

OVERTURE 42 from Chicago Metro Presbytery (to AC, OC)
“Establish Study Committee on Sexuality”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Shall include an annotated bibliography of resources on sexuality which the Committee endorses to help pastors and sessions shepherd congregants who are dealing with same-sex attraction; and
- Shall address: (1) the nature of temptation, sin, ~~and~~ repentance, and to the difference between Roman Catholic and Reformed views of concupiscence as regards same sex- attraction; (2) the propriety of using terms like “gay Christian” when referring to a believer struggling with same-sex attraction; (3) the status of "orientation" as a valid anthropological category; (4) the practice of “spiritual friendship” among same sex attracted Christians; and
 - Shall include an analysis of WLC 138 and 139 regarding same-sex attraction,

Supplement 2019: **ADDITION**

with careful attention given to the compatibility of the 7th commandment and same-sex attraction and the pursuit of celibacy by those who are attracted to the same sex, and

- Shall include exegesis of the terms “malakoi” and “arsenokoitai” (1 Cor. 6:9); and
- Shall include suggested ways to articulate and defend a Biblical understanding of homosexuality, same sex-attraction, and transgenderism in the context of a culture that denies that understanding; and
- Should the Committee conclude it prudent, may, as one of its recommendations, propose a statement on the topic; and

Be it further resolved, that, in its examination of[†] Scripture and the PCA *Confession of Faith* and Catechisms, the Committee consider studies and statements of other bodies outside and within the PCA (including, but not limited to, the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood’s “Nashville Statement”; the RPCNA’s “Contemporary Perspectives on Sexual Orientation: A Theological and Pastoral Analysis”; the RPCES’ “Pastoral Care for the Repentant Homosexual”; Missouri Presbytery’s “Homosexuality and the Gospel of Grace: Faithfulness to the Lord’s Calling in an Age of Sexual Autonomy”; the Central Carolina Presbytery Study Committee Report on 2018 Revoice Conference; the 2019 Missouri Presbytery Report on the Revoice Conference; the statements on homosexuality issued by the 5th, 24th, and 27th General Assemblies of the PCA and the January 14, 2015, Report of the CMC Subcommittee on Homosexuality) and resources recommended in those documents; and

Be it further resolved that the Moderator of the 47th General Assembly appoint the seven voting members who shall be either PCA teaching or PCA ruling elders, and the Committee shall include at least ~~two~~ three teaching and ~~two~~ three ruling elders ~~including members whose writings reflect theological engagement on the issue and pastoral interaction with those dealing with same sex attraction and transgenderism;~~ and

Be it further resolved that the Committee be permitted to recruit others to serve the Committee as advisors within the confines of its budget, with particular concern to secure advisors with experience in counseling those dealing with same-sex attraction and transgenderism; and

Be it further resolved that the budget for the study committee be set at \$15,000/year and that funds be derived from gifts to the AC designated for that purpose; and

[†] 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...”

Supplement 2019: **ADDITION**

Be it further resolved that the committee shall present its report to the 48th General Assembly, including any recommendations it may present.

Main: Affirmative 72-54-0
Amended

Substitute: Negative, failed 56-70

Adopted by Chicago Metro Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 15, 2019
Attested by /s/ TE Kyle Edwards, stated clerk