

1 **OVERTURE 29** from Potomac Presbytery (to MTW)
2 "Erect Provisional Presbytery for Paraguay"
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4 **Whereas** the Presbyterian Church in America has had no official presence in Paraguay until
5 very recently; and
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7 **Whereas** TE Roberto Maureira is a member of Potomac Presbytery; and
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9 **Whereas** TE Maureira is now serving "out of bounds" in Asunción, Paraguay; and
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11 **Whereas** the congregation he is serving (El Renuevo) is requesting the oversight and
12 fellowship of this denomination; and
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14 **Whereas** there is currently no National Presbyterian Church in Paraguay; and
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16 **Whereas** TE Maureira is desirous to see the establishment of a National Presbyterian Church
17 in Paraguay; and
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19 **Whereas** TE Maureira has been active in church planting as well as developing and training
20 men for both Ruling Elders and potential Teaching Elders for two active church
21 plants; and
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23 **Whereas** many individual members and member churches of Potomac Presbytery have had a
24 long-standing relationship with TE Maureira; and
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26 **Whereas** it is the desire of Potomac Presbytery to assist TE Maureira in his effort to establish
27 a functioning Presbytery in Paraguay;
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29 **Therefore be it resolved** that the 42nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in
30 America, according to *BCO* 15-6, commit to a commission the task of forming a
31 provisional Presbytery in Paraguay with the goal of establishing an indigenous
32 Presbyterian and Reformed Church. Said commission shall have authority to act as
33 the Presbytery in all matters pertaining to the establishment and ordering of a national
34 Church and shall report annually to the General Assembly. The commission shall be
35 dissolved when there are at least three national Teaching Elders and three organized
36 churches under its care, and these shall then constitute a separate national Church.
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38 To support said commission, Potomac Presbytery presents the following men to be
39 considered as members of the commission by merit of their long-standing relationship
40 with the work in Paraguay and their fluency in the Spanish language: TE Roberto
41 Maureira, TE Joel Acevedo, RE Larry Pratt, and TE Robert Amsler.
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43 *Adopted by Potomac Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 15, 2014*

44 *Attested by /s/ RE Richard T. Osborne, stated clerk*
45

46 **Rationale for a Provisional Presbytery for Presbyterian Mission Work in Paraguay** 47

48 **Establishing the Work in Paraguay**

49 Potomac Presbytery received TE Roberto Maureira as a member in good standing at its stated
50 meeting on November 16, 2013. A commission will travel to Paraguay this summer to see
51 him installed as the pastor of Iglesia Presbiteriana El Renuevo, a congregation in Luque, just

1 east of Asuncion, with approximately 80 members. This comes after nearly 18 years of effort
2 on the part of a small group of churches and dedicated missionaries, pastors, and servants.
3

4 Paraguay has one of the smallest percentages of evangelical Christians in all of South America
5 (4%). The population of the country is a little over 6 million, of which 2 million live in Asunción
6 and its environs. Many Paraguayans are nominally Roman Catholic, but they do not have an
7 understanding of the Gospel. Evangelicals tend to be Pentecostal. Aside from Reformed works
8 sponsored by Korean missionaries, TE Maureira is unaware of any other Reformed churches in
9 Paraguay.

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11 In 1996 Heritage Presbyterian Church, with the help of Gainesville PCA (both members of
12 Potomac Presbytery) and a few other interested churches and individuals, started *Project*
13 *Paraguay* to encourage and support the development of a Reformed Presbyterian Church in
14 Paraguay. They initially supported Chileans Joel and Gladys Acevedo in that church planting
15 work.
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17 The Acevedos spent over six years planting El Renuevo. During that time, the Acevedos' home
18 church in Belloto, Chile (a member of the National Presbyterian Church of Chile), supervised the
19 work in conjunction with Project Paraguay. The Acevedos oversaw the formation of El Renuevo,
20 the construction of its current facility, the development of a Christian School and the election of a
21 local pastor, Roberto Maureira, a Chilean with 25 years of experience in Paraguay. El Renuevo
22 has an active Session and Deaconate.
23

24 Pastor Maureira arrived in Paraguay in the late 1980's from Chile, where he had been ordained in
25 the National Presbyterian Church (which worked for many years in partnership with MTW).
26 Pastor Maureira came under the Session of the Presbyterian Church of Asunción, which was
27 planted by Koreans, though he then moved under the South American Presbytery of Korean
28 Spanish-speaking churches. The Koreans formed their own Presbytery in Paraguay in the 1990's,
29 and Roberto continued working with them until five years ago, when he moved to the El Renuevo
30 church. That Presbytery has since ceased to function.
31

32 **Church Planting**

33 El Renuevo has planted a daughter congregation in nearby Barrio Parque, and there are active
34 plants in Marín Kaabe and Mariano Roque Alonso. Miguel Díaz is a pastoral candidate preparing
35 to assist at El Renuevo and Parque. Marín Kaabe and Roque Alonso will also need pastors.
36 TE Maureira is continuing to train and prepare men for those works as well.
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38 Recently, the congregation of El Renuevo requested reception by Potomac Presbytery. They
39 desire the oversight, affiliation, and fellowship of like-minded believers. Since Potomac
40 Presbytery cannot receive a church that is out of our bounds, and since we have received
41 TE Maureira as a member of Potomac Presbytery, it is our desire to assist this brother and his
42 congregation in receiving the oversight they seek, and encouraging them in the formation of
43 a new National Church in Paraguay.
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45 It is because of the long-standing relationship of a number of individuals and churches in this
46 Presbytery with this work in Paraguay that we now have the opportunity and privilege of
47 seeking the assistance of the PCA in helping this brother form a new National Presbyterian
48 and Reformed Church in Paraguay.