but the heart of  
21 exercising this right will be found in the work of the various committees of  
22 commissioners (CoCs). In all CoCs except the CoC on Bills and Overtures, if a  
23 minority is able to convince a majority of commissioners of its position, that  
24 minority will be able to present a substitute motion to the GA. Even if it is unable to  
25 convince a majority of the CoC, members of such minority can still speak on the  
26 floor of the GA to defeat or refer back the main motion.

27 2. Second, the proposal for the new Bills and Overture committee will expand the  
28 committee, insure balance between ruling elders and teaching elders, and provide for  
29 a full debate of vital issues concerning the Constitution of the PCA. In the Bills and  
30 Overtures committee, a smaller group of individuals, three ruling and three teaching  
31 elders from at least three presbyteries, can bring a minority report to the floor of the  
32 GA. In all cases, the motions brought to the floor of the GA cannot be amended and  
33 can only be voted up or down or referred back. This will allow the substance of the  
34 issues to be debated at length without the distractions of complex parliamentary  
35 procedure and will keep the debate on the floor of GA well focused.

36 3. The General Assembly will still be able to respond to urgent and appropriate new  
37 business. New business can come before the GA, but only with the permission of a  
38 supermajority. The Assembly can take all necessary action on new issues, but a  
39 safeguard will exist to reduce the prospect of a rush to judgment.

1 4. Other reporting procedures are streamlined and made more precise. Further, it is  
2 suggested that the Administrative Committee make every effort to move towards an  
3 electronic or paperless GA to substantially reduce the printing costs associated with  
4 the GA meeting.

5 5. Changes affecting the Review of Presbytery Records Committee allow for the  
6 resolution of issues and, where necessary, only judicial process can be used to  
7 establish precedent.

8 There is a sincere anticipation that if these changes are implemented, the time required  
9 for the conduct of business at GA will be substantially reduced. This will in turn allow  
10 additional time to be scheduled for activities of worship, edification and fellowship. The  
11 recommended *BCO* and “RAO” changes to accomplish the objectives described above  
12 are presented in numerical order in two tables below.

13 The following proposed changes to the *BCO* and “RAO” are presented in numerical  
14 order. An index by subject is presented here:

15	Administrative Committee and	“RAO” 9-7
16	hosting of General Assembly	
17	Bills and Overtures committee	“RAO” 11-4
18		“RAO” 14 (all proposals)
19	Closing argument rule	“RAO” 17-4.b
20	Committee on Constitutional Business	“RAO” 7-2
21	(revised with respect to the proposed	“RAO” 10-5
22	changes to the Bills and Overtures	
23	committee)	
24	New Business at General Assembly	“RAO” 10-2
25		“RAO” 10-9
26		“RAO” 12-2
27		“RAO” 12-3
28	Report of permanent Committees and	“RAO” 11-1
29	Agencies and committees of commissioners	“RAO” 11-2
30	(NOTE: Some conforming amendments	“RAO” 11-3
31	relevant to the new Bills and Overtures	“RAO” 11-5
32	committee are also included here.)	“RAO” 13 (all proposals)
33	Review of Presbytery Records and	<i>BCO</i> 15-4
34	“exceptions”	<i>BCO</i> 40-5
35		“RAO” 14-10.c
36		“RAO” 15-2

1 **For Recommendation to the 2005 General Assembly** (reproduced in Section XI.  
 2 Recommendations)

3 **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER**  
 4 *(Explanatory comments in italics.)*

<b>CURRENT BCO</b>	<b>PROPOSED AMENDMENT</b>	5
<p><b>15-4.</b> The General Assembly shall elect a Standing Judicial Commission to which it shall commit all judicial cases within its jurisdiction.</p>	<p><b>AMEND 15-4,</b> first sentence: “The General Assembly shall elect a Standing Judicial Commission to which it shall commit all matters governed by the Rules of Discipline which may come before the Assembly.”</p> <p><i>Proposed change makes clear that not just “judicial cases,” a narrower category, but all matters of discipline, a broader category, are to be referred to the SJC.</i></p>	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
<p><b>40-5.</b> When any court having appellate jurisdiction shall be advised, either by the records of the court next below or by memorial, either with or without protest, or by any other satisfactory method, of any important delinquency or grossly unconstitutional proceedings of such court, the first step shall be to cite the court alleged to have offended to appear by representative or in writing, at a specified time and place, and to show what it has done or failed to do in the case in question.</p> <p>The court thus issuing the citation may reverse or redress the proceedings of the court below in other than judicial cases; or it may censure the delinquent court; or it may remit the whole matter to the delinquent court with an injunction to take it up and dispose of it in a constitutional manner; or it may stay all further proceedings in the case; as circumstances may require.</p>	<p><b>AMEND 40-5.</b> “When any court having appellate jurisdiction shall receive a credible report with respect to the court next below of any important delinquency or grossly unconstitutional proceedings of such court, the first step shall be to cite the court alleged to have offended to appear before the court having appellate jurisdiction, or its commission, by representative or in writing, at a specified time and place, and to show what the lower court has done or failed to do in the case in question.”</p> <p><b>AS IS</b> last paragraph.</p> <p><i>Proposed change simplifies the language of the antecedent in the conditional, and allows for the use of a commission, in anticipation of a proposed amendment to “RAO” 14-10.c. establishing a judicial procedure to settle the question of the disputed exceptions alleged under General Assembly review of presbytery records.</i></p>	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37

- 1 **For Recommendation to the 2006 General Assembly**  
 2 1. Concerning the General Assembly meeting structure, the SPC recommends:  
 3 a. That 17-1 of the Rules of Assembly Operation be suspended such that no amendment  
 4 shall be in order for the consideration of item 1.B.  
 5 b. That the following amendments be made to the *Rules of Assembly Operation*:

