

1 **OVERTURE 45** from the Hills and Plains Presbytery (to MNA)  
2 “Change the Boundaries of Covenant and Hills & Plains Presbyteries”  
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4 **Whereas**, the general guidelines for dividing Presbyteries approved by the 41<sup>st</sup> General  
5 Assembly of the PCA state “Presbytery boundaries should be such that her member  
6 churches have a common commitment to the region within their boundaries and a deep  
7 commitment to their shared responsibility to cover the region with the Gospel through  
8 evangelism and church planting.”  
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10 **Whereas**, the same general guidelines for dividing presbyteries further state “A Presbytery  
11 should have regional cohesiveness. The Presbytery should have a geographical  
12 spread that is as reasonable as possible to facilitate planting churches, encouraging  
13 fellowship, participating together in shared ministry and conducting the necessary  
14 business of the Presbytery.”  
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16 **Whereas**, the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PCA adopted guidelines for Presbytery  
17 boundaries stating, “A presbytery should have a radius of 2 1/2 hours maximum  
18 driving distance.”  
19

20 **Whereas**, Sebastian County, Arkansas, where Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith  
21 is located on the farthest western border of Covenant Presbytery and is adjacent to the  
22 border of Hills & Plains Presbytery, and  
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24 **Whereas**, the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith wants to regularly  
25 attend Presbytery meetings but finds it difficult at times due to extended travel, and  
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27 **Whereas**, the locations of the stated meetings of Hills & Plains Presbytery are much closer to  
28 Fort Smith than the stated meetings of Covenant Presbytery, and  
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30 **Whereas**, the Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith, Arkansas has  
31 petitioned Covenant Presbytery and Hills & Plains Presbytery to so act,  
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33 **Now therefore, be it resolved** that Hills and Plains Presbytery, in concurrence with the  
34 Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith and Covenant Presbytery,  
35 overtures the 2025 General Assembly to transfer Sebastian, Scott, Crawford, Franklin,  
36 Johnson, Logan, and Polk counties from the geographic bounds of Covenant  
37 Presbytery to the geographic bounds of Hills and Plains Presbytery, and that Covenant  
38 Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith and her Teaching Elder(s) be received into the  
39 membership of Hills and Plains Presbytery.  
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41 *Adopted by the Hills and Plains Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 6, 2025*

42 *Attested by /s/ TE Aaron Raines, stated clerk*