

1 **OVERTURE 28** from the Northwest Georgia Presbytery (to MNA)
2 “Demand Mission to North America (MNA) to Apologize and Terminate Personnel”
3

4 **Whereas** in recent weeks certain employees and/or other representatives of Mission to North
5 America (“MNA”) provided online counsel to undocumented persons on ways to
6 avoid being detained by authorities of the United States Government; and
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8 **Whereas** in providing this information to undocumented persons the responsible employees
9 and/or other representatives of MNA violated the following legal provisions:
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- 11 (1) Title 18 United States Code (U.S.C.) §2 paragraph (a), which states that
12 “Whoever commits an offense against the United States or aids, abets,
13 counsels, commands, induces or procures its commission, is punishable as a
14 principal;” and
15
- 16 (2) Title 8 U.S.C. § 1324 Paragraph (iv) which states that, “Any person who –
17 encourages or induces an alien to come to, enter, or reside in the United States,
18 knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that such coming to, entry, or
19 residence is or will be in violation of law.”
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21 **Whereas** we find that appropriate action must be taken to remedy the unlawful conduct of the
22 employees and/or other representatives of MNA who participated in or otherwise
23 permitted the posting of the inappropriate information; and
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25 **Whereas** on February 12, 2025, MNA released a statement offering an apology for the
26 “previously posted information” on their website which “erroneously allowed the
27 posting of content that advised undocumented persons on ways to avoid being detained
28 by authorities;” and
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30 **Whereas** we find the statement released by MNA on February 12, 2025, to be insufficient
31 action in light of the grievous nature of the conduct of the employees and/or other
32 representatives of MNA who participated in or otherwise permitted the posting of the
33 inappropriate information; and
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35 **Whereas** we are commanded by Scriptures to “be subject to the governing authorities,”
36 knowing their existence is instituted by God, and that “whoever resists the authorities
37 resists what God has appointed” (Romans 13:1, 2), including a warning of likely
38 judgment for such conduct; and
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40 **Whereas** we are commanded to “pay to all what is owed to them: ... respect to whom respect
41 is owed, honor to whom honor is owed” (Romans 13:7); and
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43 **Whereas** the respect and honor due to the United States Government remains clearly
44 unrestored with the general apology offered by MNA; and
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1 **Whereas** the Lord Jesus commands, “So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there
2 remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the
3 altar and go and be reconciled to your brother...” (Matthew 5:23-24); and
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5 **Whereas** *Westminster Confession of Faith* 15.5 states that, “Men ought not to content
6 themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man’s duty to endeavor to repent
7 of his particular sins particularly;” and
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9 **Whereas** *Westminster Confession of Faith* 20.4 states that, “the liberty which Christ hath
10 purchased, are not intended by God to destroy, but mutually to uphold and preserve
11 one another; they who, upon pretense of Christian liberty, shall oppose any lawful
12 power, or the lawful exercise of it, whether it be civil or ecclesiastical, resist the
13 ordinance of God;” and
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15 **Whereas** *Westminster Confession of Faith* 23.4 states that, “It is the duty of people to pray
16 for magistrates, [and] to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their
17 authority for conscience’ sake;” and
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19 **Whereas** MNA rightly issued a general statement to “repent and apologize,” but has not
20 publicly offered apologies and repentance to all particular parties aggrieved, nor has it
21 provided notification holding appropriate staff members accountable.
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23 **Therefore, be it finally resolved** that the 52nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church
24 in America hereby directs the MNA to take the following actions within thirty (30)
25 days of the adoption of this Overture:
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- 27 (a) Write and submit a statement to the Secretary of Homeland Security, the
28 Attorney General of the United States, and the Director of U.S. Citizenship and
29 Immigration Services which apologizes for the offence of encouraging illegal
30 immigrants to evade lawful authority; and
31
- 32 (b) Write and submit a statement of repentance to the Presbyterian Church in
33 America for permitting to exist within the ranks of MNA an environment among
34 its staff in which a statement of the nature described herein would be released
35 online for distribution, thus dishonoring the name of Christ and bringing shame
36 upon our denomination; and
37
- 38 (c) Terminate the employment of any individual on the MNA staff who participated
39 in any manner in the preparation and release of the online statement which
40 counseled undocumented persons on ways to avoid being detained by authorities
41 of the United States Government.
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44 *Adopted by the Northwest Georgia Presbytery at its 57th stated meeting, April 1, 2025*
45 *Attested by TE Robby Baxter, stated clerk*