

1 **OVERTURE 36** from Chesapeake Presbytery (to OC, AC)
2 "Appoint Study Committee re White Supremacy"
3

4 **Whereas**, all of mankind, men and women, are made in the image of God (Gen. 1.27) and
5 all fall short of the glory of God (Rom 3.23); and
6

7 **Whereas**, Jesus invites all to come unto him (Matt 11.28); and
8

9 **Whereas**, there is no man, woman, Jew, Gentile, but are one in Christ (Gal 3.28); and
10

11 **Whereas**, the Apostle James teaches that the Church should not be governed nor guided by
12 partiality, even more so that such partiality is a sin (James 2.1, 9); and
13

14 **Whereas**, racism, more generally, and white supremacy, more particularly, are forms of the
15 sin of partiality, and creates a constructed hierarchy that is not found anywhere in
16 Scripture, and wrongly cultivates castes of superiors and inferiors; and
17

18 **Whereas**, we have position papers on groups like freemasonry, relationships between the
19 spheres of the church and state, and frameworks like theonomy; and
20

21 **Whereas**, we have more recent papers presented by ad interim committees on women in the
22 church, race and reconciliation, and human sexuality; and
23

24 **Whereas**, our denomination's history traces its lines through this difficult and complex issue
25 in the United States of America; and
26

27 **Whereas**, our recent national events reveal both the ripples of, existing tensions between, and
28 deep wounds within; and
29

30 **Whereas**, the historical roots and current tensions within families, churches, and communities
31 are causing disruption and discord in congregations; and
32

33 **Whereas**, we lack a cohesive theological exposition and clear pastoral advice on this topic for
34 the churches in our Assembly; and
35

36 **Whereas**, previous study reports encouraged presbyteries and sessions to consider how to
37 make progress toward racial reconciliation within their contexts; and
38

39 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 48th General Assembly authorize the Moderator to appoint
40 a study committee, comprised of teaching and ruling elders, that would consider the
41 relevant biblical and theological materials and consult with knowledgeable persons
42 such as historians and social scientists, in order to:
43

- 44 a. Provide biblical and theological exposition relevant to the topic of White
45 Supremacy;

- 1 b. Consider the historical background and impact regarding this topic;
2
3 c. Report to the 49th General Assembly the conclusion of their work and present any
4 relevant recommendations for the understanding and use of sessions and
5 presbyteries in the PCA;
6
7 d. Set the budget for the study committee at \$15,000/year and that funds be derived
8 from gifts to the Administrative Committee designated for that purpose, of which
9 Columbia Presbyterian Church will contribute \$1000 toward that proposed budget.

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11 *Approved by Chesapeake Presbytery at its stated meeting March 13, 2021*

12 *Attested by /s/ RE Timothy M. Persons, stated clerk*