

1 **OVERTURE 1 from New Jersey Presbytery**

(to CEP)

2 "Ministry to Seniors"

3
4 **Whereas**, ministry to seniors (elders) is regularly commanded in Scripture (Exodus 20:12,
5 Leviticus 19:32, James 1:27); and

6
7 **Whereas**, the absence of such ministry and accompanying respect is a sign of civil and
8 societal chaos (Micah 7:6, Mark 13:12, Isaiah 3:5b); and

9
10 **Whereas**, the Bible regularly calls seniors to do ministry, to serve (Psalm 92:12-15, 104:33,
11 146:2, Titus 2:2, 3-5); and

12
13 **Whereas**, projections indicate the radical growth of this population segment during the next
14 decades;

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16 **Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that we, the 38th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
17 in America,

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19 (1) commend the Christian Education and Publications Committee for progress that
20 it has made in encouraging churches to fulfill the Biblical commands relating to
21 seniors;
- 22 (2) request that continued effort be invested in this ministry by the Christian
23 Education and Publications Committee, with inclusion of indications of progress
24 in its annual reports to the General Assembly;
- 25 (3) request that the Christian Education and Publications Committee continue to
26 direct the attention of the church and churches to the Biblical importance of
27 ministry by seniors, while not neglecting ministry to seniors;
- 28 (4) resolve to designate the Sunday after Labor Day as "Seniors' Sunday," an effort
29 to give at least minimal formal recognition to people important in our church and
30 community life;
- 31 (5) further, call upon the Christian Education and Publications Committee to
32 promote that special annual event, including, as seems wise, the possibility of it
33 being the beginning of a "Seniors' Week" in interested churches.

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35 *Adopted by New Jersey Presbytery at its stated meeting, November 21, 2009*

36 *Attested by TE James A. Smith, stated clerk*