



February 10, 2010

Dear Friend,

The Special General Assembly Committee on Christian Marriage and Civil Unions has finished its work and posted its [final report](#). The outcome presents Presbyterians with a clear need and opportunity for overtures to General Assembly.

Three of the Special Committee's ten members in attendance voted against this weak and problematic report, with a view toward filing a minority report. Their report would go to the General Assembly alongside the report from the majority.

Alan Wisdom (Presbyterian elder and Director of Presbyterian Action for Faith and Freedom) and Sue Cyre (of Theology Matters) were observers at the committee's last meeting. Wisdom wrote [three articles](#) describing their work, its process, and its outcome. I encourage you to read his fascinating and informative accounts.

Wisdom is the author of a comprehensive look at marriage, historically and theologically, called "[Is Marriage Worth Defending?](#)".

Affect the outcome: Send an overture or concur with one already adopted

The Presbyteries of [New Covenant](#) and [Prospect Hill](#) have adopted overtures on marriage that General Assembly will consider along with these committee reports. Each presbytery will send an overture advocate, who will be accorded the same privilege as any other expert resource person, both to address the General Assembly committee and to be called upon to answer questions when the committee takes up the matter.

Should your presbytery officially concur with this overture and write a separate "Rationale," your presbytery can also send an overture advocate who will likewise have the privilege of the floor in committee. You can imagine how several such overture advocates could effectively multiply the witness to God's truth about marriage.

This is an excellent way for our lower governing bodies -- sessions and presbyteries -- to be heard and to have influence on upholding a biblically faithful understanding of marriage.

Because the overtures from New Covenant and Prospect Hill do not change the constitution or have financial implications, **the [deadline](#) for concurring with either of them, or for submitting a similar overture, is May 19, 2010.** This may seem like months away, but it can take a long time for an overture to make its way through both session and presbytery, to be sent to General Assembly.

I urge you to ask your session to begin the overture process on marriage by concurring with an overture already adopted, or by writing its own. Please [contact me](#) if you need assistance with the overture process. See additional resources on marriage on [this page](#) of The Presbyterian Coalition website.

And please pray for an outcome of the General Assembly on this matter that is pleasing to God and of benefit to his people.

Yours in Christ,

Terry Schlossberg, Renewal Advisor
703-680-4571 or terry@presbycoalition.org

