

1 **OVERTURE 9** from Arizona Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO 7* to Codify the Biblical Standard for Church Officers
3 Related to Human Sexuality”
4

5 **Whereas**, the sins of officers are more heinous by virtue of their office (2 Sam.12:7-9; Ezek.
6 8:11-12; Rom. 2:17-24; Gal. 2:11-14; Jas. 3:1; WLC 151); and
7

8 **Whereas**, the preservation of chastity in body, mind, affections, words, and behavior in
9 oneself is an indispensable duty and qualification for office (1 Tim.3:2; Titus 1:5-9);
10 and
11

12 **Whereas**, in the beginning God created them “male and female” after his own image and
13 likeness and ordained the first marriage and family consisting of one man and one
14 woman in sexual union, establishing the divine intention for human sexuality (Gen.
15 1:27-28; 2:24; 4:1); and
16

17 **Whereas**, any expression of sexual attraction or sexual intimacy that is not directed toward
18 the fulfillment of a lifelong covenant of marriage between one man and one woman
19 is contrary to nature and to nature’s God (Lev. 20:15-16; Rom. 1:26-27; Col. 3:5;
20 WLC28; WLC139; WLC148):
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22 **Therefore, be it resolved** that *The Book of Church Order* Chapter 7 be amended such that
23 a new paragraph, *BCO 7-4*, be added, to read as follows (new words underlined):
24

25 7-4. Men who deviate—whether by declared conviction, self-description,
26 lifestyle decisions, or overt practice—from God’s creational intention for
27 human sexuality are disqualified from holding office in the Presbyterian
28 Church in America.
29

30 *Adopted by the Arizona Presbytery at its stated meeting January 19, 2023*

31 *Attested by /s/ RE Richard Wolfe, stated clerk*