

1 **OVERTURE 22** from North Texas Presbytery (to MNA)
2 “Form New Presbytery from North Texas and Covenant”
3

4 **Whereas**, the General Assembly has recommended that presbyteries with over 30 churches
5 consider subdivision for the most effective gospel ministry, and has offered criteria
6 for such a need; and
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8 **Whereas**, Guidelines for Dividing Presbyteries, as adopted by the 26th General Assembly of
9 the Presbyterian Church in America, recommends having “a minimum of 10
10 churches,” “a total communicant membership of at least 1,000,” “regional
11 cohesiveness,” and “at least 3 churches each having a membership of at least 125
12 communicant members”; and
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14 **Whereas**, the formation of three smaller presbyteries would create greater geographic
15 proximity between churches and therefore a more strategic kingdom alliance to plant
16 new churches within the boundaries of those presbyteries;
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18 **Whereas**, North Texas Presbytery has grown to 54 churches and 8 RUF ministries, with 127
19 Teaching Elders on its roll, covering counties with an 9+hour drive (Midland, TX to
20 Grove, OK or Shreveport, LA to Amarillo, TX) separating its outermost churches; and
21

22 **Whereas**, Covenant Presbytery has grown to 53 churches and 10 RUF ministries, with 110
23 Teaching Elders on its roll; and covering counties with an 8+hour drive (Starkville,
24 MS to Joplin, MO) separating its outermost churches; and
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26 **Whereas**, North Texas Presbytery’s MNA committee has recommended multiplication of
27 the Presbytery,
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29 **Therefore, be it resolved** that North Texas Presbytery hereby petition the 45th General
30 Assembly to form a new presbytery, effective July 1, 2017, and invite a portion of
31 Covenant Presbytery to join by:
32

- 33 1. Establishing the boundary of a new Presbytery to include all counties of the state
34 of Oklahoma, as well as the following counties in Arkansas: Benton, Carroll,
35 Washington, Madison, and Boone, as well as the following counties in Missouri:
36 Jasper, McDonald, Newton, Dade, Polk, Dallas, Laclede, Texas, Wright, Webster,
37 Greene, Lawrence, Christian, Douglas, Howell, Ozark, Taney, Stone, and Barry.
- 38 2. Permitting Teaching Elders with calls from MTW or those carried on the roll as
39 Honorably Retired, Laboring Out-of-Bounds, or Without Call to choose either
40 presbytery in which they desire membership. If a choice is not made by the
41 effective date, they will be placed on the Roll of the continuing Presbytery of
42 which they had been a part (North Texas or Covenant). Candidates, interns, and
43 licentiates will be in the same Presbytery as their home church.
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45 *Adopted by North Texas Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 6, 2017*
46 *Attested by /s/ RE Charles Broom, stated clerk*