

Committee on Overtures and Resolutions

Standing Committee Report 45th General Assembly

The Standing Committee on Overtures and Resolutions convened at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, and met **once**. Chairman **TE Gerrit Dawson** opened the meeting with prayer.

A. Business Referred to Committee:

1. Recommendation GA45-29
2. Recommendation GA45-30
3. Recommendation GA45-31
4. Recommendation GA45-32
5. Recommendation GA45-33

B. Recommendations:

1. **Recommendation GA45-29:** The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 45th General Assembly **approve** the Rivers and Lakes overture recommendation 45-30 as edited by the PJC **be adopted**.

Rules for Assembly VII Section 7-3

Original Text	RLP Proposed Amendments: additions, deletions	PJC Additional Proposed Amendments: additions, deletions
VII. Communications and Overtures 7-3 An overture ordinarily is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific matter. 7-4 All overtures proposing amendments to the Book of Order shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21.3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated	VII. Communications and Overtures 7-3 An overture ordinarily is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific matter. <u>Since overtures to the General Assembly are the communication of the lower court, the higher court is responsible for the public dissemination of all overtures properly filed. The Stated Clerk shall provide for the public posting of any properly filed overture</u>	VII. Communications; <u>Overtures; and Proposed Amendments</u> 7-3 An overture is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific matter. Since overtures to the General Assembly are the communication of the lower court, the higher court is responsible for the public dissemination of all overtures properly filed. The Stated Clerk shall provide for the public posting of any properly filed overture so that the overture is

<p>Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of the General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.</p>	<p><u><i>so that the overture is made accessible to the whole Church ordinarily within five (5) days of original receipt.</i></u></p> <p>7-4 All overtures proposing amendments to the Book of Order shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21.3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of the General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.</p>	<p>made accessible to the whole <u><i>church</i></u> ordinarily within five (5) days of original receipt.</p> <p>7-4 All overtures proposing amendments to the <i>Book of Order</i> <u><i>or these Rules for Assembly</i></u> shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21-3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of <u><i>the</i></u> General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates <u><i>the applicable filing date</i></u> shall be considered by the Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of the General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.</p>
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2. **Recommendation GA45-30:** The Rivers and Lakes Presbytery respectfully **overtures** the 45th General Assembly to edit the *Rules for Assembly VII* section 7-3 as addressed through recommendation 45-29 from the PJC **not approved**.

Rules for Assembly VII section 7-3

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
7-3 An overture ordinarily is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon specific matter.	7-3 An overture ordinarily is the request of a Presbytery for action by the General Assembly upon a specific manner. <u>Since overtures to the General Assembly are the communication of the lower court, the higher court is responsible for the public dissemination of all overtures properly filed. The Stated Clerk shall provide for the public posting of any properly filed overture so that the overture is made accessible to the whole church ordinarily within five (5) days of original receipt.</u>

3. **Recommendation GA45-31:** The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 45th General Assembly **approve** the Rivers and Lakes overture to edit *Rules for Assembly VII* section 7-5; recommendation 45-32 as edited by the PJC, **be adopted as amended**.

Rules for Assembly VII

Original Text	RLP Proposed Amendments: <u>additions</u> , deletions	PJC Additional Proposed Amendments: <u>additions</u> , deletions
VII. Communications and Overtures	VII. Communications and Overtures 7-5 <u>No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come before the Assembly as the overture of that court. An overture requested by a ruling elder commissioner to presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the</u>	VII. <u>Communications; Overtures; and Proposed Amendments</u> 7-5 <u>No Except to the extent otherwise authorized by Rules for Assembly 7-6 and 7-7, no amendment to the Book of Order or these Rules for Assembly will be considered by the General Assembly unless it has first been presented to a presbytery in the form of an overture.</u> overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If <u>When</u>