6 **PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF ASSEMBLY OPERATION**

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
<p><b>7-2.</b> Committee on Constitutional Business.            There shall be a Committee on Constitutional Business composed of eight members divided into four classes of two members each serving four-year terms. Each class shall be composed of one teaching elder and one ruling elder. There shall be one teaching elder and one ruling elder to serve as alternates.</p> <p>The Committee on Constitutional Business shall, between the General Assembly meetings:</p> <p>(1) Function as advisor to the Stated Clerk when requested by him. Such advice shall be for information only and without binding authority and shall not be reported to the General Assembly.</p> <p>(2) Receive from the Stated Clerk all non-judicial references submitted by presbyteries under <i>BCO</i> 41-1 and 41-4, and, if it accedes to the request, give its advice to the presbytery sending the non-judicial reference. Such advice shall be for information only and without binding authority or precedent but shall be included as a part of the annual report of the Stated Clerk to the General Assembly.</p> <p>The Committee on Constitutional Business shall, during the General Assembly meetings:</p> <p>(1) Advise the General Assembly of the effect of any proposed amendment to the constitution (including but not limited to overtures requesting amendment submitted under "RAO" 10-5 and 10-6). Such advice to the General Assembly shall be given at the time the proposed amendment is submitted for action.</p> <p>(2) Report directly to the General Assembly on all constitutional inquiries submitted to it by the General Assembly.</p> <p>The committee shall not be separately funded but administratively will operate as a subcommittee of the Administrative Committee of General Assembly. (See also 10-5 and 10-6, and 12-3 thru 12-6.)</p>	<p><b>SUBSTITUTE 7-2</b> as follows:</p> <p><b>7-2.</b> The Committee on Constitutional Business.</p> <p>a. There shall be a Committee on Constitutional Business composed of eight members divided into four classes of two members each serving four-year terms. Each class shall be composed of one teaching elder and one ruling elder. There shall be one teaching elder and one ruling elder to serve as alternates.</p> <p>b. The Committee on Constitutional Business shall:</p> <p>1. Function as advisor to the Stated Clerk when requested by him. Such advice shall be for information only and without binding authority.</p> <p>2. Receive from the Stated Clerk all non-judicial references submitted by presbyteries under <i>BCO</i> 41-1 and 41-4, and, if it accedes to the request, give its advice to the presbytery sending the non-judicial reference. Such advice shall be for information only and without binding authority or precedent but shall be included as a part of the annual report of the Stated Clerk to the General Assembly.</p> <p>3. Provide advice concerning the effect of any proposed amendment to the Constitution. Such advice shall be included in the report of the committee as printed in the <i>Handbook</i>, and shall be presented orally to the Bills and Overtures committee at the time the proposed amendment is considered by the Bills and Overtures committee. Upon so advising the Bills and Overtures committee, the Committee on Constitutional Business's responsibility with respect to such proposed amendment shall cease.</p> <p>4. Advise the Bills and Overtures committee on any constitutional inquiry submitted to it by the Bills and Overtures committee.</p> <p>5. Report directly to the General Assembly on all constitutional inquiries submitted to it by the General Assembly.</p>	<p>4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48</p>

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
	<p>c. The Committee shall not be separately funded but administratively will operate as a subcommittee of the Administrative Committee of General Assembly.</p> <p><i>Proposed change adjusts CCB's responsibilities in light of the new Bills and Overtures procedure, directing CCB's advice toward Bills and Overtures and not the Assembly itself. [CCB is an acronym for the Committee on Constitutional Business.]</i></p>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
	<p><b>ADD 9-7:</b></p> <p>9-7. The Administrative Committee shall be authorized to take the initiative to investigate and recommend to the General Assembly sites for the annual meeting of the General Assembly, and to that end, the Administrative Committee shall be authorized to suggest to presbyteries their hosting the annual meeting of the General Assembly.</p> <p><i>This change is intended to allow the AC to achieve economies that will enhance GA in being a self-supporting event.</i></p>	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
<p><b>10-2.</b> Ordinarily, communications from individuals shall not be received by the General Assembly, unless they originate with persons who have no other access to the Assembly. If the Assembly desires to receive and consider any such communications, other than as information, the Stated Clerk shall recommend reference to the proper Assembly committee. Letters, telegrams, or telephone calls from communicants or congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America are not proper communications, and are not to be received by the Assembly.</p>	<p><b>AMEND 10-2</b> by removing the word "ordinarily"</p> <p><b>10-2.</b> Communications from individuals shall not be received by the General Assembly, unless they originate with persons who have no other access to the Assembly. If the Assembly desires to receive and consider any such communications, other than as information, the Stated Clerk shall recommend reference to the proper Assembly Committee. Letters, telegrams, or telephone calls from communicants or congregations of the Presbyterian Church in America are not proper communications, and are not to be received by the Assembly.</p> <p><i>This corrects confusing language.</i></p>	24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37
<p><b>10-5.</b> Upon receipt the Stated Clerk shall refer to the Committee on Constitutional Business all overtures requesting amendment of the <i>Book of Church Order</i>. Upon receipt the Stated Clerk shall forward all overtures concerning presbytery boundaries or a new presbytery to the Subcommittee on Boundaries appointed by and under the jurisdiction of the Assembly's permanent Committee on Mission to North America, which shall report to the Permanent Committee and shall report to the</p>	<p><b>AMEND 10-5.</b> Upon receipt the Stated Clerk shall refer all overtures requesting amendment of the <i>Book of Church Order</i> to the Committee on Constitutional Business for its advice to the Bills and Overtures committee. Upon receipt the Stated Clerk shall forward all overtures concerning presbytery boundaries or a new presbytery to the permanent Committee on Mission to North America. Any overture, other than proposed amendments to the <i>BCO</i>, having to do with the nature or responsibilities of a permanent</p>	38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
<p>Assembly through the Committee of Commissioners on Mission to North America. All other overtures shall be referred by the Clerk to the appropriate Committee of Commissioners. All overtures shall be printed in the <i>Commissioner Handbook</i> with reference for consideration indicated.</p>	<p>Committee or Agency shall be referred by the Clerk to the appropriate permanent Committee or Agency. All other overtures shall be referred to the Bills and Overtures committee. All overtures shall be printed in the <i>Handbook</i> with reference for consideration indicated.</p> <p><i>Proposed change directs the CCB's advice to the Bills and Overtures committee and directs all BCO changes to the same, along with all other overtures not Committee or Agency specific.</i></p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12</p>
<p><b>10-9.</b> No overtures received by the Stated Clerk less than one month prior to the opening of the meeting of the General Assembly shall be referred to or considered by the General Assembly convening in that year. No bill or overture shall be accepted for consideration upon the floor of General Assembly subsequent to the final published date set by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly for publication of the commissioner's <i>Commissioner Handbook</i> for the General Assembly unless said matter receive two-thirds vote of the assembled commissioners.</p>	<p><b>SUBSTITUTE 10-9</b> as follows:  <b>10-9.</b> No overtures received by the Stated Clerk less than one month prior to the opening of the meeting of the General Assembly shall be referred to or considered by the General Assembly convening in that year. An overture proposed by a commissioner to the General Assembly during its proceedings shall be treated as new business (cf. 12-1, 12-2).</p> <p><i>The proposed change will bring this section into conformity with the requirements for new business proposed at "RAO" 12-2.</i></p>	<p>13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>
<p><b>11-1.</b> The permanent committees, agencies, special committees and Ad Interim committees of the Assembly shall make annual reports, which shall be transmitted to the Stated Clerk by at least ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly. These reports shall be referred to the proper committee of commissioners by the Stated Clerk, except that Nominations Committee, Committee on Review of Presbytery Records, Standing Judicial Commission and Ad-Interim committees shall report directly to the General Assembly.</p>	<p><b>SUBSTITUTE 11-1.</b> The permanent Committees, Agencies, special Committees and Ad Interim committees of the Assembly shall make annual reports, which shall be transmitted to the Stated Clerk by at least ninety (90) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly. With respect to any recommendation, a statement of the division of the vote (if taken) shall be included with the recommendation. Where appropriate these written reports shall be referred by the Stated Clerk to a committee of commissioners for review (cf. 13-5, 13-6), after which the chairman of the permanent Committee or Agency shall present the report to the General Assembly (cf. 13-7). The Nominating Committee, Committee on Review of Presbytery Records, Standing Judicial Commission, Committee on Constitutional Business, and ad interim Committees shall report to the Assembly without reference to a committee of commissioners.</p> <p><i>Proposed change has the chairman of the permanent Committee or Agency report to GA and requires record of vote (cf. 13-7.d).</i></p>	<p>26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48</p>

