
GA38-32
DESCENDING OVERTURES
FROM THE 37TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Descending Overture 17-A

Amending *Book of Government* 9-6A and 10-8B.2a to specify the term of service for an out-of-bounds call to be renewable term of up to three years, bringing consistency to the two sections.

Descending Overture 17-B

Amending *Book of Government* 21-2D.2e and f, expanding areas of ongoing authority that may be given to the Ministerial Committee at the discretion of the presbytery.

Descending Overture 17-C

Amending *Book of Government* 10-7, creating and defining the called position of “Transitional Pastor”.

Descending Overture 17-D

Amending the *Book of Government* 9-5A.1 for consistency with the *Book of Government* 10-7 and to clarify that all calls to Teaching Elders must be approved by the Presbytery.

VOTE OF THE PRESBYTERIES

All Descending Overtures from the 37th General Assembly were approved by the required $\frac{3}{4}$ of all the Presbyteries and are now before the 38th General Assembly for ratification (G.17-2).

Per Act of Assembly 11-01, “New presbyteries established in the year following the General Assembly meeting at which a descending overture is approved have the right to vote on that descending overture. However, the total/aggregate number of Presbytery votes may not exceed the number of Presbyteries in existence at the time the General Assembly approved the descending overture.” (Minutes, 31-9).

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Applying that policy to the formation of the Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest from the Presbytery of the Pacific in July 2018, those two presbyteries are counted as ½ vote each, yielding an aggregate vote of 13, which is the number of Presbyteries in existence when Descending Overtures 17-A – 17D were approved in June 2017.

OVERTURE 17-A

Presbytery	Yes	No
Alleghenies	81	0
Central South	43	0
East	69	0
Florida and the Caribbean	34	0
Great Plains	58	0
Gulf South	74	0
Mid-America	18	0
Mid-Atlantic	162	0
Midwest	76	0
Pacific Northwest (1/2 vote)	40	0
Pacific Southwest (1/2 vote)	36	0
Rivers and Lakes	54	0
Southeast	69	0
West	60	0
TOTAL	13 Presbyteries	0 Presbyteries

OVERTURE 17-B

Presbytery	Yes	No
Alleghenies	78	3
Central South	43	0
East	60	0
Florida and the Caribbean	32	0
Great Plains	58	0
Gulf South	75	0
Mid-America	18	0
Mid-Atlantic	138	0
Midwest	76	1
Pacific Northwest (1/2 vote)	39	0
Pacific Southwest (1/2 vote)	39	0
Rivers and Lakes	56	0
Southeast	67	0
West	60	0
TOTAL	13 Presbyteries	0 Presbyteries

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OVERTURE 17-C

Presbytery	Yes	No
Alleghenies	80	2
Central South	43	0
East	67	0
Florida and the Caribbean	27	0
Great Plains	58	0
Gulf South	78	0
Mid-America	18	0
Mid-Atlantic	142	0
Midwest	90	0
Pacific Northwest (1/2 vote)	40	0
Pacific Southwest (1/2 vote)	41	0
Rivers and Lakes	56	0
Southeast	71	0
West	57	0
TOTAL	13 Presbyteries	0 Presbyteries

OVERTURE 17-D

Presbytery	Yes	No
Alleghenies	78	0
Central South	43	0
East	68	0
Florida and the Caribbean	28	0
Great Plains	58	0
Gulf South	78	0
Mid-America	18	0
Mid-Atlantic	142	0
Midwest	84	0
Pacific Northwest (1/2 vote)	40	0
Pacific Southwest (1/2 vote)	42	0
Rivers and Lakes	54	0
Southeast	73	0
West	60	0
TOTAL	13 Presbyteries	0 Presbyteries