

1 **OVERTURE 44** from Ohio Valley Presbytery (to AC, OC)  
2 Establish Ad Interim Committee to Study Human Sexuality  
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  
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7 **Whereas**, the current cultural climate presents an apologetic and evangelistic challenge to the  
8 Church as she seeks to articulate the Biblical teaching on human sexuality clearly and  
9 effectively to those outside; and  
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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  
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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  
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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 47<sup>th</sup> 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, transgenderism, and gender dysphoria, and  
31 prepare a report which:  
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- 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  
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- 37 • Shall address: (1) the nature of temptation, sin, and repentance as regards same  
38 sex-attraction; (2) the propriety of using terms like “gay Christian” when referring  
39 to a believer struggling with same-sex attraction; (3) The status of "orientation" as  
40 a valid anthropological category; (4) the practice of “spiritual friendship” among  
41 same sex attracted Christians; and  
42
- 43 • Shall include suggested ways to articulate and defend a Biblical understanding of  
44 homosexuality, same sex-attraction, transgenderism, and gender dysphoria in the  
45 context of a culture that denies that understanding; and  
46
- 47 • Should the Committee conclude it prudent, may, as one of its recommendations,  
48 propose a statement on the topic; and

1 **Be it further resolved**, that, in addition to Scripture and the PCA Confession of Faith and  
2 Catechisms, the Committee consider studies and statements of other bodies outside  
3 and within the PCA (including, but not limited to, the Council on Biblical Manhood  
4 and Womanhood’s “Nashville Statement”; the RPCNA’s “Contemporary Perspectives  
5 on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis”; the RPCES’ “Pastoral  
6 Care for the Repentant Homosexual”; Missouri Presbytery’s “Homosexuality and the  
7 Gospel of Grace: Faithfulness to the Lord’s Calling in an Age of Sexual Autonomy”;  
8 the statements on homosexuality issued by the 5<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies  
9 of the PCA and the January 14, 2015, Report of the CMC Subcommittee on  
10 Homosexuality) and resources recommended in those documents; and  
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12 **Be it further resolved** that the Moderator of the 47<sup>th</sup> General Assembly appoint the seven  
13 voting members who shall be either PCA teaching or PCA ruling elders, and the  
14 Committee shall include at least two teaching and two ruling elders including members  
15 whose writings reflect theological engagement on the issue and pastoral interaction  
16 with those dealing with same sex attraction, transgenderism, and gender dysphoria;  
17 and  
18

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 transgenderism, and gender dysphoria; and  
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24 **Be it further resolved** that the budget for the study committee be set at \$15,000/year and that  
25 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 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly,  
28 including any recommendations it may present.  
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30 *Adopted by Ohio Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 21, 2019*

31 *Attested by /s/ TE Larry C. Hoop, stated clerk.*