

1 **OVERTURE 29-2014** from Potomac Presbytery (to MTW)
2 "Erect Provisional Presbytery for Paraguay"

3
4 [Referred by 42nd General Assembly back to the MTW Permanent Committee for further
5 study and recommendation. See 2015 MTW Report, Recommendation 10, p. 713.]

6
7 **Whereas** the Presbyterian Church in America has had no official presence in Paraguay until
8 very recently; and

9
10 **Whereas** TE Roberto Maureira is a member of Potomac Presbytery; and

11
12 **Whereas** TE Maureira is now serving "out of bounds" in Asunción, Paraguay; and

13
14 **Whereas** the congregation he is serving (El Renuevo) is requesting the oversight and
15 fellowship of this denomination; and

16
17 **Whereas** there is currently no National Presbyterian Church in Paraguay; and

18
19 **Whereas** TE Maureira is desirous to see the establishment of a National Presbyterian
20 Church in Paraguay; and

21
22 **Whereas** TE Maureira has been active in church planting as well as developing and training
23 men for both Ruling Elders and potential Teaching Elders for two active church
24 plants; and

25
26 **Whereas** many individual members and member churches of Potomac Presbytery have had
27 a long-standing relationship with TE Maureira; and

28
29 **Whereas** it is the desire of Potomac Presbytery to assist TE Maureira in his effort to
30 establish a functioning Presbytery in Paraguay;

31
32 **Therefore be it resolved** that the 42nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in
33 America, according to *BCO* 15-6, commit to a commission the task of forming a
34 provisional Presbytery in Paraguay with the goal of establishing an indigenous
35 Presbyterian and Reformed Church. Said commission shall have authority to act as
36 the Presbytery in all matters pertaining to the establishment and ordering of a national
37 Church and shall report annually to the General Assembly. The commission shall be
38 dissolved when there are at least three national Teaching Elders and three organized
39 churches under its care, and these shall then constitute a separate national Church.

40
41 To support said commission, Potomac Presbytery presents the following men to be
42 considered as members of the commission by merit of their long-standing
43 relationship with the work in Paraguay and their fluency in the Spanish language: TE
44 Roberto Maureira, TE Joel Acevedo, RE Larry Pratt, and TE Robert Amsler.

45
46 *Adopted by Potomac Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 15, 2014*

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

2
3 [See next page for Rationale.]

4 **Rationale for a Provisional Presbytery for Presbyterian Mission Work in Paraguay**

5 6 **Establishing the Work in Paraguay**

7 Potomac Presbytery received TE Roberto Maureira as a member in good standing at its
8 stated meeting on November 16, 2013. A commission will travel to Paraguay this summer
9 to see him installed as the pastor of Iglesia Presbiteriana El Renuevo, a congregation in
10 Luque, just east of Asuncion, with approximately 80 members. This comes after nearly 18
11 years of effort on the part of a small group of churches and dedicated missionaries, pastors,
12 and servants.

13
14 Paraguay has one of the smallest percentages of evangelical Christians in all of South America
15 (4%). The population of the country is a little over 6 million, of which 2 million live in Asunción
16 and its environs. Many Paraguayans are nominally Roman Catholic, but they do not have an
17 understanding of the Gospel. Evangelicals tend to be Pentecostal. Aside from Reformed works
18 sponsored by Korean missionaries, TE Maureira is unaware of any other Reformed churches in
19 Paraguay.

20
21 In 1996 Heritage Presbyterian Church, with the help of Gainesville PCA (both members of
22 Potomac Presbytery) and a few other interested churches and individuals, started *Project*
23 *Paraguay* to encourage and support the development of a Reformed Presbyterian Church in
24 Paraguay. They initially supported Chileans Joel and Gladys Acevedo in that church
25 planting work.

26
27 The Acevedos spent over six years planting El Renuevo. During that time, the Acevedos' home
28 church in Belloto, Chile (a member of the National Presbyterian Church of Chile), supervised the
29 work in conjunction with Project Paraguay. The Acevedos oversaw the formation of El Renuevo,
30 the construction of its current facility, the development of a Christian School and the election of a
31 local pastor, Roberto Maureira, a Chilean with 25 years of experience in Paraguay. El Renuevo
32 has an active Session and Deaconate.

33
34 Pastor Maureira arrived in Paraguay in the late 1980's from Chile, where he had been ordained in
35 the National Presbyterian Church (which worked for many years in partnership with MTW).
36 Pastor Maureira came under the Session of the Presbyterian Church of Asunción, which was
37 planted by Koreans, though he then moved under the South American Presbytery of Korean
38 Spanish-speaking churches. The Koreans formed their own Presbytery in Paraguay in the 1990's,
39 and Roberto continued working with them until five years ago, when he moved to the El
40 Renuevo church. That Presbytery has since ceased to function.

41 42 **Church Planting**

43 El Renuevo has planted a daughter congregation in nearby Barrio Parque, and there are active
44 plants in Marín Kaabe and Mariano Roque Alonso. Miguel Díaz is a pastoral candidate preparing
45 to assist at El Renuevo and Parque. Marín Kaabe and Roque Alonso will also need pastors.
46 TE Maureira is continuing to train and prepare men for those works as well.

47

1 Recently, the congregation of El Renuevo requested reception by Potomac Presbytery. They
2 desire the oversight, affiliation, and fellowship of like-minded believers. Since Potomac
3 Presbytery cannot receive a church that is out of our bounds, and since we have received
4 TE Maureira as a member of Potomac Presbytery, it is our desire to assist this brother and
5 his congregation in receiving the oversight they seek, and encouraging them in the formation
6 of a new National Church in Paraguay.

7

8 It is because of the long-standing relationship of a number of individuals and churches in
9 this Presbytery with this work in Paraguay that we now have the opportunity and privilege
10 of seeking the assistance of the PCA in helping this brother form a new National
11 Presbyterian and Reformed Church in Paraguay.