

1 **OVERTURE 12** from Hills and Plains Presbytery (to CCB, OC)  
2 “Amend *BCO* 16 by Adding a New Paragraph *BCO* 16-4 with Wording from the  
3 Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality”  
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5 **Whereas**, the Sacred Scriptures instruct us how to walk and to please God, abstaining from  
6 sexual immorality and controlling our bodies with holiness and honor (1 Thess. 4:1–5);  
7 and  
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9 **Whereas**, the Apostle Paul exhorts Timothy to fight the good fight of faith and to pursue  
10 righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness (1 Tim. 6:11–12); and  
11  
12 **Whereas**, overseers must be above reproach (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6, 7) and holy (Titus 1:8),  
13 and well thought of by outsiders (1 Tim. 3:7); and  
14  
15 **Whereas**, deacons must be dignified (1 Tim. 3:8) and serve if they prove themselves  
16 blameless (1 Tim. 3:10); and  
17  
18 **Whereas**, the *Book of Church Order* declares that everyone “whom God calls to bear office  
19 in His Church . . . should be sound in the faith, and his life be according to godliness”  
20 (*BCO* 16-3); and  
21  
22 **Whereas** the Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality of TE Dr. Bryan Chapell, TE Dr.  
23 Kevin DeYoung, TE Dr. Tim Keller, TE Dr. Jim Weidenaar, RE Dr. Derek Halvorson,  
24 RE Mr. Kyle Keating, and RE Mr. Jim Pocta, studied issues assigned to it by the 47th  
25 General Assembly in 2019; and  
26  
27 **Whereas**, the Ad Interim Committee on Human Sexuality released the Report of the Ad  
28 Interim Committee on Human Sexuality in 2020; and  
29  
30 **Whereas**, Overture 38 [to the 48th General Assembly] to “Commend the Human Sexuality  
31 Report,” unanimously adopted by Calvary Presbytery, was answered in the affirmative  
32 by a show of hands at the 48th General Assembly in 2021; and  
33  
34 **Whereas**, the AIC Report says, “Christians are well-served when they can be honest about  
35 both their present fallen realities and their hope for sanctification” (p. 28); and  
36  
37 **Whereas**, the AIC Report says, “The goal is not just consistent fleeing from, and regular  
38 resistance to, temptation, but the diminishment and even the end of the occurrences of  
39 sinful desires through the reordering of the loves of one’s heart toward Christ” (p. 10);  
40 and  
41  
42 **Whereas**, the AIC Report says, “Desires that are inconsistent with God’s design are to be  
43 resisted and mortified, not celebrated or accommodated” (p. 28); and

1 **Whereas**, the AIC Report says, “To juxtapose identities rooted in sinful desires alongside the  
2 term ‘Christian’ is inconsistent with Biblical language and undermines the spiritual  
3 reality that we are new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17)” (p. 11); and  
4

5 **Whereas**, the AIC Report says, “Sometimes there are disagreements about language even when  
6 the underlying doctrinal commitments seem to be the same. . . . For these reasons, how  
7 persons express themselves is not finally determinative of their identity” (p. 29);  
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9 **Therefore, be it resolved** that Hills and Plains Presbytery (PCA) overture the 49th General  
10 Assembly to amend the *Book of Church Order* chapter 16 by the addition of the  
11 following paragraph:  
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13 BCO 16–4. Officers in the Presbyterian Church in America, though sound  
14 in the faith and living lives according to godliness, “are well served when  
15 they can be honest about both their present fallen realities and their hope  
16 for sanctification.” Their “goal is not just consistent fleeing from, and  
17 regular resistance to, temptation, but the diminishment and even the end  
18 of the occurrences of sinful desires.” “Desires that are inconsistent with  
19 God’s design are to be resisted and mortified, not celebrated or  
20 accommodated.” “To juxtapose identities rooted in sinful desires  
21 alongside the term ‘Christian’ is inconsistent with biblical language and  
22 undermines the spiritual reality that we are new creations in Christ.”  
23 “Sometimes there are disagreements about language even when the  
24 underlying doctrinal commitments seem to be the same,” and “how  
25 persons express themselves is not finally determinative of their identity.”  
26

27 *Approved by Hills and Plains Presbytery at a Called Meeting on March 5, 2022*

28 *Attested by /s/ TE Wesley D. Martin, stated clerk*