

1 **OVERTURE 16** from Catawba Valley Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO 7* to Codify the Biblical Standard for Church Officers as Related
3 to Self-Description by Biblical Sins”
4

5 **Whereas**, an amendment to *BCO 7* has been sent by the 49th General Assembly to the
6 Presbyteries for consideration, which reads, “Men who describe themselves as
7 homosexual, even those who describe themselves as homosexual and claim to practice
8 celibacy by refraining from homosexual conduct, are disqualified from holding office
9 in the Presbyterian Church in America”; and
10

11 **Whereas**, there is concern that this proposed amendment—especially the clause between the
12 commas, “even those who describe themselves as homosexual and claim to practice
13 celibacy by refraining from homosexual conduct”—might tend to confuse the matter
14 even for some who are in complete agreement with the general prohibition of
15 homosexual ordination; and
16

17 **Whereas**, if the amendment to *BCO 7* fails to gain the 2/3 requirement of Presbyteries, one
18 can only imagine how it will be publicized that the Presbyterian Church in America
19 actually favors homosexual ordination; and
20

21 **Whereas**, the proposed amendment to *BCO 7* assumes biblical support but does not cite any;
22 and
23

24 **Whereas**, 1 Cor. 6:9-11 not only forbids identification with many specific sins (including
25 homosexuality) but it adds that whatever sinful inclinations one previously had before
26 justification, now there have been sanctifying changes that establish one’s present
27 identity in the Lord Jesus, by the Spirit of God;
28

29 **Therefore be it resolved**, Catawba Valley Presbytery humbly overtures the General
30 Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to consider amending *BCO 7* by the
31 addition of a new paragraph, 7-4, as follows (addition underlined):
32

33 *BCO 7-4. Men who describe themselves by any biblical sin (such as listed in 1 Cor.*
34 *6:9-10, “Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor*
35 *homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers,*
36 *nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”)* are disqualified from holding office
37 in the Presbyterian Church in America. Instead, they describe themselves by
38 1 Cor. 6:11, “And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were
39 sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our
40 God.”
41

42 *Adopted by Catawba Valley Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 28, 2023*
43 *Attested by /s/ TE Scott Deneen, stated clerk*