

1 **OVERTURE 11** from Fellowship Presbytery (OC, AC, CDM, CC, RUF)
2 “Commend and Distribute RPCNA’s ‘Contemporary Perspectives
3 on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis’”
4
5 **Whereas** it is the responsibility of the General Assembly to evaluate needs for the most
6 effective fulfillment of the Great Commission (*BCO* 14-1.5); and
7
8 **Whereas** the General Assembly has been given the power in general to recommend measures
9 for the promotion of charity, truth, and holiness through all the churches under its care
10 (*BCO* 14-6.k); and
11
12 **Whereas** the local Sessions are tasked with shepherding the flock in their midst (1 Peter 5:2),
13 and saving others by snatching them out of the fire, showing mercy to others with fear,
14 hating even the garment stained by the flesh (Jude 23); and
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16 **Whereas** much of the flock in our midst has often been exposed to great depths of evil through
17 the ubiquitous presence of the internet, the sexualization of entertainment, broadening
18 sexual ethics in the court system, and increasing globalization; and
19
20 **Whereas** some of the flock in our midst are hard-pressed with temptation that manifests itself
21 through same sex attraction or a confused sexual identity (Rom 1:26); and
22
23 **Whereas** some elders, deacons, or sessions may feel overwhelmed or underequipped to
24 minister to those in their flock that struggle with these unholy desires; and
25
26 **Whereas** the topic of sexual orientation needs clarification, and is as yet an uncovered topic
27 in PCA reports; and
28
29 **Whereas** a NAPARC member church, the Reformed Presbyterian Church North America
30 (RPCNA), has produced an excellent resource on this issue that is both exegetically
31 sound and pastorally tender entitled “Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual
32 Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis”; and
33
34 **Whereas** at the 44th General Assembly the Cooperative Ministries Committee, though unable
35 to make direct recommendations to the Assembly, commended this RPCNA report to
36 be read and studied by teaching elders and Sessions (*M44GA*, p. 334);
37
38 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the General Assembly receive “Contemporary Perspectives on
39 Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis” (available on pages 86-131
40 at <http://rparchives.org/data/Minutes%20of%20Synod/2011%20Minutes.pdf>) and
41 distribute it to the presbyteries and congregations of the denomination; and
42
43 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly direct the Committee on Discipleship
44 Ministries to publish the CPSO for sale and distribution, along with the other actions
45

1 of the Assembly related to human sexuality, especially the actions of the 5th General
2 Assembly and the Joining and Receiving, as the PCA's statements on the Gospel and
3 human sexuality; and
4

5 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly direct the Committee on Discipleship
6 Ministries to assist sessions in the watching over their flock and in the nourishing and
7 guarding of the children of the church by creating a resource or curriculum based on
8 the CPSO report that could be used with students that might be struggling with issues
9 related to sexual identity, same sex attraction, or gender confusion; and
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11 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly direct Reformed University Fellowship to
12 participate in promoting the prosperity and enlargement of the Church by
13 incorporating CPSO in their annual training; and
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15 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly direct Covenant College to nourish and
16 safeguard the young people of the church by making this report available to faculty,
17 staff, and students, as well as including the content of this report in the life of the
18 school in some fashion (perhaps through RA training, chapel, or other venues); and
19

20 **Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly encourage Sessions and elders to be active
21 in shepherding those in their flock that struggle against same sex attraction or sexual
22 confusion so that elders might keep watch over their flocks as ones who will give an
23 account, and that we all might win a full reward (Heb. 13:17; 2 John 8).
24

25 *Adopted by Fellowship Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 26, 2019*

26 *Attested by TE Robert F. Sprinkle Jr., stated clerk*