

**OVERTURE 11** from Fellowship Presbytery (OC, AC, CDM, CC, RUF)  
“Commend and Distribute RPCNA’s ‘Contemporary Perspectives  
on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis’”

**Whereas** it is the responsibility of the General Assembly to evaluate needs for the most effective fulfillment of the Great Commission (*BCO* 14-1.5); and

**Whereas** the General Assembly has been given the power in general to recommend measures for the promotion of charity, truth, and holiness through all the churches under its care (*BCO* 14-6.k); and

**Whereas** the local Sessions are tasked with shepherding the flock in their midst (1 Peter 5:2), and saving others by snatching them out of the fire, showing mercy to others with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh (Jude 23); and

**Whereas** much of the flock in our midst has often been exposed to great depths of evil through the ubiquitous presence of the internet, the sexualization of entertainment, broadening sexual ethics in the court system, and increasing globalization; and

**Whereas** some of the flock in our midst are hard-pressed with temptation that manifests itself through same sex attraction or a confused sexual identity (Rom 1:26); and

**Whereas** some elders, deacons, or sessions may feel overwhelmed or underequipped to minister to those in their flock that struggle with these unholy desires; and

**Whereas** the topic of sexual orientation needs clarification, and is as yet an uncovered topic in PCA reports; and

**Whereas** a NAPARC member church, the Reformed Presbyterian Church North America (RPCNA), has produced an excellent resource on this issue that is both exegetically sound and pastorally tender entitled “Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis”; and

**Whereas** at the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly the Cooperative Ministries Committee, though unable to make direct recommendations to the Assembly, commended this RPCNA report to be read and studied by teaching elders and Sessions (*M44GA*, p. 334);

~~**Therefore, be it resolved** that the General Assembly receive “Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis” (available on pages 86-131 at <http://rparchives.org/data/Minutes%20of%20Synod/2011%20Minutes.pdf>) and distribute it to the presbyteries and congregations of the denomination; and~~

~~**Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly direct the Committee on Discipleship Ministries to publish the CPSO for sale and distribution, along with the other actions~~

~~of the Assembly related to human sexuality, especially the actions of the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and the Joining and Receiving, as the PCA's statements on the Gospel and human sexuality; and~~

~~**Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly direct the Committee on Discipleship Ministries to assist sessions in the watching over their flock and in the nourishing and guarding of the children of the church by creating a resource or curriculum based on the CPSO report that could be used with students that might be struggling with issues related to sexual identity, same sex attraction, or gender confusion; and~~

~~**Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly direct Reformed University Fellowship to participate in promoting the prosperity and enlargement of the Church by incorporating CPSO in their annual training; and~~

~~**Be it further resolved** that the General Assembly direct Covenant College to nourish and safeguard the young people of the church by making this report available to faculty, staff, and students, as well as including the content of this report in the life of the school in some fashion (perhaps through RA training, chapel, or other venues); and~~

Main: Affirmative, as amended

Procedural: Postpone until after 42 – failed on tie vote,

*Adopted by Fellowship Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 26, 2019*

*Attested by TE Robert F. Sprinkle Jr., stated clerk*

Amend:

~~**Therefore, be it resolved** that the General Assembly receive “Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis” (available on pages 86-131 at <http://rparchives.org/data/Minutes%20of%20Synod/2011%20Minutes.pdf>) and distribute it to the presbyteries and congregations of the denomination; and~~

~~**Therefore, be it resolved** that the General Assembly receive **commend** “Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis” — *The Gospel & Sexual Orientation* (available **in the PCA Bookstore and online** on pages 86-13 at <http://rparchives.org/data/Minutes%20of%20Synod/2011%20Minutes.pdf>) and distribute it to the presbyteries and congregations of the denomination; and as a work consistent with our standards and entirely adequate to answer questions arising in the~~

~~culture regarding same-sex attraction and how the church should minister to those who struggle with this sin.~~

Thus reading (final version as passed – needs editing to show changes to original overture)

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the General Assembly commend *The Gospel & Sexual Orientation* (available in the PCA Bookstore and online) to the presbyteries and congregations of the denomination as a work consistent with our standards and helpful to answer questions arising in the culture regarding same-sex attraction and how the church should minister to those who struggle with this sin.

Strike all subsequent lines from the original overture.

~~Answer all further overtures regarding SSA by reference to this answer (including those about the Nashville Statement and especially those advocating a new study committee).~~