

1 **OVERTURE 47** from Chesapeake Presbytery (to OC, AC)
2 "Form Study Committee on Critical Race Theory"
3

4 **Whereas**, all of mankind, men and women, are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) and
5 all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23); and
6

7 **Whereas**, Jesus invites all to come unto Him (Matthew 11:28); and
8

9 **Whereas**, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male
10 nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28); and
11

12 **Whereas**, the Apostle James teaches that the Church should not be governed nor guided by
13 partiality, and that such partiality is a sin (James 2:1,9); and
14

15 **Whereas**, the Scriptures teach that we are not to boast in anything but the LORD (Jeremiah
16 9:23-24), and that we are not to judge ourselves as better than any other because of our
17 group identity (Galatians 6:3-5); and
18

19 **Whereas**, racism and racial supremacy are forms of the sin of partiality and create a
20 constructed hierarchy that is not found in the Scriptures as an example for the people of
21 God to follow; and
22

23 **Whereas**, there is a particular philosophical system known as "critical race theory," which
24 appears to advocate the judgment of individuals by an assumed group identity based
25 on the color of their skin; and
26

27 **Whereas**, this particular philosophical system contains an interpretation of the history of the
28 human race that may be out of line with the biblical principles of Providence (*WCF* 5,
29 *WSC* 11, *WLC* 18); and
30

31 **Whereas**, this particular philosophical system is increasingly influencing the governance of
32 the nation in which we live and serve, as well as the academic institutions where our
33 covenant children may be educated; and
34

35 **Whereas**, expertise in the vast range of secular philosophies necessary to rightly understand
36 this particular philosophical system may not be possible for every elder in the PCA,
37 thus requiring many to rely on the study and expertise of those they should be able to
38 trust; and
39

40 **Whereas**, there are elders in the PCA who have been actively promoting the value of this
41 particular philosophical system, and we know that "The first one to plead his cause
42 seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him." (Proverbs 18:17); and
43

44 **Whereas**, the flock of Jesus Christ gathered in the PCA need to know how to glorify God in a
45 world that embraces this particular philosophical system as a way to understand reality;

1 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 48th General Assembly authorize the Moderator to appoint
2 a study committee, comprised of at least 4 ordained teaching elders and 3 ruling elders,
3 with each member from a unique presbytery, to consider the relevant biblical,
4 theological, philosophical, and historical materials, including living experts in those
5 fields of study, in order to:

- 6 • Provide biblical and theological exposition relevant to the topic of preferential
7 treatment based on skin-color, or “race”;
- 8 • Provide historical information as to the origins of “critical race theory” and the
9 overarching impact of that system of philosophical thought on the church and
10 Christ’s mission for her;
- 11 • Report to the 49th General Assembly the conclusion of their labor and present a
12 recommendation as to the value of this philosophical system to the end of the
13 edification of Christ’s bride;

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

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17 *Adopted by Chesapeake Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 11, 2021*

18 *Attested by /s/ RE Timothy Persons, stated clerk*