

1 **OVERTURE 5** from Westminster Presbytery
2 "Concerning Our Present Need"

(to OC)

3
4 **CONCERNING OUR PRESENT NEED**
5

6 We come as persons in the same predicament as all persons, yet who have been shown
7 mercy by a gracious God, and who desire that the goodness and mercy of God be showered
8 upon other individuals and our nation. We testify, with the Apostle Paul:
9

10 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because
11 He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I
12 was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent
13 aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in
14 unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with
15 the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus. It is a
16 trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus
17 came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of*
18 *all*. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the
19 foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as
20 an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.
21 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, *be*
22 honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. I Timothy 1:12-17
23

24 We come as fellow sinners whom God has saved by His grace in Christ Jesus, who are
25 examples that God can save anyone, no matter how deep or desperate their sin, and that God
26 is glorified as He is shown to be the Lord who can save, reclaim, renovate, and restore those,
27 like us, who were most entrenched in sinful hearts and actions.
28

29 We confess that the Bible is the Word of the Living God, and that it is the measure and
30 standard that evaluates us, not we the judge of it.
31

32 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-
33 edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit,
34 of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and
35 intentions of the heart. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His
36 sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with
37 whom we have to do. Hebrews 4:13-14
38

39 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become
40 convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*, and
41 that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are
42 able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith
43 which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and
44 profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in

1 righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped
2 for every good work. II Timothy 3:14-17
3

4 With God's Word as our standard, we find that it tells us plainly that we are all sinners, in
5 need of the redemption purchased by Christ, in history, at the cross.
6

7 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being
8 justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in
9 Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His
10 blood through faith. *This was* to demonstrate His righteousness,
11 because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins
12 previously committed; for the demonstration, *I say*, of His
13 righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the
14 justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Where then is boasting?
15 It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law
16 of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from
17 works of the Law. Or is God *the God* of Jews only? Is He not *the*
18 *God* of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since indeed God who
19 will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through
20 faith is one. Do we then nullify the Law through faith? May it
21 never be! On the contrary, we establish the Law. Romans 3:21-31
22

23 God is a moral God. We are sinners. Thus the dilemma—How can a holy, moral God, in
24 love forgive sinners, not holding their sins against them, and still maintain His righteous
25 character? In the wisdom of God this is resolved at the cross of Jesus Christ, when God's
26 own Son propitiated (appeased, satisfied the demands of) the holy justice of God, and
27 suffered the full penalty for the sins of those that trust in Him IN THEIR PLACE. God did
28 not compromise His law's requirement that sin be punished, but upheld the sanctity of His
29 law, yet in love provided His own beloved Son to bear the penalty of His law in the place of
30 sinners. Thus, the continuing validity and relevance of the Law of God as the standard by
31 which He judges all human conduct is established by His own action in history.
32

33 In our current culture we believe it is our responsibility to declare the truth of God's Word in
34 the face of lawlessness being endorsed and promulgated, just as John the Baptist, in our
35 Lord's day, called King Herod to repent of breaking God's law by his adultery with his
36 brother's wife (Matthew 14:3-4), and as the Apostle Paul called people to turn from their sin
37 to Christ, when he said:
38

39 The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay
40 aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us
41 behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness,
42 not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy.
43 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the
44 flesh in regard to *its* lusts. Romans 13:12-14
45

1 In our current culture, there is need for the clarity that only God's wisdom can bring to a
2 situation where, as in the days of Isaiah the prophet, people are calling bad things good, and
3 good things bad.

4
5 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute
6 darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for
7 sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own
8 eyes and clever in their own sight! Isaiah 5:20-21

9
10 Aware of our own need for God to define the evil of our own hearts, and keenly aware that
11 God's unveiling to us the reality of our sinful hearts impels us to come to His Son for
12 cleansing, we are also compelled, for the sake of our nation, and the individuals in it who are
13 calling homosexuality good when God calls it evil, to publicly reaffirm the Biblical stance
14 on same sex marriage and homosexuality.

