

1 **OVERTURE 23** from Mississippi Valley Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 “Amend *BCO* 8-2 and 9-3 to Require Officers’ Conformity to Biblical
3 Standards for Chastity and Sexual Purity in Self-description”
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 is
19 contrary to nature and to nature’s God (Lev. 20:15-16; Rom. 1:26-27; Col. 3:5; *WLC*
20 20; *WLC* 28; *WLC* 139; *WLC* 148):
21

22 **Therefore, be it resolved** that *The Book of Church Order* Chapter 8-2 be amended to insert
23 a new sentence as follows:
24

25 **8-2.** He that fills this office should possess a competency of human learning
26 and be blameless in life, sound in the faith and apt to teach. He should
27 exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the Gospel. He should
28 conform to the biblical requirement of chastity and sexual purity in his
29 descriptions of himself, his convictions, character, and conduct. He should
30 rule his own house well and should have a good report of them that are
31 outside the Church.
32

33 So that the amended *BCO* 8-2 would read as follows (new words underlined):
34

35 **8-2.** He that fills this office should possess a competency of human learning
36 and be blameless in life, sound in the faith and apt to teach. He should
37 exhibit a sobriety and holiness of life becoming the Gospel. He should
38 conform to the biblical requirement of chastity and sexual purity in his
39 descriptions of himself, his, convictions, character, and conduct. He should
40 rule his own house well and should have a good report of them that are
41 outside the Church.
42

43 **Be it further resolved** that *The Book of Church Order* Chapter 9-3 be amended to insert a
44 new clause as follows:

1 **9-3.** To the office of deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen
2 men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit,
3 warm sympathies, and sound judgment, conforming to the biblical
4 requirement of chastity and sexual purity in their descriptions of themselves,
5 their convictions, character, and conduct.
6

7 So that the amended *BCO* 9-3 would read:

8
9 **9-3.** To the office of deacon, which is spiritual in nature, shall be chosen
10 men of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly spirit,
11 warm sympathies, and sound judgment, conforming to the biblical
12 requirement of chastity and sexual purity in their descriptions of themselves,
13 their convictions, character, and conduct.
14

15 *Adopted by Mississippi Valley Presbytery at its called meeting, March 20, 2023*

16 *Attested by /s/ TE Christopher Wright, stated clerk*