

Necessary Rules Changes for the AC Funding Aspects of the Strategic Plan

The *BCO* and the *RAO* would need to be changed. Additions are indicated by both bold-faced type and underlining. Deletions are indicated by strike through.

- *BCO* 14-1, 4; 14-2 – That would require the constitutional change process of a majority vote of a General Assembly, a majority vote of two-thirds of the presbyteries, and a majority vote of a subsequent Assembly (*BCO* 26-2).
- *RAO* 4-11 – That would require a two-thirds majority of commissioners present which must be one-half of the enrollment of the General Assembly (*RAO* Article XX.).

Proposed changes in the *Book of Church Order*

14-1

4. It is the responsibility of every member and every member congregation to support the whole work of the denomination as they be led in their conscience held captive to the Word of God. **The General Assembly, however, may require churches, teaching elders, and Presbyteries to contribute to denominational support services by their paying an Annual Registration Fee to assist in underwriting the ministry of the Administrative Committee.**

14-2. The General Assembly, which is a permanent court, shall meet at least annually upon its own adjournment. It shall consist of all **registered** teaching elders in good standing with their Presbyteries, and ruling elders as elected by their Session, **representing registered churches.** Each congregation is entitled to two ruling elder representatives for the first 350 communing members or fraction thereof, and one additional ruling elder for each additional 500 communing members or fraction thereof. **The voting members of the General Assembly shall consist of: (1) all teaching elders who have currently paid the Annual Registration Fee for teaching elders as approved by the General Assembly and who are members of Sessions whose churches have currently paid the Annual Registration Fee for churches as approved by the General Assembly, (2) all teaching elders who have currently paid the Annual Registration Fee for teaching elders as approved by the General Assembly and who are not members of Sessions, (3) and ruling elder commissioners as elected by their Session and whose churches have currently paid the Annual Registration Fee for churches as approved by the General Assembly. Honorably Retired Teaching Elders are exempted from this Annual Registration Fee.**

Proposed changes in the *Rules of Assembly Operations*

In §4-11, add a new ¶5 and new ¶6. **Financial support for the Administrative Committee shall come from Annual Registration Fees of churches, teaching elders, and Presbyteries. Honorably Retired teaching elders are exempted from this Annual Registration Fee. The Annual Registration Fee schedule needed to support**

the Administrative Committee Budget shall be presented to the General Assembly annually for approval as part of the approval of the Administrative Committee Budget of that particular year. The management of the Annual Registration Fees shall be by the Administrative Committee. The Administrative Committee shall annually report to the General Assembly all churches that are delinquent two or more years in the submission of Annual Registration Fees in order that the General Assembly may take appropriate action.

The Annual Registration Fee for churches may not exceed four-tenths of one percent (0.4%, 4/10%) of local church Tithes and Offerings unless amended in the following manner:

- 1. Approval of the proposed increase by a majority of commissioners present and voting in the General Assembly, and its recommendation to the Presbyteries, and**
- 2. The advice and consent of a majority of Presbyteries that report their actions on the proposed increase to the subsequent General Assembly.**

In §4-11, the present ¶5 would become ¶7.

After the above amendments to the *BCO* and *RAO* are finally approved and the AC Funding Plan is implemented, the General Assembly Commissioner's Registration Fee (now mentioned in *RAO* 10-4) would need to be eliminated. Elimination of the Commissioner's Registration Fee could be accomplished by either deleting present *RAO* 10-4, or by interpreting the present *RAO* 10-4 in light of the revised *RAO* 4-11, inasmuch as, according to *Roberts Rules of Order*, a specific rule takes precedence over a general rule, *RONR* (10th ed.), p. 571, ll. 8-23.