

Presbytery of Transylvania
Proposed General Assemblies Overtures Review Task Force
Report to Presbytery
February 4, 2020

At its meeting on November 12, 2019, at Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, Lexington, the Coordinating Commission of the Presbytery of Transylvania created a Proposed General Assembly Overtures Review Task Force, composed of ruling elders Beau Weston (Danville) and Candace Purdom (Perryville) and teaching elders Wanda Olive (Georgetown, First), Don Stanley (Winchester, Salem), and Jerry Utt (Versailles, Troy). Those named to the task force have all previously served as commissioners to the General Assembly.

Task force members met on Monday, January 13, 2020, at Troy Presbyterian Church, Versailles. At the time of their meeting, Transylvania Presbytery had been asked to consider concurring with seven proposed overtures. (For a full list of all overtures and descriptions, please see the General Assembly website: www.pc-biz.org.)

Those overtures considered by the task force were:

OVT-001:

On Amending G-3.0106 to add an anti-racism policy with suggested training for all members of each council. Sponsor: Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery

OVT-002:

On establishing the authority of presbyteries to define severance plans for installed ministers. Sponsor: Beaver-Butler Presbytery

OVT-005:

On amending G-2.0301 to allow congregations to elect members as ruling elders for service to the larger church. Sponsor: Synod of Northeast

OVT-006:

On establishing a General Assembly Administrative Commission on Mid-Councils. Sponsor: Synod of Northeast

OVT-008:

Regarding the treatment of refugees. Sponsor: Mission Presbytery

OVT-015:

On amending G-3.0303 by adding a new paragraph g. regarding authority to convene meetings. Sponsor: Detroit Presbytery

OVT-020:

On amending W-4.0403 regarding laying on of hands at an installation. Sponsor: West Virginia Presbytery

Motion: The task force moves that the Presbytery of Transylvania concur with OVT-005: On amending G-2.0301 to allow congregations to elect members as ruling elders for service to the larger church, sponsored by the Synod of Northeast.

Rationale:

The task force considered the proposed overture and the attached rationale.

(The full text of proposed overture OVT-005 can be found at this link: <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000515>.)

Upon its review, the task force believes Transylvania Presbytery should concur with this proposed overture for the following reasons:

- The suggested process for ordaining ruling elders mirrors the process for teaching elders ordained to validated ministries.
- The realization and acknowledgment that some ministry settings may discourage or disallow members to be ordained as ruling elders, because of their relationship (spouse, child) to a teaching elder.
- Members may have other gifts to be shared with the larger church and session membership may not be the best place for those gifts to be shared.