

1 **OVERTURE 42** from Chicago Metro Presbytery
2 “Establish Study Committee on Sexuality”

(to AC, OC)

3
4 **Whereas**, in recent years a dramatic shift in cultural norms and attitudes away from Biblical
5 teaching and morality concerning human sexuality has taken place; and

6
7 **Whereas**, the current cultural climate presents an apologetic and evangelistic challenge to
8 the Church as she seeks to articulate the Biblical teaching on human sexuality clearly
9 and effectively to those outside; and

10
11 **Whereas**, this cultural climate also fosters increasingly complex pastoral situations as the
12 Church seeks to minister to those who struggle with issues related to their own
13 sexuality; and

14
15 **Whereas**, some of the flock in our midst are among those hard-pressed with temptation that
16 manifests itself through same sex-attraction or a confused sexual identity, and many
17 sessions may feel overwhelmed or underequipped to minister to them; and

18
19 **Whereas**, though the PCA issued statements in 1977, 1996, and 1999 on the Biblical view
20 concerning homosexuality, these statements were delivered before the more recent
21 cultural changes with their attendant challenges, and the PCA has yet to undertake an
22 extensive study of the topic; and

23
24 **Whereas**, the PCA has the Biblical, theological, and confessional resources to apply the
25 unchanging gospel to the issues surrounding human sexuality in our current cultural
26 environment;

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28 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 47th General Assembly create an Ad-Interim Committee
29 (AIC) to study the topic of human sexuality with particular attention to the issues of
30 homosexuality, same- sex attraction, and transgenderism, and prepare a report which:

- 31
32
- 33 • Shall include an annotated bibliography of resources on sexuality which the
34 Committee endorses to help pastors and sessions shepherd congregants who are
35 dealing with same-sex attraction; and
 - 36 • Shall address: (1) the nature of temptation, sin, and repentance as regards same
37 sex- attraction; (2) the propriety of using terms like “gay Christian” when
38 referring to a believer struggling with same-sex attraction; (3) the status of
39 "orientation" as a valid anthropological category; (4) the practice of “spiritual
40 friendship” among same sex attracted Christians; and
 - 41 • Shall include suggested ways to articulate and defend a Biblical understanding of
42 homosexuality, same sex-attraction, and transgenderism in the context of a culture
43 that denies that understanding; and
 - 44 • Should the Committee conclude it prudent, may, as one of its recommendations,
propose a statement on the topic; and

1 **Be it further resolved**, that, in its examination of¹ Scripture and the PCA *Confession of*
2 *Faith* and Catechisms, the Committee consider studies and statements of other bodies
3 outside and within the PCA (including, but not limited to, the Council on Biblical
4 Manhood and Womanhood’s “Nashville Statement”; the RPCNA’s “Contemporary
5 Perspectives on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis”; the
6 RPCES’ “Pastoral Care for the Repentant Homosexual”; Missouri Presbytery’s
7 “Homosexuality and the Gospel of Grace: Faithfulness to the Lord’s Calling in an
8 Age of Sexual Autonomy”; the statements on homosexuality issued by the 5th, 24th,
9 and 27th General Assemblies of the PCA and the January 14, 2015, Report of the
10 CMC Subcommittee on Homosexuality) and resources recommended in those
11 documents; and
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13 **Be it further resolved** that the Moderator of the 47th General Assembly appoint the seven
14 voting members who shall be either PCA teaching or PCA ruling elders, and the
15 Committee shall include at least two teaching and two ruling elders including
16 members whose writings reflect theological engagement on the issue and pastoral
17 interaction with those dealing with same sex attraction and transgenderism; and
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19 **Be it further resolved** that the Committee be permitted to recruit others to serve the
20 Committee as advisors within the confines of its budget, with particular concern to
21 secure advisors with experience in counseling those dealing with same-sex attraction
22 and transgenderism; and
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24 **Be it further resolved** that the budget for the study committee be set at \$15,000/year and
25 that funds be derived from gifts to the AC designated for that purpose; and
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27 **Be it further resolved** that the committee shall present its report to the 48th General
28 Assembly, including any recommendations it may present.
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30 *Adopted by Chicago Metro Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 15, 2019*

31 *Attested by /s/ TE Kyle Edwards, stated clerk*

¹ The Ohio presbytery version here reads “that in addition to Scripture and the PCA *Confession of Faith* and Catechisms....” Trinity’s Session made the small amendment to “in its examination of...”