

1 **OVERTURE 32** from Fellowship Presbytery (to OC)  
2 "Issue Warning Regarding Erroneous Views of Creation"  
3

4 **Whereas** the Scriptures are clear that false teachers will arise in the last days from both  
5 inside and outside the Church (2 Tim 3); and  
6

7 **Whereas** the elders of the church are commanded to watch for these false teachers and their  
8 teachings in Acts 20:28-31 saying,  
9

10 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the  
11 Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God,  
12 which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure  
13 fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from  
14 among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to  
15 draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering  
16 that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish everyone  
17 with tears;

18 and  
19

20 **Whereas** it is the duty of "those in the office of elder, both severally and jointly, to watch  
21 diligently over the flock committed to his charge, that no corruption of doctrine or of  
22 morals enter therein" (*BCO* 8-3); and  
23

24 **Whereas** elders "must take oversight not only of the spiritual interests of the particular  
25 church, but also the Church generally when called thereunto" (*BCO* 8-3); and  
26

27 **Whereas** the Church is commanded to teach what accords with sound doctrine (Titus 2:1),  
28 not being tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, or by  
29 craftiness in deceitful schemes (Eph. 4:14) no matter how enticing or persuasive they  
30 may be; and  
31

32 **Whereas** in our current time, there are attempts to redefine the doctrine of the miraculous  
33 and direct creation of our first parents, Adam and Eve, to arrive at an arrangement  
34 more harmonious with the theory of evolution, and some of the theories of modern  
35 genetics; and  
36

37 **Whereas** now even the historical existence of Adam and Eve has been brought into question  
38 by both those inside and outside the PCA; and  
39

40 **Whereas** the Bible clearly teaches that, "Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from  
41 the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a  
42 living creature," (Genesis 2:7 ESV); and  
43

44 **Whereas** the Westminster Standards are clear regarding the nature of Adam and Eve in  
45 saying, "How did God create man? A. After God had made all other creatures, he

1 created man male and female; formed the body of the man of the dust of the ground,  
2 and the woman of the rib of the man, endued them with living, reasonable and  
3 immortal souls; made them after his own image, in knowledge, righteousness, and  
4 holiness; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it, and  
5 dominion over the creatures; yet subject to fall,” (*WLC* 17); and  
6

7 **Whereas** the Standing Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church in America declared  
8 in Judicial Case 90-3:  
9

10 Holding the view of beginnings expressed in “theistic evolution” is  
11 contrary to the fundamentals of our system of doctrine taught in the  
12 Word of God and our standards. Such a view destroys the basis of such  
13 doctrines as the doctrines of sin, of marriage, of salvation, of  
14 covenants, and others.

15 Therefore such a view cannot be allowed as an exception. Anyone  
16 holding such a view must be disqualified from teaching and/or  
17 ordination in the church (*M9IGA*, Vol. 2, Appendix O, p. 479); and  
18

19 **Whereas**, while the Report on Creation to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian  
20 Church in America acknowledged a diversity of views regarding the length of days  
21 in Genesis 1-2, that report explicitly promotes the truth of a real, historical Adam  
22 and condemns the theory of evolution in saying,  
23

24 . . .the Scriptures, and hence Genesis 1-3, are the inerrant word of God.  
25 That Genesis 1-3 is a coherent account from the hand of Moses. That  
26 *history*, not *myth*, is the proper category for describing these chapters;  
27 and furthermore that their history is true. In these chapters we find the  
28 record of God’s creation of the heavens and the earth *ex nihilo*; of the  
29 special creation of Adam and Eve as actual human beings, the parents  
30 of all humanity (hence they are not the products of evolution from  
31 lower forms of life). We further find the account of an historical fall,  
32 that brought all humanity into an estate of sin and misery, and of  
33 God’s sure promise of a Redeemer.” (*M28GA*, pp. 122-23; access also  
34 at [www.pcahistory.org/creation/report](http://www.pcahistory.org/creation/report));

35 and  
36

37 **Whereas** the redefinition of the historical existence of Adam would necessitate a redefinition  
38 of the covenantal nature of both sin and grace as taught in Romans 5:12-21; and  
39

40 **Whereas** the children of this denomination need to be equipped to combat these theories  
41 and redefinitions, which are aggressively taught on many of the middle school, high  
42 school, and college campuses in this great nation;  
43

44 **Therefore be it resolved** that the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in  
45 America warn the membership of the Presbyterian Church in America in general,

1 and both teaching and ruling elders specifically, of the dangers of false teachers,  
2 particularly those that endorse or promote evolution, that undermine the historicity  
3 of Genesis 1-3, or that teach a position other than the special, immediate creation of  
4 Adam from the dust of the ground and Eve from the rib of Adam (WLC 17); and  
5

6 **Be it further resolved** to exhort the elders of the Church, both jointly and severally, to  
7 contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3), particularly  
8 regarding the historical existence of Adam and Eve; and  
9

10 **Be it further resolved** to encourage the Sessions and Presbyteries of the Presbyterian  
11 Church in America to intentionally include questions regarding the historical  
12 existence of Adam and Eve and the exegesis of Genesis 2:7 (in stating that Adam  
13 was made from the dust of the ground) in their ordination exams for both elder and  
14 deacon; and  
15

16 **Be it further resolved** to admonish the elders of the Presbyterian Church in America to be  
17 thorough in guarding the children of the church by carefully instructing them in the  
18 truth of the Holy Scripture concerning the creation of all things out of nothing, the  
19 special creation of humanity in the image of God, and the direct creation of Adam  
20 from the dust so that they may be thoroughly equipped to live in the present evil age;  
21 and  
22

23 **Be it further resolved** to call all members of the Presbyterian Church in America to devote  
24 themselves to greater commitment, submission, and obedience to the Word of God;  
25 and  
26

27 **Be it further resolved** to spread this on the minutes of the General Assembly and send this  
28 overture to the individual presbyteries and churches of the Presbyterian Church in  
29 America.  
30

31 *Adopted by Fellowship Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 25, 2014*

32 *Attested by /s/ TE Robert F. Sprinkle, Jr., stated clerk*