

OVERTURE 48 from the Tennessee Valley Presbytery (to OC, AC)
“A Pastoral Letter on Christian Citizenship and Church-State Relations”

Whereas, the duties of Christian citizenship are often disputed and prove perennially difficult for both elders and church members to discern; and

Whereas, confusion exists about the proper relation between church and state; and

Whereas, due to recent movements, publications, popular teachings, political strife, and societal stresses, the need for guidance concerning Christian citizenship and church-state relations has intensified; and

Whereas, the *Westminster Standards*, as adopted by the Presbyterian Church in America and the Preface to the Presbyterian Church in America’s *Book of Church Order* provide substantial, biblical guidance concerning Christian citizenship and the relationship of the church to the state; and

Whereas, an explication of principles may prove more helpful than a focus on persons or rapidly changing movements, and may be helpful to the church in decades to come,

Therefore, be it resolved that the 52nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America direct its moderator to appoint an unfunded ad interim committee to produce a pastoral letter¹ or short paper applying the doctrine of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church in America to questions of Christian citizenship and church-state relations for the edification of the Church. The committee will be composed of four teaching elders and three ruling elders and will set its own procedures and timelines.

Adopted by the Tennessee Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, May 10, 2025
Attested by TE Ryan Frank Biese, stated clerk

¹ An example of a previous PCA pastoral letter: <https://www.pcahistory.org/documents/pastoralletter.html>