

Guideline: Presenting Overtures

Definition - "Overtures," are "measures as may be of common concern to the mission of the whole church." Overtures may originate in any governing body.

- a) A session may overture Synod or General assembly through the Presbytery. The Presbytery may directly overture the Synod or General Assembly.
 - b) An overture may address any action, policy, standing rules of the governing body to which the overture is addressed.
 - c) Overtures proposing changes to the Constitution may originate in a session or by a motion of a Commissioner or Minister member of presbytery, and submitted to the General Assembly by vote of the Presbytery according to the rules of the Constitution. Deadlines for consideration are found in the Constitution.
- 2) Overtures to the Synod or General Assembly are submitted to the Stated Clerk, who will present them in writing to the next stated meeting of Presbytery.
- 3) Normally the Presbytery would vote on an overture to Synod or General Assembly at the stated meeting following written presentation by the Stated Clerk.
- 4) At the time of receiving a proposed overture, the Presbytery may appoint a task force of ministers and elders for study and recommendation, which will report to the next stated meeting. The task force shall be composed of ministers and elders in numbers as nearly equal as possible. If the overture originated in a session, no more than one member of the task force shall be from the originating church. The Stated Clerk shall moderate the task force, ex-officio and without vote.
- 5) Overtures approved by the Presbytery will be transmitted to the appropriate governing body by the Stated Clerk.