

1 **Whereas**, the AIC Report says, “To juxtapose identities rooted in sinful desires alongside the
2 term ‘Christian’ is inconsistent with Biblical language and undermines the spiritual
3 reality that we are new creations in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17)” (p. 884); and
4

5 **Whereas**, the AIC Report says, “Christians ought to acknowledge their sin in an effort to
6 overcome it”, and that “we name our sins, but are not named by them” (p. 884); and
7

8 **Therefore, let it be resolved** that the Chesapeake Presbytery petitions the 50th General
9 Assembly to amend the *Book of Church Order* 8-3 to read as follows:
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11 **8-3.** It belongs to those in the office of elder, both severally and jointly, to
12 watch diligently over the flock committed to his charge, that no corruption
13 of doctrine or of morals enter therein. They must exercise government and
14 discipline, and take oversight not only of the spiritual interests of the
15 particular church, but also the Church generally when called thereunto.
16 They should visit the people at their homes, especially the sick. They should
17 instruct the ignorant, comfort the mourner, nourish and guard the children
18 of the Church. They should set a worthy example to the flock entrusted to
19 their care by their zeal to evangelize the unconverted, make disciples, and
20 demonstrate hospitality. As those who are to be examples to God’s flock
21 that is under their care, and who are to watch their life and doctrine closely,
22 elders are to understand, describe, and define themselves in light of their
23 union with Christ as justified and holy children of God. They are to guard
24 against setting a damaging or confusing example to the flock by describing
25 or defining themselves by their sinful desires (e.g., from 1 Corinthians
26 6:9,10 (ESV)... “the sexually immoral, nor idolators, nor adulterers, nor
27 men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor drunkards, nor revilers,
28 nor swindlers,...” etc.), but rather are to endeavor by the grace of God to
29 confess, repent of, and mortify sin and sinful desires, and to present
30 themselves and those entrusted to their care as instruments of righteousness
31 to God. All those duties which private Christians are bound to discharge by
32 the law of love are especially incumbent upon them by divine vocation, and
33 are to be discharged as official duties. They should pray with and for the
34 people, being careful and diligent in seeking the fruit of the preached Word
35 among the flock.
36

37 *Adopted by Chesapeake Presbytery at its stated meeting, March 14, 2023*

38 *Attested by /s/ TE Donald M. Dove, stated clerk*

¹ M48GA, Appendix W, p. 872ff.