

1 **OVERTURE 42** from the Session of Bethel Christian Church-Chicago (to OC)
2 "Forbid TE and RE Participation in 'Political Groups'"
3

4 **Whereas**, our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), has been facing
5 increasing amount of tension within its courts due to several factors, and
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7 **Whereas**, tensions are only increased when our trust in one another is damaged, and
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9 **Whereas**, trust has been damaged in previous years due to the revelation of secretive and
10 exclusive political factions working amidst the courts to further their particular agenda,
11 and
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13 **Whereas**, many are concerned that these efforts have included the manipulation of church
14 courts, and
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16 **Whereas**, all the Elders of the PCA have taken vows to strive "for the purity, peace, and unity
17 of the church," and
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19 **Whereas**, the peace and unity of the church has been disturbed by the actions of secretive and
20 exclusive political groups, which have manipulated church courts to further their
21 agenda, and
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23 **Whereas**, this disturbance has further increased the tension felt in the PCA, and
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25 **Whereas**, the purity, peace, and unity of the church is dependent upon a mutual trust and
26 respect of Teaching and Ruling Elders, and
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28 **Whereas**, it is difficult to have that mutual trust and respect, when it is unclear whether fellow
29 members of presbyteries are acting in good faith in engagement with their brothers, or
30 in accordance with a political agenda established outside of the court by members of
31 a secretive and exclusive political faction, and
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33 **Whereas**, it will only hinder the effectiveness of the PCA to have such trust and respect be
34 further disturbed, and
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36 **Whereas**, the PCA ought to be fully focused on its task to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to
37 the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission.
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39 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the 49th General Assembly call all Teaching Elders and Ruling
40 Elders to not participate in secretive and exclusive political groups for the purpose of
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Overture 42, Session of Bethel Christian Church-Chicago

1 influencing or manipulating the church courts according to a particular agenda, but
2 rather to engage in good faith with the brothers in their own sessions and presbyteries,
3 for the purity, peace, and unity of the church.
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5 *Submitted by the Session of Bethel Christian Church-Chicago to Chicago Metro Presbytery*
6 *for its stated meeting, on May 4th, 2022*

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

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