

Overture from Central Carolina Presbytery

“Multiply Central Carolina Presbytery and Form Additional Presbytery”

Whereas, the General Assembly has recommended that presbyteries with over 30 churches consider subdivision for the most effective gospel ministry, and has offered criteria for such a need; and

Whereas, Central Carolina Presbytery has grown to 35 churches and 6 missions covering 18 counties with a four-hour drive separating our most eastern and western churches; and

Whereas, Central Carolina Presbytery has grown to 96 ministers on roll and has a total communicant membership of 6800 (December 2009 data); and

Whereas, Central Carolina Presbytery has the potential to divide into two or more presbyteries that would meet the Guidelines for Dividing Presbyteries, as adopted by the 26th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America of having “a minimum of 10 churches”, “a total communicant membership of at least 1000”, “regional cohesiveness”, and “at least 3 churches each having a membership of at least 125 communicant members; and

Whereas, the Guidelines for Dividing Presbyteries also state that “Presbytery boundaries should not partition metropolitan areas”; however by including the portion of Mecklenburg County and Charlotte north of Interstate 85, a new presbytery would have 17 churches and one mission, 2460 communing members, and 6 churches with at least 125 communicant members, not including Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Hickory (from Western Carolina Presbytery); and

Whereas, the formation of two smaller presbyteries would create greater geographic proximity between churches and therefore a more strategic kingdom alliance to plant new churches within the boundaries of both presbyteries; and

Whereas, it has been part of the history and vision of Central Carolina Presbytery to multiply presbyteries in our shared work to expand the Kingdom, realized thus far in the formation of Piedmont Triad Presbytery on July 1, 2001; and

Whereas, the formation of “Catawba Valley Presbytery” would create a presbytery with similar demographic characteristics within communities and townships along the Catawba River Basin; and

Whereas, our Presbytery’s MNA committee recommended multiplication of the presbytery; and

Whereas, Western Carolina Presbytery has approved the transfer of Catawba and Alexander counties, (which include Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Hickory) to the proposed Catawba Valley Presbytery (Minutes Western Carolina Presbytery January 08); and

Therefore be it resolved that Central Carolina Presbytery hereby overtures the 39th General Assembly to form a new presbytery, effective July 1, 2011, by:

1. Establishing the boundary of the continuing Central Carolina Presbytery to include the following counties in the eastern portion of the current presbytery: Mecklenburg south of Interstate 85, Anson, Cumberland, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland, Stanly and Union.

2. Establishing the boundary of the new “Catawba Valley Presbytery” (or some name that suits it members) to include the following counties:
 - a. From the northwest portion of Central Carolina Presbytery: Mecklenburg north of Interstate 85, Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln and Rowan.
 - b. From the eastern portion of Western Carolina Presbytery: Alexander and Catawba.
3. Permitting Teaching Elders with calls to RUF or calls from MTW or those carried on the roll as Honorably Retired, Laboring Out-of-Bounds, or Without Call to choose either presbytery in which they desire membership. If a choice is not made by the effective date, they will be placed on the roll of Central Carolina Presbytery. Candidates, interns and licentiates will be in the same Presbytery as their home church.

Adopted at the 124th stated meeting of Central Carolina Presbytery on January 22, 2011.

Attested by: /s/ RE Flynt Jones
Stated Clerk of Central Carolina Presbytery