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
<p><b>11-2.</b> Informational presentation of some special aspects of the work reported by a Committee of Commissioners shall be limited to five minutes.</p>	<p><b>SUBSTITUTE 11-2.</b> Presentations informing the Assembly of the work reported by the permanent Committees and Agencies shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes.</p> <p><i>Proposed change substitutes "permanent Committees and Agencies" for "Committee of Commissioners." The five-minute rule, as originally conceived, apparently was rarely, if ever, used. Currently there is no rule in the "RAO" concerning permanent Committees in this respect. Change proposed introduces such a rule, codifying current practice.</i></p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p>
<p><b>11-3.</b> All other business brought to the General Assembly shall ordinarily be referred to a Committee of Commissioners except reports of the Standing Judicial Commission, the Committee on Constitutional Business, the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records, the Nominating Committee, and Ad Interim Committees, which shall report directly to the Assembly.</p>	<p><b>SUBSTITUTE 11-3.</b> Reports of committees of commissioners with respect to their review responsibilities shall be given with the report of the appropriate permanent Committee or Agency as provided in 13-7.c.</p> <p><i>Proposed change removes provision that all business be reported through the committee of commissioners while preserving their review responsibilities, and eliminates redundancy. Note that the deleted text specifying direct reporting of SJC, etc., original appears in 11-1, 11-3 and 13-1. Proposed change retains the language in 11-1 only.</i></p>	<p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27</p>
	<p><b>ADD 11-4.</b> The Bills and Overtures committee shall report to the Assembly as provided in 14-8.</p> <p><i>Proposed change makes the section consistent with new Bills and Overtures provisions.</i></p>	<p>28 29 30 31 32</p>
	<p><b>ADD 11-5.</b> The Interchurch Relations Committee shall report to the General Assembly under the provisions governing permanent Committees and Agencies in Article XIII.</p>	<p>33 34 35 36</p>
<p><b>12-2.</b> New business must be presented to the Assembly before the close of the second day of business.</p>	<p><b>AMEND 12-2.</b> New business must be presented to the General Assembly before the recess of the afternoon session on the second day of business, and if received by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the commissioners present and voting, shall be referred by the Stated Clerk to the appropriate committee of commissioners. No proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be received as new business.</p> <p><i>Proposed change makes the introduction of new business more difficult, but not impossible. Note</i></p>	<p>37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47</p>

CURRENT “RAO”	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
	<p><i>that “new business” is not a “communication” (10-1 through 10-3, 10-11), nor an “overture” (10-4 through 10-11). Rather it is a matter (in the PCA informally called a “personal resolution”) brought before the Assembly by a commissioner exercising his rights as such. Current “RAO” has no restriction on the introduction of new business by a commissioner, except in 12-2; the proposal above introduces a 2/3 vote necessary to receive new business, and excludes entirely motions to amend the BCO. That latter is needed because 10-6 applies only to overtures.</i></p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13</p>
<p><b>12-3.</b> The Committee on Constitutional Business shall be available as a reference committee, to assist the Clerk in referring all new business coming to the Assembly.</p>	<p><b>STRIKE 12-3.</b></p> <p><i>Such a rule is not needed; they are already “available”(cf. 7-2.b.1).</i></p>	<p>14 15 16 17</p>
<p><b>Article XIII. Committees Of Commissioners</b></p>	<p><b>AMEND</b> to read: <b>Article XIII. Committees of Commissioners for Permanent Committees and Agencies.</b></p> <p><i>Proposed change adjusts the title to provide for a separate article on Bills and Overtures.</i></p>	<p>18 19 20 21 22 23</p>
<p><b>13-1.</b> All business shall ordinarily come to the floor of the Assembly for final action through Committees of Commissioners, except reports of the Standing Judicial Commission, the Committee on Constitutional Business, the Committee on Review of Presbytery Records, the Nominating Committee, and Ad Interim Committees, which shall report directly to the Assembly.</p> <p>The following Committees of Commissioners shall handle the matters indicated:</p> <p><b>Reports of Overtures, Committees, Resolutions or Communications</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Administration—Permanent Comm.—Touching Administrative matters</li> <li>2. Bills and Overtures—Of general nature</li> <li>3. Christian Education &amp; Publications — Permanent Comm.—Touching Christian Education &amp; Publications</li> <li>4. Covenant College—Trustees— Touching Covenant College</li> <li>5. Covenant Seminary—Trustees— Touching Covenant Seminary</li> <li>6. PCA Retirement &amp; Benefits, Inc—Directors—Touching retirement, insurance and ministerial relief</li> </ol>	<p><b>STRIKE</b> at <b>13-1:</b> the first two paragraphs and the bold face header.</p> <p><b>ADD</b> the following: Committees of commissioners shall review the report and recommendations of their assigned permanent Committees or Agencies:</p> <p><b>STRIKE</b> “2. Bills and Overtures—Of general nature” and renumber.</p> <p><i>Proposed changes make adjustments to provide for a separate article on Bills and Overtures.</i></p>	<p>24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49</p>

