

1 **OVERTURE 17** from the Session of Meadowview Reformed (to CCB, OC)  
2 Presbyterian Church, Lexington, NC  
3 “Amend *BCO 7* To Disqualify from Office Men Describing their Personhood, Being,  
4 or Identity by a Sin Struggle”  
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6 [Note: This overture was submitted to Piedmont Triad Presbytery for an upcoming meeting  
7 by the Session of Meadowview Reformed Presbyterian Church and rejected by Piedmont  
8 Triad Presbytery at a called meeting, March 9, 2023 (*RAO 11-10*).]  
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10 **Whereas**, God is not the author of confusion but of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33); and  
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12 **Whereas**, the world in which we live has confused and rejected Biblical Anthropology and  
13 adopted a false conception of personhood, identity, and being; and  
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15 **Whereas**, Christians are told not to be conformed to the pattern of this world nor be taken  
16 captive by vain philosophies, but to be transformed by a renewed mind, and in doing  
17 so to put off the old man and put on the new man (Col. 2:8, Rom. 12:1-2, Eph. 4:22-  
18 24); and  
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20 **Whereas**, the Biblical Qualifications for a church officer require him to be “above reproach,”  
21 therefore candidates for office must conform their lives to Biblical ethics, which  
22 include denying and mortifying all sinful passions and desires (1 Tim. 3:1-13, cf. Titus  
23 1:5-9); and  
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25 **Whereas**, Churches are commanded that “all sexual immorality and all impurity or  
26 covetousness must not even be named among them...” (Eph. 5:3); and  
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28 **Whereas**, Paul writes “<sup>9</sup>Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom  
29 of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor  
30 adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor  
31 drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such  
32 were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in  
33 the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God” (1 Cor. 6:9-11,  
34 emphasis added); and  
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36 **Whereas**, the Christian’s identity is rooted in Christ so that he is a “new creation” in Him, his  
37 identity cannot be defined by desires or lifestyles that are contrary to the Holy  
38 Scriptures; for the Christian there is a clear distinction between self-conception (“this  
39 is who I am”) and their remaining indwelling sin (“this is what I must daily mortify”)  
40 (Rom. 6:1-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:1-5); and  
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42 **Whereas**, for example, the 47th PCA GA has affirmed the Nashville Statement as a biblically  
43 faithful declaration, which states in Article VII, “We deny that adopting a homosexual  
44 or transgender self-conception is consistent with God’s holy purposes in creation and  
45 redemption.”; and

Overture 17, Meadowview Reformed Presbyterian Church

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**Whereas**, the PCA AIC Report on Human Sexuality, Statement 9 explains –  
“Nevertheless, being honest about our sin struggles is important. While Christians should not identify with their sin so as to embrace it or seek to base their identity on it, Christians ought to acknowledge their sin in an effort to overcome it. There is a difference between speaking about a phenomenological facet of a person’s sin-stained reality and employing the language of sinful desires as a personal identity marker.”

**Therefore, be it resolved** that Meadowview Reformed Presbyterian Church overtures the 50th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to amend *The Book of Church Order* Chapter 7 such that a new clause, *BCO 7-4*, be added, which reads as follows (new words underlined):

7-4. Men who refer to a particular sin struggle as descriptive of their personhood, being, or identity are disqualified from holding office in the PCA.

*Approved by the Meadowview Reformed Presbyterian Church Session on February 1, 2023.  
Submitted on February 2 by the Session of Meadowview Reformed Presbyterian Church (MRPC) to Piedmont Triad Presbytery (PTP) for consideration at an upcoming meeting.  
Rejected by Piedmont Triad Presbytery at a Called Meeting, March 9, 2023, by a vote of 17-17.  
Attested by/s/ TE Ethan Smith, stated clerk, Piedmont Triad Presbytery.*