

Motion 44-43 Consolidated Overture
From Mid-America Presbytery
[New River Leadership Team Concurring]

(Consolidating the Current overture 44-30 from Mid-America Presbytery with overture 44-32 from Presbytery of the Central South, overture 44-33 from Presbytery of the Gulf South, overture 44-34 from the Presbytery of the West, overture 44-35 Presbytery of the Alleghenies, and overture 44-37 from New River Presbytery)

Resolved that:

Whereas:

The EPC's position paper on Human Sexuality rightly states "The Scriptures teach that human sexuality is indeed a gift for our enjoyment, its primary purpose is to glorify God [A]II humans are obligated to glorify our Creator in our sexuality through faithful conformity to God's design, revealed in the Scriptures."

Whereas:

The 44th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is agreed that the only proper context in which human sexuality is fully and rightly expressed is in the covenant union between one man and one woman. Any expression of sexuality outside this biblical norm is sin, and this includes the unmortified corruption and disordered inclinations of original sin that give rise to homosexual desires and impulses as well as the particular acts of sin that proceed from original sin such as same-sex sexual attraction, same-sex sexual intimacy and acts of lust.

Therefore,

To clarify our witness to the world that has increasingly denied God's design for sexuality, and to strengthen our understanding of biblical norms and standards – especially as they apply to our standards for office-bearers in the Church, the General Assembly directs the moderator to appoint a nine-member *Ad-Interim* committee made up of:

- RE Tom Werner, Presbytery of Mid-America
- TE Rufus Burton, Presbytery of New River
- TE Sandy Willson, Presbytery of Central South
- TE Shelly Kral, Presbytery of the West
- TE John Dorr, Presbytery of the East
- TE Case Thorp, Presbytery of Florida and the Caribbean
- RE Carol Williams, Presbytery of the Alleghenies
- TE Cameron Shaffer, Presbytery of the East
- TE Aaron White, Presbytery of the Midwest

And charges them to study the Scriptures, the Westminster Confession of Faith, and Catechisms to bring clarity to our witness regarding:

1. **Theological anthropology**, with respect to human sexuality as it pertains to contemporary usage of the sexual self-conception and how such language comports with Scripture and the Westminster standards;
2. **Progressive Sanctification** and how it informs the Reformed understanding of the mortification of sin and the doctrine of repentance;
3. **Concupiscence** as it relates to a Reformed conception of the Christian's new nature in Christ and when homosexual temptation, like other temptations disqualifies one from ordained office;
4. **The Christian hope** for those who experience and flee sexual temptation, especially homosexual temptation; and
5. **How the answers to these questions** might inform standards for officers who have struggled in these areas but have mortified such temptation and desire.

The Committee is further charged to review our Position Papers, Pastoral Letters, and the *Book of Order* and to recommend potential changes that will clarify, align, and strengthen our witness to the larger world.

The Committee shall make an interim report to the 45th General Assembly, and a final report and recommendations to the 46th General Assembly.

The General Assembly commits to fund this committee's work. The National Leadership Team shall review and approve any necessary expenses.

Be it further resolved that it is the opinion and wish of the 44th General Assembly that no presbytery shall take action on petitions or matters before them that might touch on these areas of inquiry and exploration until the final report is received and acted upon by the 46th General Assembly.