CURRENT “RAO”	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
7. Interchurch Relations—Permanent Comm.—Touching comity, cooperation, relations to other churches	<b>AMEND 7.</b> Interchurch Relations—Special Committee—Touching comity, cooperation, relations to other churches	1 2 3 4
8. Mission to North America—Permanent Comm.—Touching home missions	<i>A mistake corrected (cf. 4-4)</i>	5 6
9. Mission to the World—Permanent Comm.—Touching world missions		7 8
10. PCA Foundation— Trustees—Touching PCA Foundation	<b>AMEND 10.</b> PCA Foundation— Directors—Touching PCA Foundation	9 10
11. Ridge Haven—Directors—Touching Ridge Haven	<i>A mistake corrected (cf. 4-4)</i>	11 12
12. Reformed University Ministries—Permanent Comm.—Touching Reformed University Ministries		13 14 15
<b>13-2.</b> Each Presbytery shall, prior to the meeting of the Assembly, elect one of its commissioners to each of the Committees of Commissioners, dividing them as to ruling and teaching elders by a formula established by the Stated Clerk. In the event that Presbytery does not have sufficient teaching elders to supply the Committees thus assigned, the presbytery may, at its own discretion, elect ruling elders to these committees. In the event that Presbytery is not able to supply members for all the committees, the Presbytery may select the committees to which they wish to appoint representatives. Commissioners serving on permanent committees or sub-committees of the Assembly or the staffs thereof are not eligible to serve on any Committees of Commissioners. For the purpose of defining those ineligible for service in Committees of Commissioners, permanent committee “staff” is to be understood as persons required to be examined by the Theological Examining Committee (BCO 14-1.12.) and all permanent committee support personnel. All commissioners should bear in mind <i>Robert’s Rules of Order</i> regarding abstaining from voting on a question of direct personal interest (RRO § 45).	<b>SUBSTITUTE 13-2</b> as follows: <b>13-2.</b> Each presbytery shall, prior to the meeting of the Assembly, elect one of its commissioners to each of these committees of commissioners (cf. 13-1), dividing them as to ruling and teaching elders by a formula established by the Stated Clerk. In the event that presbytery does not have sufficient teaching elders to supply the committees thus assigned, the presbytery may, at its own discretion, elect ruling elders to these committees or vice versa. In the event that presbytery is not able to supply members for all the committees, the presbytery may select the committees to which they wish to appoint representatives. Commissioners serving on permanent Committees or subcommittees of the Assembly or the staffs thereof are not eligible to serve on any of these committees of commissioners. For the purpose of defining those ineligible for service in committees of commissioners, permanent Committee “staff” is to be understood as persons required to be examined by the Theological Examining Committee (BCO 14-1.12) and all permanent Committee support personnel. All commissioners should bear in mind <i>Robert’s Rules of Order</i> regarding abstaining from voting on a question of direct personal interest (RRO § 45).  <i>Amendment introduces conforming language.</i>	16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43
<b>13-3.</b> The Conveners of the committees shall be designated by the Moderator.	<b>NO CHANGE.</b>	44 45
<b>13-4.</b> The committee may be scheduled to meet prior to the opening session of the Assembly to handle the business referred by the Stated Clerk, as published in the <i>Commissioner Handbook</i> .	<b>SUBSTITUTE</b> at <b>13-4:</b> “Committees” for “The committee”.  <i>Proposed change corrects an obvious problem.</i>	46 47 48 49 50

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
<b>13-5.</b> The Committee of Commissioners shall proceed as follows:	<b>NO CHANGE.</b>	1 2 3
a. At the proper time each committee shall assemble in its assigned room, elect a chairman and a secretary, review material in hand, appoint sub-committees as may be necessary, and begin its work.	<b>NO CHANGE.</b>	4 5 6 7 8
b. Each committee shall be available to reconvene to consider additional references that may come from the floor of the Assembly.	<b>NO CHANGE.</b>	9 10 11 12
c. Meetings of a Committee of Commissioners shall ordinarily be open to the public as non-participating visitors, to the extent made possible by the physical facilities of the available meeting room. If such visitors desire the committee to consider a proposal on some item of business that is before the committee, this must be presented in writing.	<b>NO CHANGE.</b>	13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
d. No new items of business, not referred to the Committee by the Assembly, may be considered by the Committee. Amendments intended to further the stated intent of the originating body shall not be understood to constitute new business.	<b>SUBSTITUTE</b> d. Only business referred to the committees of commissioners by the Stated Clerk may be considered. Proposed amendments to recommendations must be germane according to <i>Robert's Rules</i> .  <i>Proposed change makes provision for germane amendments. Robert's Rules defines the standard as follows: "[A]n amendment must be germane to be in order. To be germane, an amendment must in some way involve the same question that is raised by the motion to which it is applied. A secondary amendment must relate to the primary amendment in the same way. An amendment cannot introduce an independent question; but an amendment can be hostile to, or even defeat, the spirit of the original motion and still be germane."</i> RRO, sec 12, p 129-30.	22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38
e. The Chairman and representatives of the permanent committee and agencies, and the Coordinator and appropriate staff members shall be available for consultation with the Committee of Commissioners reviewing their work.	<b>NO CHANGE.</b>	39 40 41 42 43 44
f. After the Committee of Commissioners has received input from the permanent committee, coordinator, staff members and	<b>NO CHANGE.</b>	45 46 47

