

1 **OVERTURE 43** from Savannah River Presbytery (to OC)
2 “Expression of Support for Sanctity of Life and Marriage”
3

4 **Whereas** the Bible states that when there is a conflict between God's Law and human law,
5 we must obey God rather than men (Acts 5:29), and
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7 **Whereas** the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution specifically prohibits Congress
8 from establishing any law "prohibiting the free exercise of religion," and
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10 **Whereas** the environment for religious freedom worsens day by day in the United States,
11 and
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13 **Whereas** some Christians today – including employers, chaplains, and others, must choose
14 between being faithful to their Biblical convictions regarding the sanctity of human
15 life and the sanctity of marriage, or face punitive federal government penalties, and
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17 **Whereas** God calls His Church to bear prophetic witness to His Truth in human society,
18 and
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20 **Whereas** the Presbyterian Church in America, of which the Savannah River Presbytery is a
21 member, is on record regarding the sanctity of human life and of marriage in
22 accordance with that Truth; therefore
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24 **Be it resolved** that Savannah River Presbytery hereby go on record expressing its gratitude
25 to and prayers for corporations, public and private for-profit and non-profit entities,
26 chaplains and others who have taken a stand for the sanctity of human life, and to the
27 Christian men and women in private businesses facing fines, penalties, and ostracism
28 for declining out of religious conviction to provide their services for same-sex
29 marriage ceremonies, and
30

31 **Be it further resolved** that Savannah River Presbytery call upon the 42nd General
32 Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to adopt this resolution.
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34 *Adopted by Savannah River Presbytery at its Stated Meeting, April 15, 2014*

35 *Attested by/s/ RE William L Hatcher, stated clerk*