

1 **OVERTURE 12** from Evangel Presbytery (to OC, AC)
2 “Petition Government to End Sex-change Procedures for Minors”
3

4 **Whereas**, the Scriptures said in the beginning, “God created man in his own image...male
5 and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27, 2:7, 2:21-24, 5:2) and as confessed in
6 *Westminster Confession of Faith* 4.2, Larger Catechism Q17, and Shorter Catechism
7 Q10,¹ and;
8

9 **Whereas**, Jesus said, “Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made
10 them male and female...” (Matthew 19:4, Luke 10:6), and;
11

12 **Whereas**, David praises God in saying, “For you formed my inward parts, you knitted me
13 together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
14 Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.” (Psalm 139:13-14), and;
15

16 **Whereas**, God said to Adam and Eve and later to Noah and his sons, “Be fruitful and multiply
17 and fill the earth...” (Genesis 1:28, 9:1, 7), and as confessed in *Westminster*
18 *Confession of Faith* 24.2, and;
19

20 **Whereas**, the Scriptures says, “Children are a heritage from the Lord,” (Psalm 127:4) and
21 Jesus had a high regard for children and their just protection saying, “Whoever causes
22 one of these little ones...to stumble, it would be better for him if a great millstone were
23 hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.” (Mark 9:42), and;
24

25 **Whereas**, the Scriptures says, “A woman shall not wear a man's garment, nor shall a man put
26 on a woman's cloak, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD
27 your God.” (Deuteronomy 22:5), and;
28

29 **Whereas**, “The Presbyterian Church in America is joyfully and confessionally committed to
30 the Bible’s teaching on the complementarity of men and women. As a denomination,
31 we believe that this teaching is true, good, and beautiful. We affirm the full dignity of
32 men and women as created in the image of God.”² and;
33

34 **Whereas**, medical and social interventions related to so-called sex change procedures are a
35 rejection of God’s design that will prevent his blessing, grace, and joy to be
36 experienced, and;
37

¹ Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality to the Forty-Eight General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (2019-2020), Statement 2: Image of God, pg. 5-6, <https://pcaga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/AIC-Report-to-48th-GA-5-28-20-1.pdf> Accessed October 11, 2022.

² Report of the AD Interim Committee on Women Serving in the Ministry of the Church to the Forty-Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America, https://www.pcahistory.org/pca/digest/studies/2017_WIM.pdf

1 **Whereas**, the sex of a person is the biological state of being female or male, based on sex
2 organs, chromosomes, and endogenous hormone profiles, and is genetically encoded
3 into a person at the moment of conception and it cannot be changed. Therefore, so-
4 called sex change medical and surgical interventions are a rejection of science,³ and;
5

6 **Whereas**, some individuals, including minors, may experience severe psychological distress
7 called gender dysphoria as a result of feeling a discordance between their sex and their
8 internal sense of identity,⁴ and;
9

10 **Whereas**, there has been an epidemic 900% increase in girls diagnosed with gender dysphoria
11 in the past 8 years, primarily driven by social contagion from contemporary social,
12 educational, and cultural influences,⁵ and;

³ Clayton JA. Applying the new SABV (sex as a biological variable) policy to research and clinical care. *Physiology & Behavior* 187 (2018) 2-5. NIH Policy on Sex as a Biological Variable Available at <https://orwh.od.nih.gov/sex-gender/nih-policy-sex-biological-variable> Accessed January 30, 2021.

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⁴ Jennifer Bauwens, Ph.D., Diagnosing Gender Dysphoria in Children: An explainer, Family Research Council, May 2022, No. IF22E01. Available at <https://www.frc.org/genderdysphoria>; Accessed January 6, 2023.

⁵ Jiska Ristori & Thomas D. Steensma, "Gender Dysphoria in Childhood" *International Review of Psychiatry* 28(1):13-20(2016).

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Zucker KJ. (2019). Adolescents with Gender Dysphoria: Reflections on Some Contemporary Clinical and Research Issues. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*48:1983– 1992. Available at: www.segm.org or

- 1 **Whereas**, taking a wait-and-see approach with counseling is the best approach, as a
2 substantial majority of children suffering from gender dysphoria come to accept their
3 biological sex as they go through puberty,⁶ and;
4
- 5 **Whereas**, some in the medical community are aggressively pursuing interventions on minors
6 that medically alter the child’s hormonal balance and remove external and internal sex
7 organs when a child expresses a desire to appear as the opposite sex, and;
8
- 9 **Whereas**, there are no other medical interventions that doctors perform based on the self-
10 diagnoses of a minor child based on their feelings and beliefs, and;
11
- 12 **Whereas**, minor children are not mentally and emotionally developed or capable of making
13 such a life-altering and non-reversible decision,⁷ and;
14
- 15 **Whereas**, most minors who have gender dysphoria have underlying mental health issues
16 caused by childhood trauma that is not addressed by medical interventions, and
17 therefore are more likely to suffer more mental unrest and suicidal thinking than those
18 who finally accept their birth sex,⁸ and;
19
- 20 **Whereas**, the long-term risks of medical interventions for so-called sex change purposes in
21 minors are sterility, infertility, cancer, pituitary apoplexy, pseudotumor cerebri,
22 cardiovascular disease, strokes, blood clots, and diminished bone density, as well as
23 changes in appearance and bodily function from hormones and surgery that cannot be
24 reversed,⁹ and;