CURRENT “RAO”	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
visitors, it should then go into executive session as it frames and adopts its report to the General Assembly. It must be in executive session when it actually adopts the report.		1 2 3 4 5 6
g. The Committee of Commissioners may invite other persons for consultative purposes, when this is felt necessary to the Committee’s performance of its business.	<p><b>SUBSTITUTE</b> g. When necessary for the performance of its duties, the committee of commissioners may, by a majority of those present and voting, invite other persons to address the committee.</p> <p><i>Proposed change improves the wording of the paragraph, making plain how the “necessity” in question is to be determined; also makes it consistent with proposed 14-6.m.</i></p>	7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
	<p><b>ADD</b> h. A committee of commissioners may, by a majority of those present and voting, adopt a recommendation to be offered as a substitute for a recommendation of a permanent Committee or Agency. A minority report from a committee of commissioners shall not be permitted.</p> <p><i>Proposed change establishes a procedure for the committee of commissioners to bring an alternative to a permanent Committee or Agency recommendation, while eliminating the parliamentary confusion that a minority report would introduce. Further, since the CoC substitute is in effect a minority report, no further minority report shall be permitted.</i></p>	17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32
	<p><b>ADD</b> i. Upon the adoption of a proposed substitute recommendation, the chairman of the committee of commissioners shall provide written notice to the Office of the Stated Clerk within one hour of any recess or adjournment of the committee following the adoption of said recommendation. The Office of the Stated Clerk shall inform the chairman of the permanent Committee or Agency of such notice as soon as practicable. The printed substitute recommendation must be presented to the chairman of the permanent Committee or Agency as soon as practicable, but in no case less than fifteen (15) minutes before the recommendation in question is brought to the floor.</p> <p><i>Proposed change makes provision for fair notice when an alternative proposal will arise from a committee of commissioners.</i></p>	33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51

CURRENT “RAO”	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
	<p><b>ADD</b> j. Any recommendation affecting the budgets of the Assembly’s Committees and Agencies shall be referred to the committee of commissioners on Administration.</p> <p><i>Proposed change moves current 13-10 to this place as more logically addressed here.</i></p>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
<p><b>13-6.</b> The report of the Committee of Commissioners shall be brief and concise. It shall include the following:</p>	<p><b>NO CHANGE.</b></p>	9 10 11
<p>a. A list of all items referred to and considered by the Committee.</p>	<p><b>NO CHANGE.</b></p>	12 13
<p>b. A statement of the issues discussed.</p>	<p><b>NO CHANGE.</b></p>	14
<p>c. A report of all recommendations contained in an agency or committee report under consideration. (If any of the recommendations contained in a report were not approved, this shall be reported with reasons. New recommendations may be added, with words of explanation. Amendments to original recommendations shall be reported and explained.)</p>	<p><b>SUBSTITUTE</b> c. Any recommendation to be offered as a substitute for the permanent Committee or Agency’s recommendation.</p> <p><i>Proposed change removes committee of commissioners as having primary reporting responsibilities, but makes provision for the proposed allowance of alternative proposals. Cf. proposed 13-5.h.</i></p>	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
<p>d. A Statement of the division of the vote on every official recommendation made to or by the Committee.</p>	<p><b>STRIKE</b> “official recommendation made to or” and add in its place “recommendation made”.</p> <p><i>Proposed change eliminates a case that never occurs.</i></p>	24 25 26 27
<p>e. Reference to overtures by number with brief statement of content and recommended answer. Amendments to the original overture shall be reported and explained. Deference should be shown to the intent of the body presenting the overture.</p>	<p><b>NO CHANGE.</b></p>	28 29 30 31 32 33 34
<p>f. An overture requesting amendment of the <i>Book of Church Order</i> shall be reported by the Committee of Commissioners printing explicitly any language that would be added or deleted from the <i>Book of Church Order</i> through adoption of the overture, and such overture shall be sent to the presbyteries, if approved by the General Assembly, in this particular form.</p>	<p><b>STRIKE</b> “f.” and renumber.</p> <p><i>Proposed change eliminates matter to be handled under the new Bills and Overtures procedure. Cf. 14-7.d.</i></p>	35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44
<p>g. Reference to communications by number with brief statement of content and recommended answer.</p>	<p><b>RENUMBER</b> “f.”</p>	45 46 47

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
h. Only such portions of narrative sections of the printed reports as are necessary to make the report of the Committee of Commissioners intelligible.	<b>RENUMBER</b> "g."	1 2 3 4 5
i. A note that the audit of the reporting Committee has been received and that the Committee is taking any necessary action on any recommendation of its audits.	<b>RENUMBER</b> "h."	6 7 8 9
j. Where a study committee is proposed in any communication or overture, a statement of the maximum amount is to be budgeted for the study committee	<b>RENUMBER</b> "i."	10 11 12 13
	<p data-bbox="842 709 1369 804"><b>ADD</b> j. The findings of the committee with respect to the minutes of each permanent Committee (cf. 13-14).</p> <p data-bbox="797 840 1369 903"><i>Proposed change corrects what appears to have been an oversight in the current "RAO."</i></p>	14 15 16 17 18 19
<p data-bbox="245 915 773 1499"><b>13-7.</b> The Chairman of the permanent committee or his designated representative shall be granted the privilege of the floor of the Assembly by the Chairman of the Committee of Commissioners to present the report of the permanent committee to the Assembly. No report printed in the <i>Commissioner Handbook</i> shall be read in full to the Assembly. The Chairman of the Committee of Commissioners shall present the recommendations of the Committee of Commissioners to the Assembly. The Chairman of the permanent committee or his designated representative shall have the privilege of defending the position of the permanent committee on any recommendations in which the Committee of Commissioners differ from the permanent committee's report.</p>	<p data-bbox="797 915 1369 1045"><b>ADD</b> title: <b>13-7. Presentation of the Report of Permanent Committees and Agencies, and Their Respective Committees of Commissioners, to the General Assembly.</b></p> <p data-bbox="797 1081 1369 1304"><i>Proposed change introduces a new procedure for reporting, allowing the permanent Committee or Agency to report directly to the Assembly, while allowing the committee of commissioners to exercise review responsibilities and propose alternatives. Lettered sections below are to this end, and generally require no comment.</i></p>	20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37
	<p data-bbox="842 1512 1369 1642"><b>ADD</b> a. The report or portions of the report of a permanent Committee or Agency shall be presented to the General Assembly by the chairman or his designee.</p>	38 39 40 41
	<p data-bbox="842 1654 1369 1751"><b>RETAIN</b> b. No report printed in the <i>Commissioner Handbook</i> shall be read in full to the Assembly.</p>	42 43 44
	<p data-bbox="842 1764 1369 1894"><b>ADD</b> c. After whatever informational presentation there may be (cf. 11-2), the chairman of the committee of commissioners shall be called upon to present the committee's</p>	45 46 47 48

