

1 **OVERTURE 15** from Bryce Avenue Presbyterian Church, White Rock, New Mexico  
2 (to CCB, OC)

3 “Amend *BCO 53* To Disallow Exhortation, Preaching, or Teaching by  
4 Women in Worship”  
5

6 [Note: This overture was submitted to Rio Grande Presbytery for its stated meeting, January  
7 23-24, 2023, by TE Zachary Garris, commissioner to Rio Grande Presbytery and rejected by  
8 Rio Grande Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 24, 2023 (*RAO 11-10*).]  
9

10 **Whereas**, preaching—the exposition and application of Scripture by men called, duly  
11 *appointed, and lawfully ordained by God to the ministry of Word and Sacrament*—and  
12 exhorting—the exposition and application of Scripture by men called, duly appointed,  
13 and authorized to supply pulpits or otherwise make trial of their gifts and calling—are  
14 ordinary means of God’s grace to His people;  
15

16 **Whereas**, Scripture at several points plainly prohibits unauthorized men and all women from  
17 engaging in exercises of so-called “preaching,” teaching, and exhortation in  
18 assemblies of God’s people;  
19

20 **Whereas**, the congregations, denominational agencies, and educational institutions of the  
21 Presbyterian Church in America would benefit from clear regulations on this matter in  
22 the constitutional documents of the Church;  
23

24 **Whereas**, the *Report of the Ad Interim Committee on Women Serving in the Ministry of the*  
25 *Church to the Forty-Fifth General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America*  
26 affirmed that the PCA “humbly and happily embrace[s] Scripture’s clear teaching that  
27 the eldership is to be composed of qualified men (1 Tim. 2:12; 3:1-7; 5:17), who are  
28 entrusted by Christ with the ministry of the authoritative teaching and ruling of the  
29 church for the building up of the whole body (Eph. 4:11-13),” and consequently  
30 recommended “that sessions consider how to include non-ordained men and women  
31 in the worship of the church so as to maintain faithfulness to Scripture;”  
32

33 **Whereas**, the women (wives, daughters, sisters, and mothers) of our congregations will more  
34 fervently love the Church for clarifying what has become a contested issue in the  
35 broader church and culture;  
36

37 **Now therefore**, the Session of Bryce Avenue Presbyterian Church hereby petitions and  
38 overtures the General Assembly to amend *BCO 53* regarding preaching with the  
39 insertion of a new paragraph bearing constitutional authority in the Presbyterian  
40 Church in America’s *Directory for Worship*. The proposed new paragraph *BCO 53-7*  
41 would read as follows (new wording underlined):  
42

43 ***BCO 53***  
44 7. No woman shall preach, exhort, or teach at a public worship assembly,  
45 including assemblies or chapel services where men are present in any

Overture 15. Bryce Avenue Presbyterian Church Session

1           congregation, educational institution, or gathering overseen by the Church  
2           or one of its agencies.

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4       *Submitted to Rio Grande Presbytery for its stated meeting, January 23-24, 2023, by*  
5           *TE Zachary Garris, commissioner to Rio Grande Presbytery. Rejected by*  
6           *Rio Grande Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 24, 2023 (RAO 11-10).*  
7       *Attested by /s/ TE Dustin Hunt, stated clerk, Rio Grande Presbytery*