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10508-019-01518-8>

- ⁶ Kenneth J. Zucker, “The Myth of Persistence” *International Journal of Transgenderism* 19(2): 231-245 (2018).
- ⁷ Stephen B. Levine (2018): “Informed Consent for Transgendered Patients” *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy*, 22 Dec 2018. DOI.1080/0092623X.2018 National Institute of Mental Health (2001). Teenage Brain: A Work in Progress. <https://www.transgendertrend.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Levine-informed-consent-2018.pdf> ;
Mariam Arain, et al., “Maturation of the Adolescent Brain” *Neuropsychiatry Dis Treat.* 2013; 9:449-461.
- ⁸ Riittakerttu Katiiala-Heino, et al., “Two Years of Gender Identity Service for Minors: Overrepresentation of Natal Girls with Severe Problems in Adolescent Development” *Child and Adolescent Psychiatry & Mental Health* 9:9 (2015)
Tracy A. Becerra-Culqui, et al., “Mental Health of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Youth Compared With Their Peers” *Pediatrics* 141(5):e20173845 (2018)
Melanie Bechard, et al., “Psychosocial and Psychological Vulnerability in Adolescents with Gender Dysphoria: A ‘Proof of Principal’ Study” *Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy* 43(7): 678-688 (2017).
- ⁹ Jacqueline Ruttiman, “Blocking Puberty in Transgender Youth” *Endocrine News* (January 2013 (“Most transgenders become infertile as a result of the hormonal switching medications”)) Alzahrani, Talal, et al. “Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors and Myocardial Infarction in the Transgender Population”. *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, vol 12, no. 4, (2019)
Alzahrani, Talal, et al. "Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors and Myocardial Infarction in the Transgender Population". *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, vol 12, no 4 (2019).
Braun, Nash, et al., “Cancer in Transgender People: Evidence & Methodological Considerations”

1 **Whereas**, parents have the right to raise their children according to their belief that God made
2 them male or female. If their child suffers gender dysphoria, no governmental
3 authority has the right to remove that child from his or her parents because they do not
4 support their child transitioning to another gender.
5

6 **Whereas**, while we greatly respect the rights of parents to raise their children according to
7 their beliefs, these rights cease when the parents are physically, mentally, emotionally
8 and spiritually abusing and harming their children, and;
9

10 **Whereas**, we greatly respect the training, knowledge and competence of the medical
11 profession, we must make a stand against them when they violate the Hippocratic Oath
12 where it says, “I will do no harm or injustice to them.” Providing medical intervention
13 on minor children for so-called sex change purposes does irreversible harm and
14 injustice to them, and;
15

16 **Whereas**, England’s National Health Services recently abandoned gender-affirming trans
17 policy which eliminates “gender clinic,” establishes psychotherapy as the primary
18 protocol of treatment, reinstates the importance of biological sex, asserts that those
19 who choose to bypass this new protocol will not be supported by the NHS, etc.,¹⁰ and;
20

21 **Whereas**, *Westminster Confession of Faith* 31.4. confesses: “Synods and councils ...are not
22 to intermeddle with civil affairs which concern the commonwealth, unless by way of
23 humble petition in cases extraordinary; or, by way of advice, for satisfaction of
24 conscience, if they be thereunto required by the civil magistrate.”
25

26 **Therefore, Be It Resolved**, Presbytery of Evangel overtures the General Assembly to humbly
27 petition the United States Government and 50 State Governments as below, to be sent
28 by the PCA.¹¹
29

Epidemiol Rev. 2017 Jan; 39(1):93-1071 <https://publications.aap.org/aapnews/news/20636/Risk-of-pseudotumor-cerebri-added-to-labeling-for?autologincheck=redirected>

Paul Cruz, Lawrence Mayer, et al., “Growing Pains: Problems in Puberty Suppression in Treating Gender Dysphoria,” *The New Atlantis*, Spring 2017

¹⁰ The NHS Ends the "Gender-Affirmative Care Model" for Youth in England <https://segm.org/England-ends-gender-affirming-care> Accessed October 29, 2022.

¹¹ The PCA Stated Clerk Office would be responsible for sending the petition to the President of the United States; the majority and minority party leaders in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives; and the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Presbytery Clerks would be responsible for sending the petition to the Governors; the majority and minority party leaders in the State Legislatures; and the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Courts in their regions. This will require coordination where there are multiple presbyteries in one state.

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**Humble Petition to Governmental Leaders
from the Presbyterian Church in America**

God declares in Sacred Scripture that civil government, no less the Church, is a divine institution and owes its authority to God. The Bible is the supreme revelation of God’s will and teaches that God made man in his own image, male and female, and called his creation good; that God blessed man and woman commanding them to be fruitful and multiply; that children are God’s heritage given a special status of just protection by Christ Jesus before they are capable of choosing good and refusing evil; and that it is scientifically impossible for a male to become a female or a female to become a male. We who love our nation, in the name of God who alone is sovereign in his good and perfect design of men and women, call upon you to renounce the sin of all medical and surgical sex change procedures in minors by the American healthcare system because they result in irreversible harm. The obedience to God, which places us in subjection to your rightful civil authority, requires of us to humbly, boldly and prayerfully proclaim the counsel of God as it bears upon the same God-given authority.

Humbly and respectfully submitted,
The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America

Adopted by Evangel Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 14, 2023
Attested by /s TE W. Kenneth Stuart III, stated clerk