

22. OVERTURES PRESENTED TO PRESBYTERY

Presbytery of St. Augustine

I Definition of an Overture

An overture is the official way which session, presbytery, or synod presents a concern to a higher governing body.

From the Book of Order G-10.0102o(6) - [Responsibilities and powers of a session] - Proposing to the presbytery, and through it, to the synod and General Assembly such measures as may be of common concern to the mission of the whole church.

G-11.0103t - [Responsibilities and powers of a presbytery] - ...proposing to the synod or the General Assembly such measures as may be of common concern to the mission of the whole church.

G-12.0102o [Responsibilities and powers of a synod] - ...proposing to the synod or the General Assembly such measures as may be of common concern to the mission of the whole church.

II Format

The format for an overture includes a set of statements about the data, facts, and/or views regarding a particular situation, idea, or concern. These statements generally begin with the words "wherefore" or "whereas". The concluding paragraph is the resolution proposed by the makers, ordinarily beginning with "therefore". In adopting an overture, only the concluding statement is operative; the earlier portion is only explanatory.

III Timelines

Once the overture has been adopted by a session, it is sent to the Stated Clerk of the presbytery ordinarily at least 45 days prior to the stated meetings of the presbytery.

Ordinarily the presbytery meets on the [Ed. Note ... first Saturday of February, the first Tuesday of May and the first Tuesday of October.] ~~second Saturday of February, the first Tuesday of May, the second Saturday of July, and the third Tuesday of October.~~

IV Assignment

The Stated Clerk has the responsibility to refer the overture to the Coordinating Council which will study it and recommend action to the presbytery. The Coordinating Council may seek advice concerning the overture to a committee of presbytery with expertise and responsibility for the issues addressed by the overture.

V Study of the overture

The Coordinating Council may invite representatives from the session which submitted the overture to present their case for passage of it. It may also seek other sources of information and background material.

VI Action at the presbytery meeting

The Coordinating Council will present the overture to the presbytery with the council's recommendation regarding its passage. This recommendation may be for approval, for disapproval, or for approval in a changed form. If the council recommendation is for disapproval, it shall provide for a full presentation at the presbytery meeting by the session presenting the overture.

VII Action on approved overtures

If the overture is to be sent to a higher governing body, the Stated Clerk is responsible to see that it is communicated to the Stated Clerk of that governing body. If the overture concerns this presbytery, the Stated Clerk is responsible to take appropriate action.

Adopted 25 April 1989
Amended 1 January 2018