

1 **OVERTURE 37** from James River Presbytery (to OC)
2 “Assembly Statement on Same-sex Attraction”
3

4 **Whereas**, there is tremendous cultural pressure in the United States in these days concerning
5 homosexuality and sexual sin; and
6

7 **Whereas**, there are many people inside and outside the church who struggle with same-sex
8 attraction and gender confusion; and
9

10 **Whereas**, the Revoice organization held a conference in 2018 which discussed how to
11 improve the way the church ministers to people who struggle with same-sex attraction,
12 encouraging them to uphold the Biblical sexual ethic; and
13

14 **Whereas**, we acknowledge and affirm that Revoice showed love to people struggling with
15 these sins; and
16

17 **Whereas**, we acknowledge and affirm that the Church has not always shown love to people
18 who struggle with these sins; and
19

20 **Whereas**, the Presbyterian Church in America, as part of its duty under the Great Commission,
21 desires to better minister to people who struggle with same-sex attraction;
22

23 **Whereas**, the Church commends the faithfulness of Christians struggling with same-sex
24 attraction who are seeking to remain faithful to a Biblical sexual ethic;
25

26 **Therefore**, the 47th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America affirms that:
27

- 28 1. That all persons are born sinners justly deserving God’s wrath and condemnation
29 and inherit both the guilt of our first parents as well as corruption. (Rom 5:12)
30
- 31 2. That outside of Christ, men and women are enslaved to corruption which enslaves
32 the thinking of all persons and distorts God’s created order. (Eph 2:1-8)
33
- 34 3. That Christ has purchased not only the faith of his saints on the cross by which
35 they are made just in God’s sight but has also broken the power of sin/corruption
36 to enslave His sheep. (Rom 8:1-11)
37
- 38 4. That Christ unites sinners to Himself, though they be corrupt through and through,
39 but he does not leave them in corruption but subdues their corruption and produces
40 holiness in them. (Rom 5:12-22, 6:1-10; Col. 2:15)
41
- 42 5. That corruption draws all toward sinful desires whether they be anger,
43 disobedience, pride, hatred, lusts, or unnatural attractions. (Eph 2:1-3).

- 1 6. That the Scriptures consistently exhort believers to reckon themselves dead to
2 sin/corruption and alive to Christ (Rom 6:5-11, 1 Cor 6:9-11)
3
- 4 7. That “sexual orientation” is a modern invention describing men and women as
5 being on a spectrum of sexual attraction or desire, and is not a Biblical category.
6
- 7 8. That the use of terms such as “Gay Christian,” “Same Sex Attracted Christian,”
8 “Alcoholic Christian,” “Lustful Christian,” “Greedy Christian,” or any other
9 corrupt desire is not consistent with our union with Christ. Such descriptors of our
10 fallenness must not be used as an identity marker but must rather be humbly
11 submitted to Christ who provides our primary identity as Christians. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
12
- 13 9. That the pull toward same-sex lust is not morally neutral but arises from our fallen
14 nature, and with all other temptations must be mortified by the power which Christ
15 supplies. (Rom. 1:18-27)
16
- 17 10. That Christians will struggle all their lives with sin and that the Church should
18 never promise healing from sin in this life but the Spirit’s strength to kill unholy
19 desires and to grow holy desires. (Rom 8:9-11)
20
- 21 11. That no temptation has overtaken any of us except that which is common to man
22 and the Church must, therefore, be a place where we encourage one another in the
23 battle against indwelling sin. (1 Cor 10:13)
24
- 25 12. That while there is a place for conferences and support groups, the Church is a
26 haven for sinners and we should find solidarity in this common battle with sin not
27 only with others who struggle exactly the same but primarily among those in our
28 local congregation who share a common Savior. (Hebrews 10:25, Gal. 6:10)
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30 *Adopted by James River Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 13, 2019*

31 *Attested by /s/ RE Jeremy L. Pryor, stated clerk*