

1 **OVERTURE 4** from Missouri Presbytery (to MNA)

2 “Cede to Covenant Presbytery Sixteen Counties in the Southwest Portion
3 of the State of Missouri”
4

5 **Whereas** Presbytery boundaries should be such that her member churches have a common
6 commitment to the region within their boundaries and a deep commitment to their
7 shared responsibility to cover the region with the Gospel through evangelism and
8 church planting; and
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10 **Whereas**, a presbytery confined to a smaller geographic region can lead to more efficient
11 oversight, cooperation, and connection between particular congregations in the
12 presbytery; and
13

14 **Whereas**, fostering a sense of connectionalism and cooperation of churches, teaching elders,
15 and ruling elders beyond the local congregation is a hallmark of historic
16 Presbyterianism; and
17

18 **Whereas**, the “Guidelines for Dividing Presbyteries,” as adopted by the 26th General
19 Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, include "regional cohesiveness,"
20 "member churches hav[ing] a potential for shared ministries," and "member churches
21 hav[ing] a common commitment to the region"; and
22

23 **Whereas**, the Southwestern counties of Missouri share a “regional cohesiveness” with the
24 Ozark culture of Northern and Central Arkansas which is distinctly different from
25 the culture of the Eastern and Central counties of Missouri; and
26

27 **Whereas**, a presbytery should limit its boundaries to that geographic area for which it is
28 able to take meaningful responsibility for evangelism and church planting; and
29

30 **Whereas**, a presbytery that encompasses a smaller geographic region should permit shorter
31 meetings and shorter driving distances for presbyters to such meetings; and
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33 **Whereas**, shorter distances should lead to greater participation in presbytery by ruling
34 elders, thus allowing ruling elders to better fulfill their established calling to "govern
35 the church well;" and
36

37 **Whereas** the Lord has greatly blessed the ministry of Missouri Presbytery giving her a total
38 of twenty-six churches (organized and mission churches) in Eastern and Central
39 Missouri; and
40

41 **Whereas** the Lord has greatly blessed the ministry of Covenant Presbytery giving her a total
42 of twelve churches (organized and mission churches) in Northern and Central
43 Arkansas as well as Joplin, MO;
44

1 **Now therefore be it resolved,** that Missouri Presbytery overtures the 42nd General
2 Assembly to cede to Covenant Presbytery, effective **August 1, 2014**, the counties of
3 Missouri Presbytery, including: Dade, Polk, Dallas, Laclede, Texas, Wright, Webster,
4 Greene, Lawrence, Christian, Douglas, Howell, Ozark, Taney, Stone, Barry.
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6 *Adopted by Missouri Presbytery at its stated meeting, July 16, 2013.*

7 *Attested by /s/ TE David R. Stain, stated clerk*