

1 **OVERTURE 8** from Catawba Valley Presbytery (to MNA)
2 Title: “Change the Presbytery Boundary Between the Catawba Valley
3 Presbytery and the Central Carolina Presbytery”
4
5 **Whereas**, on January 22, 2011, the Central Carolina Presbytery formed a new presbytery, the
6 Catawba Valley Presbytery, from the northwest portion of Central Carolina Presbytery
7 which comprised the following North Carolina counties: Mecklenburg north of
8 Interstate 85, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, and Rowan; and
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10 **Whereas**, at the time of its formation, the Catawba Valley Presbytery had 18 churches and
11 one mission church, with a total of 2,460 communing members; and
12
13 **Whereas**, the Catawba Valley Presbytery now has 16 churches and one mission church, with
14 a total of approximately 2,800 communing members; and
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16 **Whereas**, one of the churches in the newly formed Catawba Valley Presbytery in 2011 was
17 Freedom Presbyterian Church, located at 1646 Toddville Road, Charlotte, North
18 Carolina; and
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20 **Whereas**, Freedom Presbyterian Church withdrew from the PCA in June of 2017; and
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22 **Whereas**, Freedom Presbyterian Church voted to rejoin the PCA as a Mission Church of the
23 Catawba Valley Presbytery on August 25, 2019; and
24
25 **Whereas**, Freedom Presbyterian Church was accepted as a Mission Church by the Catawba
26 Valley Presbytery and was appointed a Temporary Governing Commission on
27 September 24, 2019; and
28
29 **Whereas**, Freedom Presbyterian Church currently has less than 35 active members and is
30 located in a community of changing demographics that is expected to experience rapid
31 growth over the next decade; and
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33 **Whereas**, to become a particular church once again, Freedom Presbyterian Church will
34 require a church renewal plan and permanent full-time leadership with a vision to
35 minister to its multicultural community residents; and
36
37 **Whereas**, since the Presbytery was divided in 2011, the Central Carolina Presbytery has
38 planted two minority-led churches and is actively engaged in planning for one
39 additional minority-led church plant; and
40
41 **Whereas**, on November 7, 2019, the Missions Committee of the Central Carolina Presbytery
42 presented a *Church Renewal and Replant Plan* for Freedom Presbyterian Church to
43 the Freedom Temporary Governing Commission; and

1 **Whereas**, that *Church Renewal and Replant Plan* includes the hiring of a church planter using
2 external funding for the first three years, over half of which is already committed; and
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4 **Whereas**, on November 7, 2019, the Freedom Temporary Governing Commission voted
5 unanimously to accept that *Church Renewal and Replant Plan*; and
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7 **Whereas**, it is believed that minority-led church plants are best able to plant other minority-
8 led church plants, provided they have the appropriate financial resources; and
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10 **Whereas**, the Freedom Presbyterian Church Temporary Governing Commission and the
11 Missions Committees of both Presbyteries believe Freedom Presbyterian Church can
12 best be renewed and replanted through the guidance of certain pastors of minority-led
13 churches in the Central Carolina Presbytery who have church renewal and church
14 planting experience, with those men becoming members of the Temporary Governing
15 Commission; and
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17 **Whereas**, the PCA *BCO* does not specifically provide that men from one presbytery can serve
18 as members of a Temporary Governing Commission of another presbytery; and
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20 **Whereas**, the Missions Committees of both presbyteries believe the presbytery boundary in
21 Mecklenburg County should be changed to move Freedom Presbyterian Church into
22 the Central Carolina Presbytery so that men who pastor minority-led churches in that
23 Presbytery and who have church planting and church renewal experience will be
24 eligible to become members of the Temporary Governing Commission; and
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26 **Whereas**, the proposed boundary change below would bring Freedom Presbyterian Church
27 into the Central Carolina Presbytery but would not impact any other church in the
28 Catawba Valley Presbytery; and
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30 **Whereas**, the proposed presbytery boundary change below would result in greater opportunity
31 for regional cohesiveness and shared ministries between Freedom Presbyterian Church
32 and certain minority-led Central Carolina Presbytery churches in adjacent multicultural
33 communities; and
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35 **Whereas**, the existing presbytery boundary divides contiguous African American neighborhoods
36 in Charlotte, which is believed to be an impediment to minority church planting; and
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38 **Whereas**, bringing the northwest quadrant of Charlotte (inside I-485) into the Central
39 Carolina Presbytery would give African American led churches in the Central Carolina
40 Presbytery the opportunity for additional church plants in that part of the city,
41 something they have an interest in doing; and
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43 **Whereas**, the boundary change continues the practice of using interstate highways to define
44 the presbytery boundary in Mecklenburg County;

1 **Therefore, be it resolved** that Catawba Valley Presbytery hereby overtures the 48th General
2 Assembly to:

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

15 *Adopted by Catawba Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 25, 2020*

16 *Attested by /s/ TE Kevin Burrell, stated clerk*

