

1 **OVERTURE 23** from Gulf Coast 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 ‘Homosexual Christians,’ or Like Terms”
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 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. 1:26–27; I Cor. 6:9–11; Eph. 5:3–5; Heb.
17 13:4; WCF 24.1 & 2; WLC 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; WLC 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 Holy Scripture; for the Christian there is a clear distinction between self-
36 conception (“this is who I am”) and remaining indwelling sin (“this is what I must
37 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 are 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*
45 *transgender self-conception is consistent with God’s holy purposes in creation and*
46 *redemption;*” and
47

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

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

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

19 17-4. Men who self-identify as a “gay Christian,” “same-sex attracted
20 Christian,” “homosexual Christian,” or like term shall be deemed not
21 qualified for ordination in the Presbyterian Church in America.
22

23 *Adopted by Gulf Coast Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 11, 2020*

24 *Attested by /s/ TE Joseph C. Grider, stated clerk*