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
	report concerning the examination of permanent Committee minutes for the General Assembly's consideration (cf. 13-14.d-f).	1 2 3 4
	<p><b>ADD</b> d. The Assembly having considered the committee of commissioner's report concerning the minutes, the chairman of the permanent Committee or Agency or his designee shall move each recommendation in turn, offering an explanation of the motion and the Committee's rationale. The moderator may put to the Assembly in gross all recommendations passed by the Committee, unless there is objection from the floor to the inclusion of specific recommendation(s), in which case such recommendation(s) shall be voted upon separately.</p> <p><i>Change also provides a rule for the customary "omnibus motion," which has no explicit warrant under the current rules. If there is an objection by one commissioner, a recommendation will be debated and voted on separately.</i></p>	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
	<p><b>ADD</b> e. A recommendation shall be considered under the standard rules governing debate, but Subsidiary Motions (<i>RRO VI</i>) to <i>Postpone Indefinitely</i>, to <i>Amend</i>, to <i>Commit</i> (except to <i>Recommit</i>) and to <i>Limit Debate</i>; and Incidental Motions (<i>RRO VIII</i>) to <i>Divide a Question</i>, to <i>Consider Seriatim</i>, and <i>Constitutional Inquiries</i>, shall not be permitted.</p> <p><i>Proposed change makes clear what is, and what is not, permissible with respect to the motions listed in Robert's Rules, thus reducing parliamentary confusion. Change prohibits amendment in any form, including substitution.</i></p>	24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37
	<p><b>ADD</b> f. Recommendations recommitted may be considered and reported by the permanent Committee or Agency to that General Assembly, or may be referred to the permanent Committee or Agency for report to the following General Assembly.</p> <p><i>Proposed change defines a motion to recommit under the new procedure.</i></p>	38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
	<p><b>ADD</b> g. If a committee of commissioners offers a substitute for a recommendation of a permanent Committee or Agency, the substitute shall be presented to the Assembly as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The chairman of the permanent Committee or Agency or his designee shall have ten (10) minutes to move the recommendation and present the argument of the Committee; the chairman of the committee of commissioners or his designee shall have fifteen (15) minutes to move the substitute and present the argument of the committee; the same representative of the permanent Committee or Agency shall have five (5) minutes to reply to the committee of commissioners;</li> <li>2. Consideration of the substitute and the main motion shall be as above (d-e).</li> </ol> <p><i>Proposed changes makes provision for alternative recommendations from the committee of commissioners, and makes the procedure consistent with the treatment of a minority report from the Bills and Overtures committee. Cf. 14-8.f.</i></p>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
<p><b>13-8.</b> Minutes of the permanent committee shall be submitted to the Committee of Commissioners for review. Copies of the Minutes shall be sent by the Stated Clerk to the members of Committees of Commissioners one month prior to the opening of the General Assembly.</p>	<p><b>MOVE</b> to after <b>13-2</b> and renumber.</p> <p><i>The paragraph makes more sense, chronologically, in the proposed place.</i></p>	28 29 30 31 32 33 34
<p><b>13-9.</b> Informational presentation of some special aspects of the work reported by a Committee of Commissioners shall be limited to five minutes.</p>	<p><b>STRIKE 13-9.</b></p> <p><i>Cf. proposed 11-2.</i></p>	35 36 37 38
<p><b>13-10.</b> Any recommendation affecting the Budget of the Assembly or the Coordination of the program of the church shall be referred to the Committee of Commissioners on Administration.</p>	<p><b>MOVE</b> to <b>13-5.j</b> and delete "or the Coordination of the program of the church".</p> <p><i>The paragraph makes more sense as included in the proceedings of the committee of commissioners.</i></p>	39 40 41 42 43
<p><b>13-11.</b> The completed report of a Committee of Commissioners shall contain the full text of the report and shall be handled as follows:</p>	<p><b>MOVE ALL</b> to after <b>13-6</b> and renumber.</p> <p><i>The paragraph makes more sense, chronologically, in the proposed place.</i></p>	44 45 46 47

<b>CURRENT “RAO”</b>	<b>PROPOSED AMENDMENT</b>	
a. Typed, double spaced, original by Assembly stenographers.	<b>SUBSTITUTE</b> as follows: a. Typed original by Assembly stenographers or committee secretary.	1 2 3 4
b. Proofread and signed by the Chairman of the Committee; and then delivered to the Stated Clerk when duplicated copies are available for the commissioners.	<b>NO CHANGE.</b>	5 6 7 8
4c. Docketed by the Program Committee (Moderator, Stated Clerk) for consideration by the Assembly.	<b>NO CHANGE.</b>	9 10 11
d. Presented to the Assembly by the Chairman or his designate, by reading through the entire text of the report from the original typed copy. The Assembly may waive the reading of any particular report by a majority vote of the commissioners present and voting. Any change ordered by the Assembly shall be noted and included by the Chairman with the assistance of the Stated Clerk on the original copy.	<b>SUBSTITUTE</b> d. Presented to the Assembly by the chairman or his designee, the text having been made available by electronic means, or by copies distributed, such that commissioners may read the entire report prior to acting upon it.  <i>Proposed change allows for new technology; drops needless administrative instructions.</i>	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
e. The report, as adopted by the Assembly, shall be filed with the Recording Clerk for the permanent record.	<b>STRIKE</b> in e. “, as adopted by the Assembly,”.  <i>Proposed change is consistent with new procedures wherein, in general, reports of committees of commissioners are not adopted by Assembly.</i>	22 23 24 25 26
<b>13-12.</b> No partial report of a Committee of Commissioners shall be presented without the consent of the Assembly.	<b>NO CHANGE.</b>	27 28 29
<b>13-13.</b> Guidelines for Keeping Minutes of Permanent Committees of the General Assembly.	<b>MOVE</b> to “ <b>Article IV. Committees and Agencies</b> ” and number it 4-19.  <i>Proposed change places the provision in a more logical place.</i>	30 31 32 33 34
	<b>ADD “Article XIV. The Bills and Overtures Committee.”</b> Renumber accordingly.  <i>Proposed change introduces a new procedure for the Bills and Overtures committee in order to allow the most unrestrained scriptural deliberation consistent with the need, finally, to come to a united recommendation. Lettered sections below are to this end, and generally require no comment.</i>	35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43
	<b>ADD 14-1.</b> The Bills and Overtures committee shall consider and make recommendation upon all overtures proposing constitutional amendment and all other overtures referred by the Stated Clerk.	44 45 46 47

