

1 **OVERTURE 6** from Suncoast Florida Presbytery (to MNA)
2 “Restructure Boundary of Suncoast Florida Presbytery”
3

4 **Whereas**, Suncoast Florida Presbytery, with eight churches and two mission works, has
5 enjoyed the blessings and experienced the challenges of life in a smaller presbytery
6 for the last ten years, and
7

8 **Whereas**, the Guidelines for Dividing Presbyteries, as adopted by the 26th General
9 Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, encourage Presbyteries with over
10 30 churches to “consider whether subdivision would lead to more effective
11 ministry”; and
12

13 **Whereas**, the Lord has greatly blessed the work of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida,
14 giving it a total of twenty six churches (plus three mission works) within the bounds
15 of their Presbytery, and
16

17 **Whereas**, having reached the recommended threshold for considering subdivision, the
18 Presbytery of Southwest Florida entered into a lengthy period of study and
19 discussion of the future boundaries of the presbytery; and
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21 **Whereas**, the Suncoast Florida Presbytery, having heard of the discussion of the Presbytery
22 of Southwest Florida to multiply, invited the churches in the southern portion of the
23 Presbytery of Southwest Florida to consider joining with it in order to forge a unified
24 vision for ministry and church planting for the entire Suncoast region;
25

26 **Now therefore be it resolved**, that Suncoast Florida Presbytery overtures the 43rd General
27 Assembly to restructure the boundary of Suncoast Florida Presbytery to include the
28 counties of Manatee, Sarasota, that portion of Charlotte north of the Peace River,
29 DeSoto, and Glades (with all churches and mission works therein), and that all
30 teaching elders and churches be received without examination, effective July 1,
31 2015.
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33 *Adopted by Suncoast Florida Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 9, 2015*

34 *Attested by /s/ TE Jonathan Loerop, stated clerk*