

1 **OVERTURE 44** from the Covenant Presbytery (to MNA)  
2 “Divide Covenant Presbytery into Two Presbyteries”  
3

4 **Whereas**, Covenant Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in America exists for the glory of  
5 God and the furtherance of His Kingdom here on earth; and  
6

7 **Whereas**, Covenant Presbytery has grown to 46 churches, with nearly 7,000 communicant  
8 members, covering portions of three states (western Tennessee, northern Mississippi,  
9 and the preponderance of Arkansas) with counties that require a 7+ hour drive (Fort  
10 Smith AR to Starkville MS) separating its outermost churches; and  
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12 **Whereas**, the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly adopted guidelines for the multiplication of existing  
13 Presbyteries into new Presbyteries, which guidelines provide a set of ideals governing  
14 the development of new Presbyteries; and  
15

16 **Whereas**, the 41<sup>st</sup> General Assembly published a more thorough articulation of *Guidelines for*  
17 *Forming New Presbyteries through the Division or Multiplication of Existing*  
18 *Presbyteries*;  
19

20 **Whereas**, Covenant Presbytery has exceeded thirty (30) congregations;  
21

22 **Whereas**, Covenant Presbytery may be divided at the Mississippi River to create a  
23 geographically consistent Presbytery that encompasses most of the state of Arkansas,  
24 with a strong sense of regional identity;  
25

26 **Whereas**, Covenant Presbytery’s creation of a new yet-to-be-named Presbytery that  
27 encompasses most of the state of Arkansas will foster church planting and regional  
28 development in that state;  
29

30 **Whereas**, the new yet-to-be-named Presbytery would presently consist of nine churches and  
31 one mission work, plus an additional congregation that is petitioning Covenant  
32 Presbytery for entrance in early 2026, and would consist of over 1200 total members;  
33

34 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the General Assembly pursuant to 14-6.e of the *Book of Church*  
35 *Order* of the Presbyterian Church in America remove the counties from the State of  
36 Arkansas from the existing bounds of Covenant Presbytery, and  
37

38 **Therefore, be it further resolved** that the General Assembly erect the “Arkansas Presbytery”  
39 (or some such titled new Presbytery), establishing the boundaries of such Presbytery  
40 to include all the counties in the state of Arkansas, except for Benton, Carroll,  
41 Washington, Madison, and Boone, and  
42

43 **Therefore, be it further resolved** that the General Assembly authorize the conduct of  
44 business by this newly established church court, effective July 1, 2026, consistent with  
45 Chapter 13 of the *Book of Church Order* and such other provisions as may apply.

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3 *Adopted by the Covenant Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 10, 2026*

4 *Attested by TE Robert Browning, Stated Clerk*