

SUMMARY OF OVERTURES

Overture: The Green Future Endowment Fund

Originating Body: _____ Presbytery

WHAT THIS OVERTURE PROPOSES

This overture calls for the establishment of a permanent, fossil-free endowment fund—the Green Future Endowment Fund—held by the Presbyterian Foundation, to support climate justice, environmental repair, and a just transition to renewable energy.

KEY ACTIONS REQUESTED

- Establish a permanent endowment fund invested in fossil-free portfolios, with earnings distributed to PC(USA) agencies.
- Direct funds toward:
 - Greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy transition
 - Repair of environmental harms, especially to marginalized communities
 - Addressing displacement and community harm related to energy transition
- Create a six-person Design Team (staff and at-large members) to design governance and grant processes and report to the 228th General Assembly (2028).
- Encourage early contributions and ecumenical collaboration.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The overture frames climate action as an expression of corporate repentance, building on the 225th General Assembly's confession of failure to adequately respond to climate change. It emphasizes moving from confession to material accountability by aligning financial practices with the church's stated commitments to creation care and restorative justice.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- A lasting funding mechanism for climate repair and justice
- Tangible alignment of denominational finances with ecological commitments
- Stronger partnerships with ecumenical and interfaith justice efforts

Overture: On Prohibiting Non-Disclosure Covenants in Employee Relations

Originating Body: Presbytery of the Cascades

WHAT THIS OVERTURE PROPOSES

This overture seeks to prohibit the use of non-disclosure covenants in employment relationships across the denomination, expanding earlier General Assembly action that banned non-disclosure agreements in pastoral dissolutions.

KEY ACTIONS REQUESTED

- Direct denominational staff to rewrite employee policies to prohibit non-disclosure covenants with all employees.
- Require a report on policy revisions to the 228th General Assembly (2028).

WHY THIS MATTERS

The overture emerged in response to the termination of PC(USA) mission co-workers in 2025, where non-disclosure covenants were used to limit speech and accountability. It argues that such covenants undermine ordination vows, truth-telling, and faithful employer-employee relationships within the church.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Greater transparency and accountability in denominational employment
- Alignment of employment practices with the PC(USA) Constitution and values
- Protection for employees engaging in good-faith truth-telling

Overture: On In-Person General Assemblies

Originating Body: Presbytery of Olympia

WHAT THIS OVERTURE PROPOSES

This overture calls for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to commit to fully in-person General Assemblies, including exhibit halls, beginning in 2028.

KEY ACTIONS REQUESTED

- End the current hybrid and virtual model for General Assembly.
- Restore full in-person committee work, plenary sessions, and exhibit halls.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Survey data from the 226th General Assembly shows overwhelming commissioner preference for in-person assemblies, citing stronger community formation, more effective discernment, and better opportunities for collaboration and amendment work. The overture argues that hybrid assemblies unintentionally prioritize technology over participation, democracy, and equity.

COST AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS

- Selection of lower-cost convention cities
- Use of existing denominational resources
- Increased exhibit hall and observer registration fees
- Consideration of on-site childcare options

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Stronger relational and connectional church life
- More effective legislative and discernment processes
- Renewed communal identity of the General Assembly

Overture: On the Jeju 4.3 Tragedy in South Korea

Originating Body: Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse

WHAT THIS OVERTURE PROPOSES

This overture calls the PC(USA) to acknowledge, study, and respond to the Jeju 4.3 Tragedy (1947–1954), a mass killing of civilians on Jeju Island, South Korea, during the early Cold War period.

KEY ACTIONS REQUESTED

- Public acknowledgment and lament during General Assembly worship
- Advocacy for a U.S. investigation into its role in the tragedy
- Consultation with Korean Presbyterian partners
- Development of study guides, worship resources, and educational materials
- Planning a pilgrimage to Jeju Island in 2028 for the 80th anniversary

WHY THIS MATTERS

Between 14,000 and 30,000 civilians—approximately 10% of Jeju’s population—were killed. The tragedy remains largely unknown in the United States despite evidence of U.S. military governance involvement. The overture frames this work as essential to truth-telling, repentance, reconciliation, and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Strengthened relationships with Korean church partners
- Increased U.S. awareness of Cold War-era injustices
- Faithful witness through repentance, education, and peace-building

Overture: Recognition that Israel has Violated the International Law Prohibiting Genocide

Originating Body: Presbytery of the Redwoods

WHAT THIS OVERTURE PROPOSES

This overture calls upon the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to recognize and condemn violations of international law prohibiting genocide in the war against Gaza that began in 2023, and to take specific actions grounded in human rights, international law, and Christian ethical witness.

KEY ACTIONS REQUESTED

- Condemn Israel’s violation of the UN Genocide Convention.
- Encourage advocacy to halt U.S. military aid until compliance with human rights law.
- Encourage refraining from purchasing products made or distributed by Israeli companies.
- Explicitly oppose antisemitism and Islamophobia, affirming that human rights advocacy is not antisemitism.
- Encourage preaching and teaching on this issue.
- Publicize the overture and encourage congregational adoption.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The overture cites findings of the International Court of Justice, Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and the UN Special Rapporteur. It condemns the October 7, 2023 Hamas attacks while asserting that Israel’s military response constitutes genocidal action against Palestinians in Gaza.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Clear denominational stance grounded in international law
- Increased advocacy to prevent civilian harm
- Faithful Christian witness opposing violence and racism
- Support for education and moral discernment in congregations

Overture: Changing Course for a Green Future

Originating Body: _____ Presbytery

WHAT THIS OVERTURE PROPOSES

This overture calls the PC(USA) to declare that continued investment in fossil fuel companies is incompatible with the church's mission and to undertake an orderly, denomination-wide divestment from fossil fuels.

KEY ACTIONS REQUESTED

- Declare fossil fuel investment incompatible with PC(USA) mission.
- Commend reductions already made by church-related institutions.
- Affirm that divestment criteria have been met.
- Call for divestment by 2030 or as soon as prudently possible.
- Cease new fossil fuel investments and increase renewable energy investments.
- Expand advocacy for a just energy transition and pastoral care for affected communities.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The overture argues that decades of shareholder engagement have failed to produce sufficient change and that continued investment undermines the church's public witness and climate commitments. Divestment is framed as an act of repentance and integrity.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Alignment of investments with theological commitments
- Stronger moral credibility
- Expanded advocacy for renewable energy
- Support for communities facing transition impacts

Overture: On the Importance of Regenerative Farming Practices in Caring for Creation

Originating Body: _____ Presbytery

WHAT THIS OVERTURE PROPOSES

This overture calls the PC(USA) to affirm, learn about, and support regenerative farming practices as a faithful response to climate change, food insecurity, and creation care.

KEY ACTIONS REQUESTED

- Encourage learning and support for regenerative farming.
- Equip Presbyterians for advocacy and education on soil care.
- Encourage congregations and members to practice soil stewardship and support local food systems.
- Advocate for regenerative agriculture policies and support for family farms, particularly farms owned by people of color.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Regenerative agriculture improves soil health, sequesters carbon, enhances biodiversity, strengthens food security, and supports rural communities. The overture builds on previous General Assembly policy and calls for both public advocacy and personal practice.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- Increased engagement in sustainable agriculture
- Stronger regional food systems
- Support for farmers during transition
- Faithful witness through care for land and future generations