

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*