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
	<p><b>ADD 14-2.</b> Each presbytery shall, prior to the meeting of each General Assembly, elect to the Bills and Overtures committee one teaching elder and one ruling elder from among its registered commissioners to the General Assembly. It is recommended that, where necessary, the presbytery underwrite the expenses of its representatives to Bills and Overtures.</p> <p><i>Proposed change seeks to foster general equality of ruling elder and teaching elder representation. NOTE: There is no restriction on staff and permanent Committee or Agency participation.</i></p>	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14
	<p><b>ADD 14-3.</b> The Bills and Overtures committee shall meet immediately preceding the General Assembly in sufficient time, as determined by the Stated Clerk, for the committee to complete its work before the convening of the Assembly. Should the committee fail to finish before the convening of the Assembly, or should the committee be called into session during the meeting of the Assembly, the committee's sessions shall be held during non-business sessions of the Assembly, unless by majority vote the Assembly directs otherwise.</p> <p><i>Proposed change seeks to make sure that committee members can be on the floor of the Assembly during its business sessions and that observers can be present with the committee without leaving the floor of a business session, while it allows for sufficient flexibility should necessity determine otherwise.</i></p>	15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34
	<p><b>ADD 14-4.</b> The Moderator shall designate a convener for the Bills and Overtures committee, and the Stated Clerk shall provide a meeting room large enough for committee members, interested commissioners to the General Assembly, and others to observe the proceedings of the committee.</p> <p><i>Facilities adapted to the labor; public proceedings provided for.</i></p>	35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43
	<p><b>ADD 14-5.</b> The committee shall elect from among its number a chairman and vice-chairman. The Stated Clerk shall be an advisory member of the committee, and he, or his designee, shall serve as secretary and parliamentarian. The chairman of the committee may appoint assistant parliamentarians.</p>	44 45 46 47 48 49

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
	<b>ADD 14-6.</b> Special Rules of Procedure for the Bills and Overtures committee.	1 2 3 4
	<i>Proposed rules adapt Robert's Rules with respect to committees in order to facilitate the functioning of a larger committee while preserving a proper emphasis on free deliberation.</i>	5 6 7 8
	a. The rules contained in the current edition of <i>Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised</i> , § 50 and other relevant sections, shall govern the Bills and Overture committee in all cases to which they are applicable, except as provided below.	9 10 11 12 13 14
	b. A quorum shall consist of fifteen (15) teaching elder members of the committee and fifteen (15) ruling elder members of the committee.	15 16 17 18
	c. Only business referred to the committee by the Stated Clerk may be considered.	19 20
	d. The chairman may not enter debate or make motions without leaving the chair, and ordinarily should not vote on a question.	21 22 23
	e. Members of the committee must obtain the floor before making motions or speaking.	24 25
	f. Motions must be seconded.	26
	g. A motion to <i>Limit or Extend Limits of Debate</i> shall not be permitted, but there shall be permitted a motion to order the <i>Previous Question</i> , which motion shall be adopted upon three-quarters (3/4) of the members present and voting.	27 28 29 30 31 32
	h. Informal discussion of a subject shall not be permitted.	33 34
	i. Proposed amendments to overtures must be germane according to <i>Robert's Rules</i> .	35 36
	j. Commissioners to the General Assembly shall have the right to be present throughout the committee's proceedings.	37 38 39
	k. Commissioners to the General Assembly from a presbytery sending an overture shall be permitted to appear before the committee in order to present their views and respond to questions but may not enter into debate.	40 41 42 43 44
	l. The chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Business or his designee shall be	45 46

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
	permitted to appear before the Bills and Overtures Committee to present the Committee on Constitutional Business's advice on any proposed amendment to the Constitution and respond to questions but may not enter into debate.	1 2 3 4 5 6 7
	m. When necessary for the performance of its duties, the committee may, by a majority of those present and voting, invite other persons to address the committee.	8 9 10 11
	n. Amendments adopted by the committee to proposed amendments to the Constitution may be recommended to the General Assembly without further consideration by the Committee on Constitutional Business unless one third (1/3) of the members of the Bills and Overtures committee request further consultation.	12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
	o. Upon majority vote a constitutional inquiry may be submitted to the Committee on Constitutional Business.	20 21 22
	p. The committee may go into executive session only upon three-quarters (3/4) vote of the members present and voting, and such executive session shall not exclude visiting General Assembly commissioners.	23 24 25 26 27
	q. Each recommendation by the committee to the General Assembly must be approved by a majority of members of the committee present and voting.	28 29 30 31
	r. Any recommendation affecting the budget of the Assembly shall be referred to the committee of commissioners on Administration.	32 33 34 35
	s. Minority Reports. 1. With respect to any recommendation, prior to a recess or adjournment of the committee following the adoption of said recommendation, any member of the committee may reserve the right to present a minority report to the General Assembly by giving notice to the chairman. 2. Written notice of intent to file a minority report, signed by at least three teaching elder members of the committee and three ruling elder members of the committee, must be delivered to the Office of the	36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
	<p>Stated Clerk within one hour of any recess or adjournment following the adoption of said recommendation. The Office of the Stated Clerk shall inform the chairman of the Bills and Overtures committee of such notice as soon as practicable.</p> <p>3. The printed minority report, signed by at least three (3) teaching elder members of the committee and three (3) ruling elder members of the committee, must be presented to the chairman of the committee as soon as practicable, but in no case less than fifteen (15) minutes before the recommendation in question is brought to the floor.</p> <p><i>Cf. 13-5.i.</i></p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18</p>
	<p><b>ADD 14-7.</b> The written report of the Bills and Overtures committee shall include the following:</p>	<p>19 20</p>
	<p>a. A list of all items referred to and considered by the committee.</p>	<p>21 22</p>
	<p>b. A statement of the division of the vote on every recommendation made by the committee.</p>	<p>23 24 25</p>
	<p>c. Reference to overtures by number with brief statement of content and recommended answer.</p>	<p>26 27 28</p>
	<p>d. Overtures requesting amendment of the <i>Book of Church Order</i> must show explicitly any language that would be added or deleted from the <i>Book of Church Order</i> through adoption of the overture, and such overture shall be sent to the presbyteries, if approved by the General Assembly, in this particular form.</p>	<p>29 30 31 32 33 34 35</p>
	<p>e. Reference to communications by number with brief statement of content and recommended answer.</p>	<p>36 37 38</p>
	<p>f. Where a study committee is recommended, a statement of the maximum amount to be budgeted for the study committee.</p>	<p>39 40 41</p>
	<p><b>ADD 14-8. Presentation of the Report of the Bills and Overtures Committee to the General Assembly.</b></p>	<p>42 43 44</p>
	<p>a. The report or portions of the report shall be presented to the General Assembly by the chairman of the committee or his designee.</p>	<p>45 46 47</p>

