

1 **OVERTURE 41** from the Session of Bethel Christian Church-Chicago (to OC)
2 “Declare Critical Race Theory Flawed”
3

4 **Whereas**, in recent years, there has been increased engagement in the discipline known as
5 Critical Race Theory, and
6

7 **Whereas**, Critical Race Theory, though difficult to define, can be roughly understood through
8 the following tenets:
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10 [Tenet 1:] **Racism is a normal part of American life**, often lacking the ability
11 to be distinctively recognized... A CRT lens unveils the various forms in which
12 racism continually manifests itself, despite espoused institutional values
13 regarding equity and social justice.
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15 [Tenet 2:] [Ideas like] liberalism, neutrality, objectivity, colorblindness, and
16 meritocracy... camouflage [how] **racial advantage propels the self-interests,**
17 **power, and privileges of the dominant group.**
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19 [Tenet 3:] CRT gives voice to the unique perspectives and **lived experiences of**
20 **people of color**... CRT uses counternarratives as a way to highlight
21 discrimination, offer racially different interpretations of policy, and challenge
22 the universality of assumptions made about people of color.
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24 [Tenet 4:] CRT recognizes **interest-convergence**, the process whereby the
25 white power structure ‘will tolerate or encourage racial advances for Blacks
26 only when they also promote white self-interests’.
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28 [Tenet 5:] **Revisionist History** is another tenet of CRT [which] suggests that
29 American history be closely scrutinized and reinterpreted as opposed to being
30 accepted at face value and truth.
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32 [Tenet 6:] CRT also relies on Racial Realists, or individuals who not only
33 recognize race as a social construct, but also realize that ‘**racism is a means by**
34 **which society allocates privilege and status.**’
35

36 [Tenet 7:] CRT critiques [claims that]: (a) **[colorblindness]** will eliminate
37 racism; (b) racism is a matter of individuals, not **systems**; and (c) one can fight
38 racism without paying attention to **sexism, homophobia, economic**
39 **exploitation**, and other forms of oppression or injustice¹

¹ <https://shenviapoletics.com/what-is-critical-race-theory/>. Directly quoting from “Access and Equity for African American Students in Higher Education: A Critical Race Historical Analysis of Policy Efforts.” *The Journal of Higher Education*, 80(4), 2009, p. 389-414.

Overture 41, Session of Bethel Christian Church-Chicago

1 **Whereas**, this discipline has been far more prevalent at a popular level, being weaponized in
2 many social, political, and even religious contexts, and
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4 **Whereas**, many in the church are wondering how they are to think of and respond to Critical
5 Race Theory, and
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7 **Whereas**, it would be helpful to speak clearly and decisively on this, and other issues to help
8 disciple our people, and
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10 **Whereas**, Critical Race Theory is seriously flawed in many respects, and leads to distorted
11 views of race, reconciliation, and sin, and
12

13 **Whereas**, what may be viewed as positive in Critical Theory is able to be found or derived
14 outside of Critical Race Theory, without the need for engaging such a problematic
15 discipline, and
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17 **Whereas**, the Holy Scriptures, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ offers a better, more beautiful,
18 and sufficient way for addressing the issues of racial tension and human flourishing,
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20 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 49th General Assembly declare Critical Race Theory to be
21 a seriously flawed, and an overall unhelpful way for addressing the issues surrounding
22 race within the church, and rather point believers to the greater, truly sufficient answer
23 centered on the reconciliation which has been accomplished through the blood of
24 Christ (Galatians 2:11-22).
25

26 *Submitted by the Session of Bethel Christian Church-Chicago to Chicago Metro Presbytery*
27 *for its stated meeting, on May 4th, 2022*

28 *Rejected by Chicago Metro Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 18th, 2022 (RAO 11-10).*
29 *(Attested by /s/ TE Michael Kyle Edwards, stated clerk, Chicago Metro Presbytery)*

30 *Submitted by the Session of Bethel Christian Church-Chicago to the 49th General Assembly of*
31 *the PCA, May 19, 2022*