



**HOPE
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

*Invite all to worship God, grow in faith,
follow Jesus by serving others*

Overture Advocate's Contact Information:

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Recommendation:

On June 24, 2017, the Presbytery of Mission overtures the 223rd General Assembly (2018) to:

- A. Recognize the 10th anniversary of the “Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness”¹ approved at the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to acknowledge the relevancy it still holds for our Church and society in 2018.
- B. Establish a \$250,000 grant to be used to implement the provisions of this Overture. The funds will be used to develop plans of action and resources that will be used by presbyteries, congregations and seminaries of the PC(USA) to further educate these entities within PC(USA) regarding serious mental illness issues with the intent to provide a foundation for action within the denomination.
- C. While it is acknowledged that all of the recommendations within the “Comfort My People”² statement are worthy of implementation, this Overture focuses on those action items that are foundational to any development of long term policies and plans for action within PC(USA). Grants to be awarded will therefore focus on the following recommendations:
 - i. Presbyteries: 6 (a-d, g), 10
 - ii. Congregations: 9 (a, d-k, o, q, t)
 - iii. Seminaries: 14 (a-e)
- D. Conduct a review and evaluation of the actions that have been taken since the Policy Statement was adopted with a report to be presented at the 224th General Assembly.
 - a. Survey of presbyteries, congregations and seminaries to evaluate how these organizations have responded to the Policy Statements recommendations.
 - b. Based on survey results, recommend specific activities designed to focus and implement measures to enhance mental health initiative in presbyteries, congregations and seminaries.

¹ <https://www.pcusa.org/resource/comfort-my-people-policy-statement-serious-mental>

² “Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness” approved at the 218th General Assembly (2008) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), pages 8-14

