

**OVT-009**      **On Adding a New Standing Rule L.2. Identifying the Right of Presbyteries and Synods to Submit Overtures Changing the Standing Rules—From the Presbytery of the Foothills.**

**Source:**      Presbytery      **Event:**      222nd General Assembly (2016)

**Committee:** No Assignment      **Sponsor:**      Foothills Presbytery

**Topic:**      Unassigned      **Type:**      General Assembly Full Consideration

<http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=5295>

#### Recommendation

The Presbytery of the Foothills overtures the 222nd General Assembly (2016) to amend Standing Rule L. by adding a new section 2. and renumbering current sections 2. and 3. as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

#### "Amending the Standing Rules

*"2. Presbyteries and synods may submit overtures to amend or suspend the standing rules. The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA), in consultation with the Stated Clerk, may offer their advice on any such overtures in the same way that the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC) offers advice on amendments to the Constitution.*

~~"2.~~ 3. The Standing Rules of the General Assembly may be amended by a majority vote of the commissioners present and voting. A motion to amend the rules is debatable.

#### "Suspending the Standing Rules

~~"3.~~ 4. A motion to suspend the standing rules is not debatable and shall require a two-thirds vote of the total enrollment of the commissioners."

#### Rationale

A fundamental principle of Reformed polity is that the people shall have a vote in the way they are governed. The standing rules govern the meetings of the General Assembly in much detail, and the structure of these meetings has a great impact on synods, presbyteries, churches, and church members.

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly, together with the Stated Clerk, constitute a body much too limited to adequately represent the broader church in structuring General Assembly meetings.