

1 **OVERTURE 15** from the Session of West End Presbyterian Church, (to CCB, OC)
2 Hopewell, Virginia
3 “Amend BCO 7-2 to Specify Ordination for Biological Males Only”
4

5 [Note: This overture was adopted by the Session of West End Presbyterian Church, in
6 Hopewell, Virginia; submitted to James River Presbytery at its stated meeting, January
7 20, 2024, by TE Eric Dugan, commissioner to the Presbytery; and rejected by the
8 Presbytery at that meeting. (RAO 11-10).]
9

10 **Whereas** our culture is wrestling with gender identity issues and has difficulty defining both
11 male and female, and
12

13 **Whereas** that same culture now permits those who are biologically one gender to be accepted
14 as the other or to be defined by another entirely different gender identity, and
15

16 **Whereas** the Bible teaches only two sexes and that each have different, but complementary,
17 roles in Christ’s church, and
18

19 **Whereas** one’s gender is tied to their biological sex: “God created man in his own image, in
20 the image of God he created him; male and female he created them” (Genesis 2:27),
21 and
22

23 **Whereas** there are denominations which currently ordain such persons and do so in opposition
24 to God’s Word, and
25

26 **Whereas** there has been confusion about gender and sex, including among those who profess
27 to hold evangelical and even reformed theological positions and who may wish to hold
28 ordination in the PCA;
29

30 **Therefore, be it resolved** to amend BCO 7-2 by adding to the final sentence of the paragraph
31 the word “biological” before the words “men only,” as follows:
32

33 “The ordinary and perpetual classes of office in the Church are elders and deacons.
34 Within the class of elder are the two orders of teaching elders and ruling elders. The
35 elders jointly have the government and spiritual oversight of the Church, including
36 teaching. Only those elders who are specially gifted, called and trained by God to
37 preach may serve as teaching elders. The office of deacon is not one of rule, but rather
38 of service both to the physical and spiritual needs of the people. In accord with
39 Scripture, these offices are open to biological men only.”
40

41 *Adopted by the session of West End PCA Church in Hopewell, VA at its stated meeting,*
42 *April 25, 2023*

43 *Submitted by the Session of West End Presbyterian Church, Hopewell, Virginia, to James*
44 *River Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 20, 2024.*

45 *Rejected by James River Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 20, 2024 (RAO 11-10).*

Overture 15, West End Presbyterian Church

1 *Attested by /s/ RE Chris Rohde, stated clerk, James River Presbytery.*
2 *Approved for submission to the Presbyterian Church in America's General Assembly by the*
3 *Session of West End Presbyterian Church, Hopewell, Virginia, at its stated meeting*
4 *on January 23, 2024.*
5 *Attested by /s/ RE Gary Kimball, Clerk of Session.*