OVERTURE 23 from Gulf Coast Presbytery  

(to CCB, OC)

“Amend BCO 17 by Adding a Clause Which Prohibits Ordination for
Men Who Self-Identify as ‘Gay Christians,’ ‘Same-sex Attracted Christians,’
‘Homosexual Christians,’ or Like Terms”

Whereas God created Adam and Eve and ordained the first marriage and family consisting
of one man and one woman in sexual union, establishing the context for the biblical
sexual ethic (Gen. 1:27–28; 2:24; 4:1); and

Whereas God has established the one flesh sexual union between a husband and wife, as a
great mystery in reference to Christ and his Church (Eph. 5:25, 31–32); and

Whereas Holy Scripture declares that the sexual union and desire between one man and one
woman, in the covenant of marriage is righteous and holy and all other sexual activity
is unrighteous and sinful, including homosexuality, which Holy Scripture describes as
“degrading passions” (Prov. 5:18–19; Rom. 1:26–27; I Cor. 6:9–11; Eph. 5:3–5; Heb.
13:4; WCF 24.1 & 2; WLC 138, 139); and

Whereas the application of the 7th Commandment forbids the sins of homosexuality,
unnatural lusts, and unclean affections, affirming that homosexual acts and the desires
to commit those acts are both sinful (Matt. 5:27–28; WLC 139); and

Whereas the Biblical qualifications for a church officer require him to be “above reproach”
and the “husband of one wife” (one-woman man), officers and candidates for office
must conform their lives to Biblical sexual ethics, which include denying and
mortifying all sexual passions and desires toward anyone to whom they are not
married; and

Whereas identification as “gay,” “same-sex attracted,” and/or “homosexual” is sinful, against
nature itself, is something God detests, and is not fitting for an officer of the Church
of Christ (Lev. 18:22; I Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:5–6); and

Whereas the Christian’s identity is rooted in Christ so that he is a “new creation” in Him, his
identity cannot be defined by sexual and/or any other desires or lifestyles that are
contrary to Holy Scripture; for the Christian there is a clear distinction between self-
conception (“this is who I am”) and remaining indwelling sin (“this is what I must
daily mortify”) (Rom. 6:1–14; I Cor. 6:9–11; II Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:1–5); and

Whereas the sexual revolution and LGBTQ+ movement are infiltrating many quarters of the
Church and causing no small amount of confusion; and

Whereas the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood’s Nashville Statement on
biblical sexuality, affirmed by the 47th General Assembly of the PCA as a biblically
faithful declaration, states in Article VII, “We deny that adopting a homosexual or
transgender self-conception is consistent with God’s holy purposes in creation and
redemption,” and
Whereas the 5th General Assembly of the PCA affirmed that, “In light of the Biblical view of its sinfulness, a practicing homosexual continuing in this sin would not be a fit candidate for ordination or membership in the Presbyterian Church in America,” clarity is required regarding the ordination of men who claim not to be committing homosexual acts, but who identify as “gay Christian” or “same-sex attracted Christian,” and

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

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


Adopted by Gulf Coast Presbytery at its stated meeting, February 11, 2020
Attested by /s/ TE Joseph C. Grider, stated clerk