

OVT-010 **On Amending G-3.05 On the Review of the Manual of the General Assembly—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=5296>

Recommendation

The Presbytery of the Foothills overtures the 222nd General Assembly (2016) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative vote:

Shall G-3.05 be amended by inserting a new section, G-3-0502 and renumbering section G-3.0502 as G-3.0503 and section G-3.0503 as G-3.0504 as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown as italic.]

"G-3.0502 Organizational Review

"The General Assembly has the responsibility to regularly review the Manual of the General Assembly. Presbyteries and synods may submit overtures to amend, delete, or suspend sections of the Manual of the General Assembly.

~~"G-3.0502~~ *G-3.0503 Relations with Other Councils [Text remains unchanged.]*

~~"G-3.0503~~ *G-3.0504 Meetings and Quorum [Text remains unchanged.]"*

Rationale

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

Both church and secular history show that bureaucracies, once established, have a tendency to become entrenched, isolated, and self-perpetuating far beyond their original purpose and function. As there has been a revolution in communications and as the rapidity of social and political change shows no sign of abating, it is important for us to have structures that are nimble and adaptable. Therefore, it is important for the Body of the General Assembly to regularly address and review the operations of the church.