

1 **OVERTURE 11** from Central Carolina Presbytery (to MNA)

2 Title: “Change Boundaries of Central Carolina Presbytery”

3
4 **Whereas**, on January 22, 2011, the Central Carolina Presbytery formed a new presbytery, the
5 Catawba Valley Presbytery, from the northwest portion of Central Carolina Presbytery
6 which comprised the following North Carolina counties: Mecklenburg north of
7 Interstate 85, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln and Rowan; and

8
9 **Whereas**, at the time of its formation, the Catawba Valley Presbytery had 18 churches and
10 one mission church, with a total of 2,460 communing members; and

11
12 **Whereas**, the Catawba Valley Presbytery now has 16 churches and one mission church, with
13 a total of approximately 2,800 communing members; and

14
15 **Whereas**, one of the churches in the newly formed Catawba Valley Presbytery in 2011 was
16 Freedom Presbyterian Church, located at 1646 Toddville Road, Charlotte, North
17 Carolina; and

18
19 **Whereas**, Freedom Presbyterian Church withdrew from the PCA in June of 2017; and

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21 **Whereas**, Freedom Presbyterian Church voted to rejoin the PCA as a Mission Church of the
22 Catawba Valley Presbytery on August 25, 2019; and

23
24 **Whereas**, Freedom Presbyterian Church was accepted as a Mission Church by the Catawba
25 Valley Presbytery and was appointed a Temporary Governing Commission on
26 September 24, 2019; and

27
28 **Whereas**, Freedom Presbyterian Church currently has less than 35 active members and is
29 located in a community of changing demographics that is expected to experience rapid
30 growth over the next decade; and

31
32 **Whereas**, to become a particular church once again, Freedom Presbyterian Church will
33 require a church renewal plan and permanent full-time leadership with a vision to
34 minister to its multicultural community residents; and

35
36 **Whereas**, since the Presbytery was divided in 2011, the Central Carolina Presbytery has
37 planted two minority-led churches and is actively engaged in planning for one
38 additional minority-led church plant; and

39
40 **Whereas**, on November 7, 2019, the Missions Committee of the Central Carolina Presbytery
41 presented a *Church Renewal and Replant Plan* for Freedom Presbyterian Church to
42 the Freedom Temporary Governing Commission; and

43
44 **Whereas**, that *Church Renewal and Replant Plan* includes the hiring of a church planter using
45 external funding for the first three years, over half of which is already committed; and

1 **Whereas**, on November 7, 2019, the Freedom Temporary Governing Commission voted
2 unanimously to accept that *Church Renewal and Replant Plan*; and
3

4 **Whereas**, it is believed that minority-led church plants are best able to plant other minority-
5 led church plants, provided they have the appropriate financial resources; and
6

7 **Whereas**, the Freedom Presbyterian Church Temporary Governing Commission and the
8 Missions Committees of both Presbyteries believe Freedom Presbyterian Church can
9 best be renewed and replanted through the guidance of certain pastors of minority-led
10 churches in the Central Carolina Presbytery who have church renewal and church
11 planting experience, with those men becoming members of the Temporary Governing
12 Commission; and
13

14 **Whereas**, the PCA *BCO* does not specifically provide that men from one presbytery can serve
15 as members of a Temporary Governing Commission of another presbytery; and
16

17 **Whereas**, the Missions Committees of both presbyteries believe the presbytery boundary in
18 Mecklenburg County should be changed to move Freedom Presbyterian Church into
19 the Central Carolina Presbytery so that men who pastor minority-led churches in that
20 Presbytery and who have church planting and church renewal experience will be
21 eligible to become members of the Temporary Governing Commission; and
22

23 **Whereas**, the proposed boundary change below would bring Freedom Presbyterian Church
24 into the Central Carolina Presbytery but would not impact any other church in the
25 Catawba Valley Presbytery; and
26

27 **Whereas**, the proposed presbytery boundary change below would result in greater opportunity
28 for regional cohesiveness and shared ministries between Freedom Presbyterian Church
29 and certain minority-led Central Carolina Presbytery churches in adjacent
30 multicultural communities; and
31

32 **Whereas**, the existing presbytery boundary divides contiguous African American neighborhoods
33 in Charlotte, which is believed to be an impediment to minority church planting; and
34

35 **Whereas**, bringing the northwest quadrant of Charlotte (inside I-485) into the Central
36 Carolina Presbytery would give African American led churches in the Central Carolina
37 Presbytery the opportunity for additional church plants in that part of the city,
38 something they have an interest in doing; and
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40 **Whereas**, the boundary change continues the practice of using interstate highways to define
41 the presbytery boundary in Mecklenburg County, and
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43 **Therefore, be it resolved** that Central Carolina Presbytery hereby overtures the 48th General
44 Assembly to:

- 1 1. Change the presbytery boundary in Mecklenburg County so that Catawba Valley
2 Presbytery includes “Mecklenburg north of Interstate 85, excluding that portion within
3 I-485 west of I-77” and Central Carolina Presbytery includes “Mecklenburg south of
4 Interstate 85, and that portion within I-485 west of I-77,” with an effective date of June
5 19, 2020.
6
7 2. To permit Teaching Elders who reside in affected area on the effective date to choose
8 which presbytery in which they desire membership. If a choice is not made by 90 days
9 after the effective date, they will remain on the roll of Catawba Valley Presbytery.

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11 *Adopted by Central Carolina Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 22, 2020*

12 *Attested by /s/ RE Flynt Jones, stated clerk*

