

1 **OVERTURE 29** from Session of Bryce Avenue Presbyterian Church, (to CCB, OC)
2 White Rock, New Mexico
3 “Amend *BCO* 53 by Addition To Ensure Only Men Preach”
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5 [Note: This overture was adopted by the Session of Bryce Avenue Presbyterian Church, White
6 Rock, New Mexico; submitted to the Rio Grande Presbytery at its stated meeting,
7 January 22, 2024; and rejected by the Presbytery at that meeting (*RAO* 11-10).]
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9 **Whereas**, preaching involves the explanation, defense, and application of Scripture (*BCO* 53-
10 2); and
11

12 **Whereas**, Scripture prohibits women from preaching sermons to men (1 Timothy 2:11-12); and
13

14 **Whereas**, the *Book of Church Order* applies 1 Timothy 2:11-12 so as to prohibit women from
15 preaching in a church’s worship service (*BCO* 12-5(e)); and
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17 **Whereas**, preaching is an element of a stated worship service (*BCO* 47-9); and
18

19 **Whereas**, colleges and seminaries, including Covenant College and Covenant Seminary, hold
20 stated chapel services that involve preaching (*BCO* 53-2); and
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22 **Whereas**, campus ministries, including Reformed University Fellowship, hold stated services
23 that involve preaching (*BCO* 53-2); and
24

25 **Whereas**, Scripture’s teaching—whether “expressly set down” or deduced “by good and
26 necessary consequence”—must guide and regulate stated services that include
27 preaching, even those services taking place outside of the local church (*WCF* 1.6); and
28

29 **Whereas**, the Presbyterian Church in America would benefit from clarity as to whether
30 women may preach sermons to men in a college/seminary stated chapel service and a
31 campus ministry stated service;
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33 **Therefore, be it resolved** to amend *BCO* 53 by adding a new paragraph, bearing full
34 constitutional authority, which reads as follows:
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36 ***BCO 53-7. No woman is permitted to preach a sermon to men, whether that***
37 ***be in a church’s worship service, a college/seminary stated chapel service, or***
38 ***a campus ministry stated service (1 Timothy 2:11-12; BCO 53-2; cf. BCO 12-5.e).***
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40 *Adopted by the Session of Bryce Avenue Presbyterian Church, White Rock, New Mexico, at*
41 *its stated meeting, December 20, 2023.*

42 *Submitted by the Session of Bryce Avenue Presbyterian Church, White Rock, New Mexico, to*
43 *Rio Grande Presbytery through a registered commissioner at its stated meeting,*
44 *January 22, 2024.*

45 *Rejected by Rio Grande Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 22, 2024 (RAO 11-10).*

46 *Attested by TE Dustin Hunt, stated clerk, Rio Grande Presbytery.*

47 *Approved for submission to the Presbyterian Church in America’s 51st General Assembly by*
48 *the Session of Bryce Avenue Presbyterian Church in White Rock, New Mexico, at its*
49 *stated meeting on March 20, 2024.*

50 *Attested by /s/ RE David Forslund, Clerk of Session.*