

1 **OVERTURE 45** from Potomac Presbytery (to OC, AC)
2 "Form Racial Reconciliation Study Committee"
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4 **Whereas**, the 30th General Assembly adopted a statement on racial reconciliation that
5 confessed its "heinous sins" connected with unbiblical forms of servitude and the
6 after-effects thereof; and
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8 **Whereas**, the 32nd General Assembly adopted a paper titled "The Gospel and Race" that was
9 produced under the oversight of our Mission to North America committee; and
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11 **Whereas**, the 144th General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod,
12 adopted a statement on "Racial Questions"; and
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14 **Whereas**, there is a growing consensus of officers that the General Assembly actions to
15 date, while helpful, have not sufficiently resulted in the increased ethnic diversity
16 and participation at all levels of our denomination that these actions called for; and
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18 **Whereas**, repentance and reconciliation require a thorough understanding of the specific
19 issues and steps to restore unity; and
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21 **Whereas**, racial and ethnic reconciliation is a serious issue worthy of a careful and
22 deliberative approach, and therefore deserves the extra time and effort to address the
23 issue on a comprehensive level, taking into account historical developments,
24 qualitative, and quantitative research;
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26 **Therefore be it resolved** that the 44th General Assembly
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- 28 1. Authorize the Moderator to appoint a Racial and Ethnic Reconciliation study
29 committee, comprised of multiple ethnicities and a ruling elder majority with
30 research and analytical skills that would:
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 - 32 a. Assess the current situation in the PCA concerning racial and ethnic reconciliation;
 - 33 b. Identify specific problems the PCA needs to address to promote racial
34 reconciliation and ethnic diversity;
 - 35 c. Recommend concrete steps for Sessions and Presbyteries to make progress in the
36 work of reconciliation and diversity;
 - 37 d. Establish reliable criteria for discerning successful progress in reconciliation;
 - 38 e. Report to the 45th General Assembly and each successive Assembly through the
39 50th General Assembly, with updates regarding our progress in meeting these
40 criteria.
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- 42 2. Set the budget for the study committee at \$15,000/year and that funds be derived
43 from gifts to the Administrative Committee designated for that purpose.
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45 *Adopted by Potomac Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 19, 2016*

46 *Attested by/s/ RE Charles D. Robinson, stated clerk*