

1 **OVERTURE 11** from Presbytery of the Ascension (to MTW, RUM, MNA, CCB)
2 "Sending Reformed Military Evangelists to U.S. Oversees Military Communities"
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4 [Clerk's note: The Stated Clerk is to refer overtures to appropriate committees in
5 accordance with *RAO* 3-2 g.; 11-5; 14-1. Overture 11 is complex; hence, the multiple
6 references. The commissioning of military chaplains is in the purview of MNA.
7 International mission is the charge of MTW. The overture calls for RUM to establish
8 campus ministries in military colleges and service academies. The overture calls for the
9 establishment an Assembly-level committee, which would require changes in the *Book of*
10 *Church Order*, the *Rules of Assembly Operation*, and the Corporate Bylaws of the PCA. It
11 will be necessary for the various committees to coordinate their recommendations. There
12 are four paragraphs containing resolutions.

- 13 • Resolution paragraphs one and two are referred to MTW.
- 14 • Resolution paragraph three is referred to RUM.
- 15 • Resolution paragraph four is referred to the MNA regarding the wisdom of
16 establishing a new Assembly-level committee.
- 17 • Resolution paragraph four is referred to CCB regarding changes in the *Book of*
18 *Church Order*, the *Rules of Assembly Operation*, and the Corporate Bylaws of the
19 PCA.]
20

21 **Whereas**, the Lord Jesus Christ commissioned us to make disciples of all nations (Matthew
22 28:18-20), yet the PCA has as yet fostered only two congregations of English-
23 speaking believers among the many thousands of military service members and
24 families stationed outside the United States; and
25

26 **Whereas**, we observe that organizations such as the Navigators and Officers' Christian
27 Fellowship, and the chaplains we endorse by PRJC, customarily direct disciples into
28 institutional military chapels instead of to rightly-ordered churches, much less to
29 Reformed ones;
30

31 **Therefore be it resolved** that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America
32 encourage each presbytery to establish and coordinate a Reformed Ministry
33 Committee to oversee the planting of PCA churches among U.S. military families
34 stationed throughout the world; and
35

36 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America
37 encourage each presbytery to lead a coordinated effort to provide Elders and
38 resources dedicated to the planting of sister churches primarily for active-duty
39 military personnel, especially those located abroad, after the model of Southeast
40 Alabama Presbytery in its planting of churches in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and
41 Okinawa, Japan; and
42

43 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America
44 encourage each presbytery to commission or ordain Reformed Military Evangelists,
45 after the pattern of and in cooperation with Reformed University Ministries, to

1 minister the gospel among cadets at all military colleges and service academies, and
2 among service members on domestic or foreign U.S. military installations wherever
3 permitted; and
4

5 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America
6 establish a denominational committee to be known as Reformed Military Ministries,
7 administered after the pattern of Reformed University Ministries, which would seek
8 opportunities and implement plans for the establishment of PCA churches in close
9 proximity to our overseas military bases and among large English-speaking
10 populations on foreign fields outside the territorial jurisdiction of the PCA.
11

12 *Adopted by the Presbytery of the Ascension at its January stated meeting, on January 26, 2008*

13 *Attested by /s/ Frederick R. Neikirk, Stated Clerk*