

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

1 **Therefore** be it resolved that Westminster Presbytery overtures the 48<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of  
2 the Presbyterian Church in America to amend *The Book of Church Order*, Chapter 7,  
3 such that a new clause, *BCO 7-4*, be added which reads as follows (new words  
4 underlined):

5

6 7-4. Men who identify as homosexual, even those who identify as  
7 homosexual and claim to practice celibacy in that self-identification, are  
8 disqualified from holding office in the Presbyterian Church in America.

9

10 *Adopted by Westminster Presbytery at its stated meeting March 14, 2020*

11 *Attested by /s/ TE Mark Blalack, stated clerk*