

1 **OVERTURE** from Presbytery of Southwest Florida (to MNA) (to MNA)
2 “Restructure Boundary of Presbytery of Southwest Florida”
3

4 **Whereas**, a presbytery confined to a smaller geographic region can lead to more efficient
5 oversight, cooperation, and connection between particular congregations in the
6 presbytery; and
7

8 **Whereas**, fostering a sense of connectionalism and cooperation of churches, teaching elders,
9 and ruling elders beyond the local congregation is a hallmark of historic
10 Presbyterianism; and
11

12 **Whereas**, a presbytery that has greater concentration within a specific geographic region may
13 and should lead to a greater emphasis on church planting within that region; and
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15 **Whereas**, a presbytery that encompasses a smaller geographic region should permit shorter
16 meetings and shorter driving distances for presbyters to such meetings; and
17

18 **Whereas**, shorter distances should lead to greater participation in presbytery by ruling elders,
19 thus allowing ruling elders to better fulfill their established calling to “govern the
20 church well;” and
21

22 **Whereas**, the Guidelines for Dividing Presbyteries, as adopted by the 26th General Assembly
23 of the Presbyterian Church in America, include “regional cohesiveness,” “member
24 churches hav[ing] a potential for shared ministries,” and “member churches hav[ing]
25 a common commitment to the region;” and
26

27 **Whereas** the boundaries of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida currently divide the Tampa
28 Bay metropolitan area unnecessarily; and
29

30 **Whereas**, the Presbytery of Southwest Florida has interest in planting churches in the northern
31 suburbs of Tampa, specifically Pasco County; and
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33 **Whereas**, the Presbytery of Southwest Florida and Central Florida Presbytery are in accord
34 to move Pasco County into the bounds of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida from
35 Central Florida Presbytery;
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37 **Now therefore be it resolved**, that the Presbytery of Southwest Florida overture the 50th
38 General Assembly to restructure the boundary of the Presbytery of Southwest Florida
39 so that Pasco County will be included in its bounds, effective July 1, 2023.
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41 *Approved at the stated meeting of Southwest Florida Presbytery, November 8, 2022*

42 *Attested by /s/ TE Freddy Fritz, stated clerk*