

Clerk's Tip The 223rd General Assembly is Coming!!!!



Although June 16, 2018, the opening day of the 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis, seems a long way off, there is a lot to do to get ready. Sessions in National Capital Presbytery who have overtures they wish to have considered at the General Assembly will have to write, adopt, and transmit them to me by certain due dates. The Bills & Overtures Committee will have to review each overture for form and substance and decide whether to make a recommendation to the presbytery that the overture be adopted. The presbytery will have to vote on each overture—and I will transmit adopted overtures to the Office of the General Assembly.

But that is not all. Sessions that sponsor an overture will have to find one or more other presbyteries to concur with their overture. And sessions may also want to recommend that NCP concur with certain overtures adopted by other presbyteries.

The deadlines will come quickly beginning next fall. The deadline for sending me overtures and concurrences for vote at the November 14, 2017 presbytery meeting is October 10, 2017. That will allow time for research, consideration, and vote of the Bills & Overtures Committee. I recommend that sessions strive to get their overtures in by that date in order to allow them sufficient time to find concurring presbyteries.

If you miss the October 10 deadline, but get your session's overture to me by January 2, 2018, it will be considered at the January 23, 2018 presbytery meeting. This is the final deadline for all original overtures (as opposed to concurrences). It is also the final deadline for concurrences with overtures seeking amendment to or interpretation of the Book of Order or that have financial implications.

The final deadline for concurrences only regarding non-Book of Order/non-authoritative interpretation/non-financial implication overtures is March 2, 2018. These concurrences will be considered at a special April 24, 2018 presbytery meeting.

Every General Assembly there are some churches who are disappointed because their overture came too late. The strict deadlines of the Office of General Assembly, the relatively new requirement that concurrences be obtained, and the presbytery meeting calendar require us to plan ahead. We have posted some helps regarding overtures and the General Assembly on the Stated Clerk's webpage: <https://www.thepresbytery.org/presbytery-meeting/office-stated-clerk>. Take a look.

Peace, Sara
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