

1       **OVERTURE 7** from Lowcountry Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
2       “Amend *BCO* 17 by Adding a Clause Which Prohibits Ordination for  
3       Men Who Self-Identify as ‘Gay Christians,’ ‘Same-sex Attracted Christians,’  
4       and/or ‘Homosexual Christians’”  
5  
6       **Whereas** God created Adam and Eve and ordained the first marriage and family consisting  
7       of one man and one woman in sexual union, establishing the context for the Biblical  
8       sexual ethic (Gen. 1: 27-28; 2: 24; 4: 1); and  
9  
10      **Whereas** God has established the one flesh sexual union between a husband and a wife, as a  
11      great mystery in reference to Christ and His church (Eph. 5: 25; 31-32); and  
12  
13      **Whereas** Holy Scripture declares that the sexual union and desire between one man and one  
14      woman in the covenant of marriage, is righteous and holy and all other sexual activity  
15      is unrighteous and sinful, including homosexuality which Holy Scripture describes as  
16      “degrading passions” (Prov. 5: 18-19; Rom. 1: 26-2; I Cor. 6: 9-11; Eph. 5: 3-5; Heb.  
17      13: 4; *WCF* 24.1 & 2; *WCF* [sic] 138, 139); and  
18  
19      **Whereas** the application of the 7th Commandment forbids the sins of homosexuality,  
20      unnatural lusts, and unclean affections, affirming that homosexual acts and the desires  
21      to commit those acts are both sinful (Matt. 5: 27-28; *WCF* 139); and  
22  
23      **Whereas** the Biblical qualifications for a church officer require him to be “above reproach”  
24      and the “husband of one wife” (one-woman man), officers and candidates for office  
25      must conform their lives to biblical sexual ethics, which include denying and  
26      mortifying all sexual passions and desires toward anyone to whom they are not  
27      married; and  
28  
29      **Whereas** identification as “gay,” “same-sex attracted,” and/or “homosexual” is sinful, against  
30      nature itself, is something God detests, and is not fitting for an officer of the Church  
31      of Christ (Lev. 18: 22; I Tim. 3: 2; Titus 1: 5-6); and  
32  
33      **Whereas** the Christian’s identity is rooted in Christ so that he is a “new creation” in Him, his  
34      identity cannot be defined by sexual and/or any other desires or lifestyles that are  
35      contrary to the Holy Scripture; for the Christian there is a clear distinction between  
36      self-conception (“this is who I am”) and remaining indwelling sin (“This is what I  
37      must daily mortify”) (Rom. 6: 1-14; I Cor. 6: 9-11; II Cor. 5: 17; Col. 3: 1-5); and  
38  
39      **Whereas** the sexual revolution and LGBTQ+ movement is infiltrating many quarters of the  
40      Church and causing no small amount of confusion; and  
41  
42      **Whereas** the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood’s Nashville Statement on  
43      biblical sexuality, affirmed by the 47th General Assembly of the PCA as a biblically  
44      faithful declaration, states in Article VII, “*We deny that adopting a homosexual or*

[Type here]

Overture 7, Lowcountry Presbytery

1 *transgender self-conception is consistent with God’s holy purposes in creation and*  
2 *redemption;” and*

3  
4 **Whereas** the 5th General Assembly of the PCA affirmed that, *“In light of the Biblical view of*  
5 *its sinfulness, a practicing homosexual continuing in this sin would not be a fit*  
6 *candidate for ordination or membership in the Presbyterian Church in America,”*  
7 clarity is required regarding the ordination of men who claim to not be committing  
8 homosexual acts, but who identify as “gay Christian” or “same-sex attracted  
9 Christian;” and

10  
11 **Whereas** the 47th General Assembly of the PCA voted to create an ad interim study  
12 committee on the topic of human sexuality with particular attention to the issues of  
13 homosexuality, same-sex attraction, and transgenderism, study committee reports are  
14 non-binding in nature and do not change the Constitution of the PCA, including  
15 requirements for the ordination of elders;

16  
17 **Therefore be it resolved** that Lowcountry Presbytery overture the 48th General Assembly of  
18 the Presbyterian Church in America to amend the *Book of Church Order* chapter 17  
19 such that a new clause, *BCO-17-4*, be added which reads as follows (New words  
20 underlined):

21  
22 17-4. Men who self-identify as a “gay Christian,” “same sex attracted  
23 Christian,” and/or “homosexual Christian” shall be deemed unfit for  
24 ordination in the Presbyterian Church in America.

25  
26 *Adopted by the Lowcountry Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 25, 2020*

27 *Attested by /s/ RE Richard Wylly, stated clerk*