CURRENT "RAO"	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	
	<p>b. The chairman or his designee shall move each recommendation in turn, offering an explanation of the motion and the committee's rationale. The moderator may put to the Assembly in gross all recommendations passed by the committee, unless there is objection from the floor to the inclusion of specific recommendation(s), in which case such recommendation(s) shall be voted upon separately.</p> <p><i>Proposed change provides a rule for the customary "omnibus motion," which has no explicit warrant under the current rules.</i></p>	<p>1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15</p>
	<p>c. A recommendation shall be considered under the standard rules governing debate, but Subsidiary Motions (RRO VI) to <i>Postpone Indefinitely</i>, to <i>Amend</i>, to <i>Commit</i> (except to <i>Recommit</i>) and to <i>Limit Debate</i>; and Incidental Motions (RRO VIII) to <i>Divide a Question</i>, to <i>Consider Seriatim</i>, and <i>Constitutional Inquiries</i>, shall not be permitted.</p> <p><i>Proposed change makes clear what is, and what is not, permissible with respect to the motions listed in Robert's Rules. Change prohibits amendment in any form, including substitution.</i></p>	<p>16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28</p>
	<p>d. Recommendations recommitted may be considered and reported by the Bills and Overtures committee to that General Assembly, or may be referred to a subsequent Bills and Overtures committee for report to the following General Assembly.</p>	<p>29 30 31 32 33 34</p>
	<p>e. A member of the Bills and Overture committee may not participate in debate unless he is the designee of the chairman with respect to the presentation of a particular recommendation, or presenting a minority report. With respect to any recommendation, this restriction may be removed for a particular member of the Bills and Overtures committee upon the adoption of a non-debatable motion to that effect by majority vote.</p> <p><i>Proposed change seeks to insure that the non-Bills and Overtures commissioners are able to participate fully in debate.</i></p>	<p>35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48</p>

<b>CURRENT “RAO”</b>	<b>PROPOSED AMENDMENT</b>	
	f. If there is a minority report (cf. 14-6.r), that report shall be presented to the Assembly as follows:	1 2 3 4
	1. The chairman or his designee shall have ten (10) minutes to move the recommendation and present the argument of the committee; the minority shall have fifteen (15) minutes to move the substitute and present the argument of the minority; the same representative of the committee shall have five (5) minutes to reply to the minority;	5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
	2. Consideration of the substitute and the main motion shall be as above (c-d).	14 15
	<b>ADD 14-9.</b> The completed report of the Bills and Overtures committee shall contain the full text of the report and shall be handled as follows:	16 17 18
	a. Typed original by Assembly stenographers or committee secretary.	19 20
	b. Proofread and signed by the chairman of the committee; and then delivered to the Stated Clerk when duplicated copies are available for the commissioners.	21 22 23 24
	c. Docketed as agreed by the Moderator and Stated Clerk for consideration by the Assembly.	25 26 27
	d. Presented to the Assembly by the chairman or his designee, the text having been made available by electronic means, or by copies distributed, such that commissioners may read the entire report prior to acting upon it. Any change ordered by the Assembly shall be noted and included by the chairman with the assistance of the Stated Clerk on the original copy.	28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36
	e. The report, as adopted by the Assembly, shall be filed with the Recording Clerk for the permanent record.	37 38 39
	<b>AMEND 14-10</b> , adding a new “c.” as follows: c. If, in responding to an exception of substance identified by the Assembly, a presbytery reports that it disagrees with the conclusion of the Assembly and has not corrected or redressed the identified problem;	40 41 42 43 44 45

CURRENT “RAO”	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	1
	<p>and, the committee (after reviewing the presbytery’s response and rationale) continues to believe that the presbytery has persisted in an error that is significant enough to require an Assembly response; then, the committee shall notify the Assembly of the continuing exception, and shall make recommendation as to whether the Assembly should again seek a more acceptable response from the presbytery, or should refer the matter to the Standing Judicial Commission to cite the presbytery to appear for proceedings according to <i>BCO</i> 40-5.</p> <p><i>See comment on BCO 40-5.</i></p>	<p>46 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14</p>
<p><b>15-2.</b> Any judicial reference (<i>BCO</i> 41), complaint (<i>BCO</i> 43), appeal (<i>BCO</i> 42), or request to assume original jurisdiction (<i>BCO</i> 34-1) made to the General Assembly shall be assigned to the Standing Judicial Commission, which will, if the case is found in order, proceed to adjudicate the case.</p>	<p><b>AMEND 15-2.</b> Any judicial reference (<i>BCO</i> 41), appeal (<i>BCO</i> 42), complaint (<i>BCO</i> 43), <i>BCO</i> 40-5 proceeding, or request to assume original jurisdiction (<i>BCO</i> 34-1) made to the General Assembly shall be assigned to the Standing Judicial Commission for adjudication.</p> <p><i>Proposed change adds language consistent with proposed Review of Presbytery Records provision (14-10.c.) and reorders the list numerically.</i></p>	<p>15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p>
<p><b>17-4.b.</b> The Chairman shall have an opportunity to make the final statement in debate.</p>	<p><b>SUBSTITUTE</b> the following for the whole:</p> <p><b>17-4.b.</b> With respect to any recommendation, the representative of any Committee or Agency shall have the right to make the final speech in support of the Committee’s motion before the question is put on a substitute, or on the Committee or Agency’s main motion, as the case may be, even upon the expiration of time on the question, the failure of a motion to extend the time, or the adoption of a motion to order the <i>Previous Question</i>.</p> <p><i>Proposed change makes explicit the applicable cases and the privileged character of the rule.</i></p>	<p>25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37</p>