

1 **OVERTURE 62** from the Tennessee Valley Presbytery (to MNA)
2 “Divide Tennessee Valley Presbytery into Two Presbyteries”
3

4 **Whereas**, the Presbytery of the Tennessee Valley has, by God’s grace and through His great
5 provision, grown to 36 particular churches and 5 mission churches covering 32
6 counties with up to a 3-hour drive separating our churches; and
7

8 **Whereas**, the Presbytery of the Tennessee Valley has grown to 113 ministers on roll, 23 men
9 under care, and 5 licentiates; and
10

11 **Whereas**, the Presbytery of the Tennessee Valley meets the Guidelines for Dividing
12 Presbyteries, as adopted by the 41st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in
13 America of each Presbytery having “a minimum of 10 churches and mission
14 churches,” “a total communicant membership of at least 1,000”, “and at least 3
15 churches having a membership of at least 125 communicant members”; and
16

17 **Whereas**, the continuing Tennessee Valley Presbytery would include 24 churches and 1
18 mission church, and the new Smoky Mountain Presbytery would include 12 churches
19 and 4 mission churches; and
20

21 **Whereas**, a Presbytery confined to a smaller geographic region can lead to more efficient
22 cooperation and connection between particular churches in the Presbytery; and
23

24 **Whereas**, a Presbytery that encompasses a smaller geographic region should permit shorter
25 meetings and shorter driving distances for presbyters to such meetings; and
26

27 **Whereas**, shorter distances should lead to greater participation in Presbytery by ruling elders,
28 thus allowing ruling elders to better fulfill their established calling to “govern the
29 church well”; and
30

31 **Whereas**, the formation of two smaller Presbyteries would create greater geographic
32 proximity between churches which would, in turn, create a more strategic kingdom
33 alliance to plant new churches within the boundaries of both Presbyteries;
34

35 **Therefore, be it resolved** that the Presbytery of the Tennessee Valley overtures the 53rd
36 General Assembly to form 2 new Presbyteries, effective January 1, 2027, by:
37

- 38 1. Establishing the boundary of a continuing Tennessee Valley Presbytery to include the
39 following eight (8) counties of Tennessee: Bledsoe, Rhea, Meigs, Sequatchie, Marion,
40 Hamilton, Bradley, and Polk Counties, and the following five (5) counties of Georgia:
41 Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, and Murray Counties.
42
- 43 2. Establishing the boundary of a new Smoky Mountain Presbytery to include the
44 following nineteen (19) counties of Tennessee: Pickett, Fentress, Scott, Campbell,
45 Claiborne, Union, Grainger, Hamblen, Anderson, Morgan, Cumberland, Roane,

1 Loudon, Knox, Jefferson, Sevier, Blount, Monroe, and McMinn Counties (see Exhibit
2 A attached hereto for new Tennessee Valley Presbytery and Smoky Mountain
3 Presbytery boundaries).
4

5 3. Requiring Teaching Elders with calls to RUF to remain in the Presbytery in which the
6 University they serve is located.
7

8 4. Requiring Teaching Elders with calls from Covenant College, MTW, or MNA to
9 choose the Presbytery in which they desire membership.
10

11 5. Requiring those Teaching Elders carried on the roll as Honorably Retired, Laboring
12 Out-of-Bounds, or Without Call to remain in the Presbytery in which they live or labor.
13

14 6. Requiring candidates, interns, and licentiates to remain in the Presbytery of their home
15 church.
16

17 **Exhibit A – Maps of Proposed Presbytery Division**

18
19 New Smoky Mountain Presbytery to include the following nineteen (19) counties of
20 Tennessee: Pickett, Fentress, Scott, Campbell, Claiborne, Union, Grainger, Hamblen,
21 Anderson, Morgan, Cumberland, Roane, Loudon, Knox, Jefferson, Sevier, Blount,
22 Monroe, and McMinn Counties
23

24 Continuing Tennessee Valley Presbytery to include the following eight (8) counties of
25 Tennessee: Bledsoe, Rhea, Meigs, Sequatchie, Marion, Hamilton, Bradley, and Polk
26 Counties.
27



1 Continuing Tennessee Valley Presbytery to include the following five (5) counties of
2 Georgia: Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, and Murray.

3
4 **State of Georgia**



30 *Adopted by the Tennessee Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 21, 2026*
31 *Attested by TE Roger Collins, Stated Clerk*