

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”
4
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
8
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);
8

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:
12

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*