

1 **Overture ??? from Lowcountry Presbytery** (submitted by Christ Church Presbyterian)

2 “Amend *BCO* 17 by Adding a Clause Which Prohibits Ordination for Men Who Self-  
3 Identify as ‘Gay Christians,’ ‘Same-sex Attracted Christians,’ and/or ‘Homosexual  
4 Christians”  
5

6 **Whereas** God created Adam and Eve and ordained the first marriage and family consisting of  
7 one man and one woman in sexual union, establishing the context for the biblical sexual ethic  
8 (Gen. 1:27–28; 2:24; 4:1); and  
9

10 **Whereas** God has established the one flesh sexual union between a husband and wife, as a great  
11 mystery in reference to Christ and his Church (Eph. 5:25, 31–32); and

12 **Whereas** Holy Scripture declares that the sexual union and desire between one man and one  
13 woman, in the covenant of marriage is righteous and holy and all other sexual activity is  
14 unrighteous and sinful, including homosexuality, which Holy Scripture describes as “degrading  
15 passions” (Prov. 5:18–19; Rom. 1:26–27; I Cor. 6:9–11; Eph. 5:3–5; Heb. 13:4; WCF 24.1 & 2;  
16 WLC 138,139); and  
17

18 **Whereas** the application of the 7th Commandment forbids the sins of homosexuality, unnatural  
19 lusts, and unclean affections, affirming that homosexual acts and the desires to commit those acts  
20 are both sinful (Matt. 5:27–28; WLC 139); and

21 **Whereas** the Biblical qualifications for a church officer require him to be “above reproach” and  
22 the “husband of one wife” (one-woman man), officers and candidates for office must conform  
23 their lives to Biblical sexual ethics, which include denying and mortifying all sexual passions  
24 and desires toward anyone to whom they are not married; and  
25

26 **Whereas** identification as “gay,” “same-sex attracted,” and/or “homosexual” is sinful, against  
27 nature itself, is something God detests, and is not fitting for an officer of the Church of Christ  
28 (Lev. 18:22; I Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:5–6); and  
29

30 **Whereas** the Christian's identity is rooted in Christ so that he is a “new creation” in Him, his  
31 identity cannot be defined by sexual and/or any other desires or lifestyles that are contrary to  
32 Holy Scripture; for the Christian there is a clear distinction between self-conception (“this is who  
33 I am”) and remaining indwelling sin (“this is what I must daily mortify”) (Rom. 6:1–14; I Cor.  
34 6:9–11; II Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:1–5); and

35 **Whereas** the sexual revolution and LGBTQ+ movement are infiltrating many quarters of the  
36 Church and causing no small amount of confusion; and  
37

38 **Whereas** the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood’s Nashville Statement on biblical  
39 sexuality, affirmed by the 47th General Assembly of the PCA as a biblically faithful declaration,  
40 states in Article VII, “*We deny that adopting a homosexual or transgender self-conception is*  
41 *consistent with God’s holy purposes in creation and redemption;*” and  
42  
43  
44  
45

1 **Whereas** the 5th General Assembly of the PCA affirmed that, “*In light of the Biblical view of its*  
2 *sinfulness, a practicing homosexual continuing in this sin would not be a fit candidate for*  
3 *ordination or membership in the Presbyterian Church in America,*” clarity is required regarding  
4 the ordination of men who claim not to be committing homosexual acts, but who identify as “gay  
5 Christian” or “same-sex attracted Christian;” and

6 **Whereas** the 47th General Assembly of the PCA voted to create an ad interim study committee  
7 on the topic of human sexuality with particular attention to the issues of homosexuality, same-  
8 sex attraction, and transgenderism, study committee reports are non-binding in nature and do not  
9 change the Constitution of the PCA, including requirements for the ordination of elders;

10 **Therefore be it resolved** that Lowcountry Presbytery overture the 48th General Assembly of the  
11 Presbyterian Church in America to amend *The Book of Church Order* chapter 17 such that a new  
12 clause, *BCO 17-4*, be added which reads as follows (New words underlined):

13  
14 17-4. Men who self-identify as a “gay Christian,” “same sex attracted Christian,” and/or  
15 “homosexual Christian” shall be deemed unfit for ordination in the Presbyterian Church  
16 in America.  
17

18 Submitted by Christ Church Presbyterian for adoption by the Lowcountry Presbytery at its stated  
19 meeting, January 25, 2020.

20  
21 Attested by [Stated Clerk signature block]  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30