	<p><u>Assembly, provided the overture includes as an attachment a copy of the relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting at which presbytery rejected the overture. Such an overture must be the same overture as that presented to and rejected by the presbytery.</u></p>	<p>approved by the a presbytery, it an overture (i.e., whether or not containing a proposed amendment) will come be presented before to the Assembly. <i>A rejected overture may be presented to the assembly, provided that:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. The Ruling Elder commissioner to Presbytery, Teaching Elder, or Session who originally requested the rejected overture has provided written notification within 30 days to the Stated Clerk of that Presbytery of their desire for the rejected overture be presented to the Assembly as provided for by the Rules for Assembly 7-5; and</i> <i>2. The Stated Clerk of that Presbytery has submitted to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, within 10 days, (a) the rejected overture as it was originally proposed and (b) a relevant extract, certified by the Stated Clerk of that Presbytery, from the minutes of the meeting at which that Presbytery rejected the overture. Extracts from provisional minutes are permitted. <u>No such rejected overture may be received for consideration absent a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly.</u></i> <p><i>7-6 <u>Permanent committees and ad-interim committees established by the General Assembly may propose amendments to the Book of Order or these Rules for Assembly; provided, however, that each such proposed amendment must be delivered to the Stated</u></i></p>
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		<p><u>Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21-3D.2a). No such proposed amendment received after the applicable filing date shall be considered by the Assembly convening in that year.</u></p> <p>7-7. <u>Nothing in this Rule VII will be deemed to prohibit a standing committee of the Assembly from taking action to approve, modify, or not approve any proposed amendment to the Book of Order or these Rules for Assembly that was referred to it (Rule for Assembly 9-5) or to prevent the Assembly from acting upon the report of a standing committee.</u></p>
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4. **Recommendation GA45-32:** The Rivers and Lakes Presbytery respectfully **overtures** the 45th General Assembly to edit *Rules for Assembly VII* section 7-5 as addressed through recommendation 45-31 from the PJC **not approved**.

Rules for Assembly VII

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>7-4 All overtures proposing amendments to the Book of Order shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21.3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.</p> <p><i>There is currently no section 7-5</i></p>	<p>7-4 All overtures proposing amendments to the Book of Order shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the General Assembly (G.21.3D.2a). All other overtures shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of General Assembly. No overtures received after those filing dates shall be considered by its Assembly convening in that year. Overtures from the floor of General Assembly prior to the deadline for new business shall be considered only if received by a 2/3 vote of assembled Commissioners.</p> <p>7-5 <u>No overture will be considered by the General Assembly until it first has been presented to a presbytery. If approved by the presbytery, it will come before</u></p>

	<p><u>the Assembly as the overture of that court. An overture requested by a ruling elder commissioner to presbytery, a teaching elder, or a session, but rejected by the presbytery, may be presented to the Assembly, provided the overture includes as an attachment a copy of the relevant extract from the minutes of the meeting at which presbytery rejected the overture. Such an overture must be the same overture as that presented to and rejected by the presbytery.</u></p>
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5. **Recommendation GA45-33:** The Permanent Judicial Commission recommends that the 45th General Assembly **approve** edits to the *Rules for Assembly XIII* 13 be adopted as amended.

Rules for Assembly XIII

Original Text	PJC Additional Proposed Amendments: <u>additions, deletions</u>
<p>XIII. New Business</p> <p>13-1 Any matter presented in any form that has not been received by the Stated Clerk prior to the opening of the General Assembly shall be treated as new business.</p> <p>13-2 New business must be presented to the Assembly by noon of the second day of business. The National Leadership Team may assist the Stated Clerk in referring all new business coming to the Assembly.</p>	<p>XIII. New Business</p> <p>13-1 Any matter presented in any form that has not been received by the Stated Clerk prior to the opening of the General Assembly shall be treated as new business.</p> <p>13-2 New business must be presented to the Assembly by noon of the second day of business, <u>and each proposed item of new business that was not previously presented as an overture to a presbytery must include an explanation of why it was not so presented.</u> The National Leadership Team may assist the Stated Clerk in referring all new business coming to the Assembly.</p> <p><u>13-3 If an item of new business is received by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Assembly, the Stated Clerk shall refer the item to an appropriate standing committee and, in the case of any new</u></p>

	<p><u>business with a potential budget impact, to the National Leadership Team. Parties to whom an item is referred (e.g., standing committees and the National Leadership Team) shall receive and consider such reference, deliberate, and report to the Assembly as these Rules require. The National Leadership Team may assist the Stated Clerk in referring new business.</u></p> <p><u>13-4 Amendments to the Book of Order Constitution or to these Rules for Assembly shall not be received as new business under any circumstance.</u></p>
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C. Additional Recommendations from the Standing Committee:


1. Per *Rules for Assembly* 9-6, the Committee voted to place the following eligible recommendation(s) on an omnibus consent motion:


[NOTE: a recommendation amended by the Standing Committee, substitute recommendation or additional recommendation in C.2 are not eligible for the omnibus consent motion.]

RE Kenneth Roberts closed the meeting with prayer.

Signature Page for Standing Committee Overtures & Resolutions Report

Respectfully submitted,

_____, Chairman
TE Gerrit Dawson

_____, Clerk
TE Logan Keck