

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

RULES OF ASSEMBLY OPERATIONS **AMENDMENTS ADOPTED BY THE 46th GENERAL ASSEMBLY** **2018**

ITEM 1. Amend *RAO 8-4.i*, last two sentences, as follows (~~strike through~~ for deletions; underlining for additions.):

8-4.

- i. ...The deadline for these nominations is the close of the afternoon session of the ~~second~~ first day of the Assembly. The Clerk's office shall issue a supplement to the Assembly's Nomination Committee report during the ~~third~~ second day's business sessions.

The amended section would then read:

8-4.

- i. ...The deadline for these nominations is the close of the afternoon session of the first day of the Assembly. The Clerk's office shall issue a supplement to the Assembly's Nomination Committee report during the second day's business sessions.

Grounds: When we shortened the Assembly, we failed to revise *RAO 8-4.i*.

ITEM 2. Amend *RAO 13-2* as follows:

13-2. New business must be presented to the General Assembly before the recess of the afternoon session on the ~~second~~ first day of business, and if it was not first presented as an overture to a Presbytery, the proposal must include an explanation for why it was not. If received by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the commissioners present and voting, it 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.

The amended section would then read as follows:

13-2. New business must be presented to the General Assembly before the recess of the afternoon session on the first day of business, and if it was not first presented as an overture to a Presbytery, the proposal must include an explanation for why it was not. If received by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the commissioners present and voting, it 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.

Grounds: When we shortened the Assembly, we failed to revise *RAO 13-2*.

ITEM 3. Amend *RAO* 16-7 by adding 16-7.h (underlining for addition):

16-7.

h. Minority Reports

- 1) With respect to any recommendation, prior to a recess or adjournment of the Review of Presbytery Records Committee following the adoption of said recommendation, any member of the committee may indicate an intention to file a minority report by giving notice to the chairman.
- 2) The minority report, from at least six (6) members of the committee, must be filed with the chairman of the committee and the office of the Stated Clerk of General Assembly not more than seven (7) days after the adjournment of the RPR Committee meeting.

ITEM 4. Amend *RAO* 16-10.c by adding one word in the first sentence

16-10.

- c. If, in responding to an exception of substance, a presbytery reports that it disagrees with the conclusion of the Assembly and/or has not corrected or redressed the identified problem; and, the committee (after reviewing the presbytery’s response and rationale, and, if a majority so desires, consulting with the Committee on Constitutional Business) 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 appoint a representative to present its case and refer the matter to the Standing Judicial Commission to cite the presbytery to appear for proceedings according to *BCO* 40-5.

Rationale: As it currently reads, the *RAO* section could be used to prevent RPR from notifying the Assembly of a continuing exception. If the cited Presbytery responded by stating that it “agrees with the exception”, the response would have to be accepted regardless of whether the Presbytery corrected its record or actions. By changing the wording to “and/or” the Committee on the Review of Presbytery Records is able to judge the response based on the record and actions of the Presbytery.