

OVERTURE 18 from Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery
“A Declaration Concerning Homosexuals in the Military”

(to OC)

Whereas, the Scriptures command all men to love God and their neighbors (Matthew 22: 36-40), and

Whereas, we seek to obey the command of love by an earnest appeal to the President of the United States for his awareness and Biblical compliance on an issue of grave moral import and national consequence, as well as to speak out as an advocate on behalf of Christian military Chaplains and personnel; and

Whereas, Romans 1: 18-32 describes the increasing sinfulness that will be experienced by a people who suppress the truth, as evidence of God’s disciplinary removal of His graceful restraints upon wickedness, and leading to continuing devaluation and deterioration of life and humanity, *inter alia*, through a proliferation of shameless heterosexual and ultimately homosexual indecencies (cf. Genesis 18-19; Judges 19); and

Whereas, President Obama and certain members of Congress have given public notice of their unholy intention to normalize participation in the U.S. Armed Services by professing “homosexuals” (cf. HR 1283), a prospect similar to that against which the PCA General Assembly had previously warned President Clinton (cf. A Declaration of Conscience, 21st General Assembly, 1993, III, 12, p. 129); and

Whereas, our ecclesiastical silence while such Civil Government objectives are again being pursued would now, by implication, communicate consent (cf. Romans 1:18; Ezekiel 33:6); and

Whereas, the United States Military is a moral enterprise, an extension of the civil magistrate’s “sword,” and is God’s ministerial avenger to execute Divine wrath upon evil doers (cf. Romans 13:4, use of lethal force); it is vital that God’s presence and blessing accompany military personnel, and that any conduct or practice which embraces sinful attitudes and actions be condemned (cf. Deuteronomy 23:9, 14);

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery respectfully overtures the 37th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to adopt and authorize the Moderator to have the attached Declaration personally delivered to the President with all due haste and to call our denomination to a Day of Fasting and Prayer and continual prayer for this matter.

Adopted by Eastern Pennsylvania Presbytery at the called meeting, April 25, 2009
Attested by /s/ TE Melvin H. Farrar, Stated Clerk

TO: The President of the United States of America
COPIES TO: The President of the Senate and The Speaker of the House
and all other Legislators in Congress,
The Chaplain of the Senate, The Chaplain of the House,
The Secretary of Defense, The Service Secretaries,
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs,
The Chiefs of the Military Chaplains, and Joint Chaplains Boards

FROM: The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America

RE: A Declaration Concerning Homosexuals in the Military

Consistent with the Command of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given with all authority in heaven and on earth, to teach “. . . everything I have commanded you.” (cf. Matthew 28:19-20), the Presbyterian Church in America seeks most respectfully to remind the President what has in all history been the unambiguous instruction of God our Creator regarding sexual relationships among mankind, and to appeal for recognition and compliance for the great Good of our Nation and of those who, by God's grace, have been elevated to positions of Civil power and authority.

Mr. President, by your solemn public oath of office, you, along with your predecessors in that office, have signaled your submission to the authority of Almighty God with right hand raised to heaven and left hand upon the Holy Scriptures, the revealed Word of God. Mr. President you have verbally acknowledged submission and dependence by your prayer, “so help me God,” and by your final intercession, “God bless America.” Further, Mr. President, your Christian Baptism and Public Confession affirm undeniable accountability before God for the exercise of power and authority as it has been Divinely granted to commend only what is good, as a minister of God. (cf. Romans 13:3,4)

The Presbyterian Church in America, as one expression of God's Church in the United States, seeks lovingly to warn that your publicly announced intention to normalize and commend homosexual relationships for members of the Armed Forces would deny Divine purpose in the very Creation of Man, and would contend against Divine law that has been revealed for the great Good of all Mankind. As Ambassadors of Christ, the King of kings (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:20), for the welfare of this Nation and its leaders and protectors, as well as for the ultimate good of those who appeal for official approval of unconventional “sexual orientation,” we are constrained and obliged earnestly to warn against any such commendation of what God has declared abominable. (cf. Leviticus 18:22,26; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. (Romans 1:26,27)

In the short term, Government normalization and approval of homosexual behavior, under any other rubrics such as “gender orientation,” “sexual identity,” etc., would grant “moral” license that God does not allow, and would also present irreconcilable conflicts of conscience for the many military members and Chaplains who, in their trusting the truth of Holy Scripture, could not under God affirm what their oaths of loyalty to civil authorities would command. (1 Timothy 1;8-11; Acts 5, 27-32)

This Nation's prosperity and security is ultimately dependent upon the good pleasure and Providence of God. His beneficence has been acknowledged historically by days of Prayer and Fasting, and of Thanksgiving to God, as ordered and affirmed by former Presidents and Congresses in proper recognition of the Nation's incapacity by sheer determination and human zeal to assure the national security and prosperity with which it has been thus far so uniquely blessed by God.

Mr. President, nations and empires have fallen because of reliance on ungodly principles. May this nation, under wise leadership by a godly President continue to fear God, our Supreme Benefactor, appealing for mercy, with thanksgiving to the True and Living God, by whose amazing grace this nation was founded and has been sustained through many dangers and hardships.

***“Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.
Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice with trembling.” (Psalm 2:10-11)***

May you live long as God’s faithful servant and minister.

Most respectfully, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Lord of All.