OVERTURE 5 from the Southeast Alabama Presbytery (to OC)
"Ethical Guidance on IVF"

Whereas, the longing to conceive and bear children is a good and godly desire (Genesis 1:28; 9:1, 7); and

Whereas, God has great compassion on those who are filled with grief due to infertility (Genesis 16:1-16, 25:21; Judges 13:2; 1 Samuel 1:11; Luke 1:5-13); and

Whereas, all human beings made in God's image should receive compassion from us, including those experiencing infertility and including our preborn neighbors (Luke 10:25-37); and

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) does uphold the teaching of God's Word that the "sixth commandment forbiddeth the taking away of our own life, or the life of our neighbor unjustly, or whatsoever tendeth thereunto" (*Westminster Shorter Catechism* 69); and

Whereas, Scripture teaches that preborn human life begins at conception (fertilization) (Psalm 51:5)[1]; and

Whereas, Scripture treats our preborn neighbors as fully human (Exodus 21:22-25; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:44); and

Whereas, the PCA in its 1978 General Assembly affirmed "that the intentional killing of an unborn child between conception and birth, for any reason at any time, is clearly a violation of the Sixth Commandment" (a recommendation adopted from the Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Abortion); and

Whereas, it is a common practice for in vitro fertilization (IVF) clinics, after conception (fertilization), to discard or destroy what the world calls "surplus embryos" (these newly formed human beings); and

Whereas, there are states now in these United States which are granting civil and criminal immunity to IVF clinics for discarding or destroying embryos, even if done negligently, recklessly, or intentionally, thus granting such clinics a legal license to kill our innocent preborn neighbors;

Therefore, be it resolved that the 54th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America affirms all children as a good gift from the Lord and expresses deep sympathy for couples facing the immense grief of infertility; and

[1] Interestingly, according to one report, 96% of biologists say human life begins at fertilization. Steven Andrew Jacobs, "The Scientific Consensus on When a Human's Life Begins," *Issues in Law and Medicine*, vol. 36, 2 (2021): 221-233: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36629778/

Be it further resolved that this Assembly affirms the full dignity of every child as human from conception (fertilization), regardless of location; and

Be it further resolved that this Assembly condemns any and all in vitro fertilization (IVF) practices which destroy embryos negligently, recklessly, or intentionally as a grievous violation of the sixth commandment; does call to repentance any who would promote or participate in such IVF practices; and does point them to the grace and forgiveness of God in Jesus Christ; and

Be it finally resolved that this Assembly calls upon churches with their leaders and members to provide wise, pastoral, ethical guidance to those considering reproductive technologies, encouraging only practices which uphold the sanctity of human life.

Adopted by the Southeast Alabama Presbytery at its stated meeting, October 27, 2026
Attested by Kevin Corley, Stated Clerk