

## Clerks' Tip of the Month

### How to Find Overtures on PC-Biz/How to Write a Concurrence

The General Assembly is coming up next June and presbyteries have already been submitting overtures. As you probably know, the Book of Order has been amended to require that all overtures proposed to the General Assembly must have a concurrence from at least one other presbytery in order to be considered by the General Assembly (G-3.0302d). So how do you know if there are overtures out there that your congregation might want to urge concurrence with by National Capital Presbytery?



The Office of the General Assembly posts all overtures on PC-Biz, a website that tracks overtures and GA doings from receipt of the first overture to final action. You can see what overtures have been proposed by going to the Home Page of PC-Biz: [http://www.pc-biz.org/\(S\(msi0jkyaijauflqsadckqcg2\)\)/ClientHomePublic.aspx](http://www.pc-biz.org/(S(msi0jkyaijauflqsadckqcg2))/ClientHomePublic.aspx). Then select the Search tab. Make sure that the Event “223rd General Assembly” is selected and then hit “Search.” (If you are interested in what happened to previous years’ overtures, you can pick an earlier General Assembly.) A list of the overtures will pop up. If you click on the overture itself, you will get the text and the rationale for the overture. As more things happen with the overture, you will see on the site things like what presbytery concurred with the overture. The list of overtures and the information about the overtures changes over time, so if you are following what is happening you may want to check back from time to time.

If you want to urge concurrence with an overture already made by another presbytery, find the overture on PC-Biz. A concurrence can be a simple motion to your session: “That the National Capital Presbytery concurs with Overture # from .... Presbytery concerning....” A concurrence cannot deviate at all from the language of the original overture or it will be separately numbered and not considered a concurrence. Concurrences can, though, change or amplify the rationale of the original overture.

Some helps on developing overtures can be found on the Office of the Stated Clerk page of the presbytery website: <https://www.thepresbytery.org/presbytery-meeting/office-stated-clerk>. Overtures (either original or concurrences) must be received by NCP’s Bills & Overtures Committee, via me, by October 10 to be considered by the presbytery at its November meeting.

If you have a tip you think others could use or a topic you would like information on, please let me know at [scoe@thepresbytery.org](mailto:scoe@thepresbytery.org).

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