

1 **OVERTURE 4** from Palmetto Presbytery (to MNA)
2 “Divide Palmetto Presbytery into Three Presbyteries”
3

4 **Whereas**, from the 1st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America in 1973, as
5 well as the PCA Vision 2000 statement, the priorities of being “*true to the Bible and*
6 *the Reformed Faith and obedient to the Great Commission of Jesus Christ*” have
7 been the guiding principles for the worship and work of the Church; and
8

9 **Whereas**, the Palmetto Presbytery Mission Statement declares that,

10 *...Palmetto Presbytery exists to glorify God by extending the kingdom*
11 *of Jesus Christ over all individual members of presbytery and through all*
12 *areas of society even in all nations and cultures. To accomplish this end,*
13 *we aim to fill Palmetto Presbytery with churches and church officers*
14 *growing in vital worship, personal holiness, true fellowship, theological*
15 *depth, assertive evangelism and deeds of compassion,*
16

17 *The distinctiveness of the PCA lies on both reformation and revival.*
18 *Without an emphasis on revival, 'reformation' may become either a*
19 *mimicking of political ideologies or sterile doctrinalism. Without an*
20 *emphasis on reformation, 'revival' may become a shallow pietism or*
21 *mysticism. Only reformation and revival together can accomplish the*
22 *Great Commission of our Lord; and*
23

24 **Whereas**, the General Assembly has recommended that presbyteries with over 30 churches
25 consider subdivision for the most effective gospel ministry, and has offered criteria
26 for such a need; and
27

28 **Whereas**, Palmetto Presbytery has grown to 48 churches and 5 mission churches covering
29 29 counties with up to a four-hour drive separating our churches; and
30

31 **Whereas**, Palmetto Presbytery has grown to 112 ministers on the roll and some 30+/-
32 interns and licentiates, and has a communicant membership of 12,475 (December
33 2013 data); and
34

35 **Whereas**, Palmetto Presbytery has the potential to divide and multiply into two or more
36 presbyteries that would meet the “Guidelines for Dividing Presbyteries,” as adopted
37 by the 26th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America of having “*a*
38 *minimum of 10 churches,*” “*a total communicant membership of at least 1000,*”
39 “*regional cohesiveness,*” and “*at least 3 churches each having a membership of at*
40 *least 125 communicant members*”; and
41

42 **Whereas**, it has been part of the history of Palmetto Presbytery to divide and multiply in the
43 shared work to expand the Kingdom as part of Calvary Presbytery, as realized in the
44 formation of Palmetto Presbytery on January 1, 1984; and also Fellowship
45 Presbytery on July 1, 1994, and

1 **Whereas**, the formation of smaller presbyteries would create greater geographic proximity
2 between churches and therefore a more strategic kingdom alliance to plant new
3 churches within the boundaries of the presbyteries; and
4

5 **Whereas**, the formation of new presbyteries would create presbyteries with similar
6 demographic characteristics within communities and townships; and
7

8 **Whereas**, Palmetto Presbytery on October 23, 2014, voted "*for the advancement of the*
9 *Kingdom, it is time for Palmetto Presbytery to initiate the process of multiplying the*
10 *presbytery*";
11

12 **Therefore, be it resolved** that Palmetto Presbytery hereby overtures the 43rd General
13 Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, to divide and multiply Palmetto
14 Presbytery into three (3) new presbyteries by allowing a geographical division,
15 effective January 1, 2016, by:
16

- 17 a. Establishing the boundary of a continuing "Columbia Area Presbytery" (or some
18 name that suits it members) to include the following five (5) counties of South
19 Carolina: Fairfield, Lexington, Richland, Aiken, Kershaw.
20
- 21 b. Establishing the boundary of a new "Coastal Carolina Presbytery" (or some name
22 that suits it members) to include the following twelve (12) counties of South
23 Carolina: Chesterfield, Marlboro, Lee, Sumter, Darlington, Florence, Dillon,
24 Marion, Clarendon, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Horry.
25
- 26 c. Establishing the boundary of a new "Low Country Presbytery" (or some name
27 that suits it members) to include the following twelve (12) counties of South
28 Carolina: Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton,
29 Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Colleton, Calhoun, Orangeburg.
30
- 31 d. Permitting Teaching Elders with calls to RUF or calls from MTW or those
32 carried on the rolls as Honorably Retired, Laboring Out-Of-Bounds, or Without
33 Call to choose the presbytery in which they desire membership. If a choice is not
34 made by the effective date they will be placed on the roll of Columbia Area
35 Presbytery. Candidates, interns, and licentiates will be in the same Presbytery as
36 their home church.
37

38 *Adopted by Palmetto Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 24, 2015*

39 *Attested by /s/ TE Louis Igou Hodges, stated clerk*