

1 **OVERTURE 25** from the Suncoast Florida Presbytery (to CDM)  
2 “Support Christian Education”  
3

4 **Whereas** the Presbyterian Church in America has seen fit to establish Covenant College and  
5 Covenant Theological Seminary to educate students in accordance with a Biblical  
6 worldview, including studies in covenantal and Reformed theology, as well as studies  
7 touching upon our Lord’s Great Commission and the extension of His Kingdom; and  
8

9 **Whereas** the Scriptures command faithful Biblical instruction be given to God’s covenant  
10 children as well, those little ones being brought up in the context of God’s covenant  
11 people and in accordance with their union with Christ (Deut 6:7-15; Prov. 22:6;  
12 Mt. 19:14, 15; Eph. 6:4), making a distinction between their education and that of  
13 unbelievers; and  
14

15 **Whereas** the wisdom of God being expressed through His people reveals itself to be “pure,  
16 then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial, and  
17 sincere...” (James 3:17); and  
18

19 **Whereas** a considerable number of parents in our churches, increasing in their knowledge of  
20 God’s Word and works (Ps. 78:4-7), desire an educational context for their covenant  
21 children consistent with God’s Word, a context which encourages them to rejoice in  
22 Him as Creator, Redeemer, and Lord over all; a context which encourages them to  
23 exercise dominion as His image-bearers for His honor, one which will enable them to  
24 be informed by and conformed to His Truth (John 17:17); and  
25

26 **Whereas** a considerable number of materialistic/secular world view ideas (such as those  
27 touching upon gender identity issues, new definitions of marriage and family, sexual  
28 boundaries, questions of who has ultimate authority over the children, etc.) become  
29 increasingly politicized and passed into law; and  
30

31 **Whereas** Christian families are experiencing an increase of tension in the public school arena  
32 as school policies, approved practices, classroom instruction, discussion, and  
33 textbooks oppose and in some instances, vilify, their Biblical convictions; indeed,  
34 sometimes resulting in legal action on the part of the state (more recently in reference  
35 to gender identity issues); and  
36

37 **Whereas** parents of baptized children make vows to bring the child up in the nurture and  
38 admonition of the Lord (*BCO* 56-5); and  
39

40 **Whereas** the congregation also makes a vow to assist these parents in the aforesaid endeavor  
41 (*BCO* 56-5); and  
42

43 **Whereas** the elders and deacons of Christ’s church work together in promoting the spiritual  
44 well-being of church members (including the covenant children) encouraging, praying,

1 and supporting if necessary (and possible) what tends to their spiritual growth and good.  
2 (BCO 6-1, 3; BCO 7-2; BCO 8-3; BCO 9-1; BCO 12-5);  
3

4 **Therefore be it resolved** that the Presbyteries, Sessions, and Diaconates of the Presbyterian  
5 Church in America, be encouraged to embrace and provide a supportive posture for  
6 Christian education in our churches and communities by:  
7

- 8 a. Teaching on the nature, purpose, and tasks involved in bringing covenant children  
9 up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).
- 10 b. Faithfully addressing the challenges Christian families face who enroll their  
11 covenant children in public educational settings, seeking to provide resources and  
12 support which will equip their students to be salt and light, and to remain faithful  
13 to the truth as expressed in Christ and His Word.
- 14 c. Considering/dialoguing with members in our covenant communities regarding the  
15 privileges and benefits of a wholly Christian education in which the primary goal  
16 is the development of a mind and heart consistently conformed to the worldview  
17 of the Bible as it touches upon all aspects of living in union with Christ- in God's  
18 amazing world under Christ's reign (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 2:6, 11, 12; Psalm 19:1;  
19 Psalm 24; Romans 12:1, 2).
- 20 d. By offering, whenever possible, financial, spiritual and instructional assistance  
21 helpful to those families expressing a desire to pursue a wholly Christian education  
22 for their children.
- 23 e. By encouraging the establishment of sound Christian schools in our churches and  
24 communities through prayer and support as our Lord provides.  
25

26 *Adopted by Suncoast Florida Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 12, 2019*

27 *Attested by /s/ TE David Stewart, stated clerk*