15 16 17 **CONCERNING SAME SEX MARRIAGE**

18 A reaffirmation of the Presbyterian Church in America's position on Homosexuality adopted
19 at the 5th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, 1977, 5-49, 4, p. 67 and
20 8, p. 68 (<http://www.pcahistory.org/pca/2-398.html>)

21 22 **POSITION ON HOMOSEXUALITY**

23
24 **Whereas**, God has plainly spoken of homosexuality in his Word, denouncing both the act,
25 and the lust as sin, condemning this perversion as unnatural, a degrading passion, an
26 indecent act, an error, an abomination and hence worthy of death (*Lev. 18:22, Rom.*
27 *1:18-32*) for those who practice or approve of it (*Romans 1: 32b*).

28
29 You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an
30 abomination. Leviticus 18:22

31
32 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness
33 and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
34 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for
35 God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His
36 invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been
37 clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that
38 they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not
39 honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their
40 speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. . . . Therefore God
41 gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their
42 bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth
43 of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the
44 Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them
45 over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural

1 function for that which is unnatural, and in the same way also the men
2 abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their
3 desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts
4 and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error. And
5 just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave
6 them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper,
7 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of
8 envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; *they are* gossips, slanderers, haters
9 of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to
10 parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful;
11 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice
12 such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also
13 give hearty approval to those who practice them. Romans 1:18-21, 24-
14 32. And,

15
16 **Whereas**, we recognize, that God's righteous judgment is upon those who approve of such
17 detestable acts, as well as those who practice them; and
18

19 **Moreover**, whereas God has clearly stated that the condoning of homosexuality as well as
20 murder, immorality, kidnapping, lying, perjury and all other unrighteousness is
21 contrary to sound teaching (*1 Timothy 1:10-11, 2 Peter 3:14-18*);
22

23 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the Forty-second General Assembly of the Presbyterian
24 Church in America reaffirm the historical Biblical position as adopted by the Fifth
25 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, which states that:
26

- 27 1. The act of homosexuality is a sin according to God's Word;
- 28 2. Churches should actively seek to lead the homosexual person to confession and
29 repentance that he might find justification and sanctification in Jesus Christ,
30 according to I Corinthians 6:11; and
- 31 3. In light of the Biblical view of its sinfulness, a practicing homosexual continuing
32 in this sin would not be a fit candidate for ordination or membership in the
33 Presbyterian Church in America.
34

35 **Be it further resolved** that the Forty-Second General Assembly encourage its Pastors,
36 Elders, Deacons and members to recognize their responsibility to do all in their
37 power to peacefully petition the civil magistrate, that such men and women who
38 practice, approve, or condone homosexuality not be invested with the authority to
39 teach in schools or to use the powers of their vocation to influence our citizens to
40 approve of or practice homosexuality.
41

42 **Be it further resolved** that the Forty-second General Assembly, in the name of the One and
43 Only True and Living God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the ultimate
44 King, Governor, and Judge of all nations, as revealed in the 66 Books of the Holy
45 Scriptures consisting of the Old and New Testaments, call upon our local, state and

1 Federal legislatures, governors, and the President of the United States to cease and
2 desist from any legislation legalizing same sex marriage. This moral evil, that will
3 further corrupt our society, may bring the temporal judgment of God Almighty both
4 upon individuals and the nation now (see Romans 1:1-32 above), and will certainly
5 bring God's final judgment on individuals on Judgment Day.
6

7 Now I desire to remind you, though you know all things once for
8 all, that the Lord, after saving a people out of the land of Egypt,
9 subsequently destroyed those who did not believe. And angels who
10 did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode,
11 He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of
12 the great day, just as Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities around
13 them, since they in the same way as these indulged in gross
14 immorality and went after strange flesh, are exhibited as an
15 example in undergoing the punishment of eternal fire. Jude 1:5-7
16 (see Genesis 19).
17

18 **Be it further resolved** that we, the Forty-second General Assembly, call upon all Christians
19 as individuals, churches, conventions, fellowships, presbyteries, and denominations
20 to stand with us formally and publicly in the adoption of this resolution.
21

22 **Be it further resolved** that our churches renew our commitment to proclaiming pardon to
23 all who turn from their sin to the living God.
24

25 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom
26 of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor
27 adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor
28 covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit
29 the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were
30 washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the
31 name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians
32 6:9-11).
33

34 *Approved by Westminster Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 11, 2014*

35 *Attested by /s/ TE Daniel Foreman, stated clerk*