

1 **OVERTURE 29** from Pittsburgh Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 16 by Adding 16-4 Regarding Qualifications for Church Office”
3

4 **Whereas**, our churches are under continual pressure to conform to the standards of the
5 world on sexuality, and Christians in our churches often use the language of the
6 world in minimizing or maximizing certain sin patterns, and
7

8 **Whereas**, the documents of the PCA should, as much as possible, have a timeless character
9 that transcends the specific issues in one particular day, and
10

11 **Whereas**, a previous overture on this topic was passed at General Assembly, and there is
12 wide support for the spirit of that overture, but substantial disagreement on the
13 precision of the language, as well as concern that it is overly connected to current
14 terminology of our society, and
15

16 **Whereas**, there is widespread agreement on the language of the Report by the Ad Interim
17 Committee on Human Sexuality, and
18

19 **Whereas**, the spirit of our Standards (e.g., *WCF* XV:4) is not to single out any category of
20 sin as especially separate from all other types of sin (such as homosexuality or
21 racism, in different eras) but to enjoin us to ongoing repentance of all types of sin,
22 and
23

24 **Whereas**, there is substantial debate as to whether some officers in the PCA use
25 identification with certain categories of sin as a way of downplaying the need for a
26 complete and full sanctification in those areas, which must include repentance not
27 just from the outward practice of sins but also from the inward desire for those sins;
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29 **Therefore be it resolved** that a new paragraph 16-4 be added to *BCO* 16, which shall read
30 as follows:
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32 **16-4 Officers in the Presbyterian Church in America must be above reproach in their**
33 **walk and Christlike in their character. Those who deny the sinfulness of fallen**
34 **desires, or who deny the reality and hope of progressive sanctification, or who fail to**
35 **pursue Spirit-empowered victory over their sinful temptations, inclinations, and**
36 **actions are not qualified for ordained office. Our standard of conduct is always the**
37 **Word of God, which transcends any culture; whether a sin is especially hated or**
38 **excused in a particular society shall neither excuse those who are unrepentant nor bar**
39 **those who are clearly repentant.**
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41 *Adopted by Pittsburgh Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 2, 2022*

42 *Attested by /s/ TE LeRoy S. Capper, stated clerk*