

1 **OVERTURE 39** from Southern New England Presbytery (to OC)
2 “Re-commend the Previous Statements and Study Reports of the PCA in Regard
3 to Homosexuality”
4

5 **Whereas**, the Fifth General Assembly of the PCA in 1977 affirmed “the Biblical position for
6 our denomination which states that: (1) The act of homosexuality is a sin according to
7 God’s Word; (2) Churches should actively seek to lead the homosexual person to
8 confession and repentance that he might find justification and sanctification in Jesus
9 Christ, according to 1 Corinthians 6:11; and, (3) In light of the Biblical view of its
10 sinfulness, a practicing homosexual continuing in this sin would not be a fit candidate
11 for ordination or membership in the Presbyterian Church in America.” (*Minutes of the*
12 *5th General Assembly of the PCA*, 1977, pp. 67-68); and
13

14 **Whereas**, the PCA General Assembly has reaffirmed its position on the issue of
15 homosexuality on subsequent occasions, including 1996, 1999, and 2018; and
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17 **Whereas**, the 158th General Synod of the RPCES adopted a study report on homosexuality
18 and commended their report, entitled “Pastoral Care for the Repentant Homosexual,”
19 to their sessions and congregations as an aid for their ministry to those struggling with
20 homosexuality” (158th General Synod *Minutes*, 4 July 1980, pp. 43-50; *Documents of*
21 *Synod*, pp. 301-308. <http://www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/docsynod/301.html>);
22 and
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24 **Whereas**, the 9th General Assembly of the PCA in 1981 adopted the Ad Interim Committee
25 report on Joining and Receiving, which included the statement: “In receiving these
26 denominations, the Presbyterian Church in America recognizes the history of the
27 respective denominations as part of her total history and receives their historical
28 documents as valuable and significant material which will be used in the perfecting of
29 the church” [*Minutes of the 9th General Assembly of the PCA*, p. 305].
30

31 **Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Southern New England Presbytery overture the 47th
32 General Assembly of the PCA to re-commend the previous statements and study
33 reports of the PCA, including our study report adopted by the 158th General Synod of
34 the RPCES on homosexuality entitled “Pastoral Care for the Repentant Homosexual,”
35 with the deletion of Sections III and IV, to our sessions and congregations as an aid
36 for their ministry to those struggling with homosexuality.” [158th General Synod *Minutes*,
37 4 July 1980, pp. 43-50; *Documents of Synod*, pp. 301-308. [http://www.pcahistory.org/](http://www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/docsynod/301.html)
38 [findingaids/rpces/docsynod/301.html](http://www.pcahistory.org/findingaids/rpces/docsynod/301.html)].
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40 *Adopted by Southern New England Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 27, 2019*

41 *Attested by /s/ TE Ron Heald, stated clerk*