

**OVERTURE 44 FROM POTOMAC PRESBYTERY (TO MNA)  
"CREATION OF PCA UNITY FUND"**

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly considered a personal resolution on racial reconciliation and referred the matter to the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, so that lower courts could perfect and propose a resolution encouraging heartfelt repentance; and

**Whereas**, presbyteries have responded to this appeal “to prayerfully consider any and all sins of racial prejudice” by submitting overtures on racial reconciliation that call us to individual and corporate repentance; and

**Whereas**, repentance is an essential first step of racial reconciliation, but not the only one; and

**Whereas**, the 43<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly also encouraged sessions and presbyteries to “pursue a proper course of action humbly, sincerely and expeditiously”; and

**Whereas**, a proper course of action would include actively welcoming minority brothers called to pastoral ministry and encouraging their representation as Ruling and Teaching Elders in the PCA;

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly create a fund to be known as “The PCA Unity Fund” to help raise up future generations of godly, reformed African American and other minority Ruling and Teaching Elders that would include the following objectives:

- a) Provide tuition to approved Reformed seminaries for minority PCA seminarians;
- b) Pay expenses for minority Ruling and Teaching Elders to attend General Assembly;
- c) Support the compensation expenses of minorities serving as an Assistant Pastor in a PCA church, for the first two years of their ministry in churches that pledge to provide full support by the third year;
- d) Provide means for historians to explore the role that Reformed minority pastors and theologians have played in our country’s history.

**Be it further resolved**, that this Unity Fund would be managed by Mission to North America, which would be responsible for:

- a) Establishing a board that reports to MNA and is comprised of African American and other minority teaching and ruling elders of the PCA;
- b) Receiving, receipting and disbursing monies;
- c) Approving the seminaries to which support can be directed;
- d) Encouraging individuals, churches and presbyteries to donate to the fund.

*Adopted by Potomac Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 19, 2016*

*Attested by /s/ RE Charles D. Robinson, stated clerk*

**Answer of the General Assembly to OVERTURE 44 TO THE 44<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN AMERICA FROM MNA PERMANENT COMMITTEE:**

**The overture was approved with these underlined words and directive to MNA added:**

**Therefore be it resolved**, that the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly create a fund to be known as “The PCA Unity Fund” to help raise up future generations of godly, reformed African American and other minority Ruling and Teaching Elders that would include the following objectives, based on the availability of designated funds given to the Unity Fund:

And further, that the Permanent Committee on Mission to North America be directed to proceed with implementation of both sets of items a) through d) of the Overture, reporting that implementation to the General Assembly in future years through the customary Permanent Committee and Committee of Commissioners procedures. **2016 MNA Fall Committee Meeting – September 14 and 15, 2016**

**Motion - Implementation of 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Overture on Unity Fund**

MS&C 09-16-01 That the MNA Permanent Committee appoint a task force comprised of MNA Permanent Committee members, coopt members and staff to formulate policies and plans for implementation of the Overture mandate. The task force is to report back on or before the March 2017 MNA Committee meeting.