

The Presbytery of New Covenant overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) to:

“Joyfully affirm the historic, biblical, and Christological teaching of the Church on the topic of marriage as a gift from God to bless humankind. As God created man and woman, so does God call some men and women to live together as husband and wife. God’s very order and design defines the institution of marriage.”

Rationale

The intent of the overture is reflected by its language. The institution of marriage was given by God to humanity. It is given by God as a gift to some men and women who are called to marriage while others are called to remain single and celibate. Marriage as given by God is defined by God’s word in Scripture, by God’s word lived out in the history of the PCUSA and principally by God’s word made flesh in Jesus Christ.

All three of these witnesses agree that in marriage “a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife and the two shall become one flesh.” Because of this, although civil marriage as defined by the state from time to time and place may differ from the institution of marriage as given by God, we believe God’s people are called to joyfully affirm and live out their trust in God and the truth that God defines for us.