

1 **OVERTURE 15** from Westminster Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO 7* to Disqualify from Office Men Identifying as Homosexual”

3
4 **Whereas**, God created Adam and Eve and ordained the first marriage and family consisting
5 of one man and one woman in sexual union, establishing the context for the biblical
6 sexual ethic (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:24; 4:1); and

7
8 **Whereas**, God has established the one flesh sexual union between a husband and wife, as a
9 great mystery in reference to Christ and his Church (Eph. 5:25; 31-32); and

10
11 **Whereas**, the Holy Scriptures declare that the sexual union and desire between one man and
12 one woman, in the covenant of marriage, is righteous and holy, and all other sexual
13 activity is unrighteous and sinful, including homosexuality, which the Holy Scriptures
14 describe as “degrading passions” (Rom. 5:18-19; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6 9-11;
15 Eph. 5:3-5; Heb. 13:4, *WCF* 24:1 & 2; *WLC* 138,139); and

16
17 **Whereas**, the application of the 7th Commandment forbids the sins of homosexuality,
18 unnatural lusts, and unclean affections, affirming that homosexual acts and the desires
19 to commit those acts are both sinful (*Matt.* 5:27-28; *WLC* 139); and

20
21 **Whereas**, the Biblical qualifications for a church officer require him to be “above reproach”
22 and the “husband of one wife,” officers and candidates for office must conform their
23 lives to Biblical sexual ethics, which include denying and mortifying all sexual
24 passions and desires toward anyone to whom they are not married (1 Tim. 3:2); and

25
26 **Whereas**, identification as a “homosexual,” is sinful and against nature itself, is something
27 God detests, and is not fitting for an officer of the Church of Christ (Lev. 18:22; 1 Tim.
28 3:2; Titus 1:5-6); and

29
30 **Whereas**, the Christian’s identity is rooted in Christ so that he is a “new creation” in Him, his
31 identity cannot be defined by sexual and/any other desires or lifestyles that are contrary
32 to the Holy Scriptures; for the Christian there is a clear distinction between self-
33 conception (“this is who I am”) and their remaining indwelling sin (“this is what I must
34 daily mortify”) (Rom 6:1-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:1-5); and

35
36 **Whereas**, the sexual revolution and LGBTQ+ movement are infiltrating many quarters of the
37 Church and causing no small amount of confusion; and

38
39 **Whereas**, the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood’s Nashville Statement on
40 biblical sexuality, affirmed by the 47th General Assembly of the PCA as a biblically
41 faithful declaration, states in Article VII, “We deny that adopting a homosexual or
42 transgender self-conception is consistent with God’s holy purposes in creation and
43 redemption.”

44

1 **Therefore**, be it resolved that Westminster Presbytery overtures the 49th General Assembly
2 of the Presbyterian Church in America to amend *The Book of Church Order* Chapter
3 7 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 12, 2022*

11 *Attested by /s/ TE Thomas Rickard, stated clerk*