

1 **OVERTURE 13** from Westminster Presbytery (to CCB, OC)

2 "Assistants to the Deacons Not To Be Elected, Ordained, or Installed As If  
3 They Were Office Bearers"

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5 **Whereas** the PCA is grateful to God for the outstanding and selfless work done by the  
6 women of PCA congregations and freely acknowledges that the ability of the church  
7 to minister to a lost and dying world depends in large part on the self-sacrificing  
8 volunteer spirit of our female members; and  
9

10 **Whereas** the PCA also believes that, the officers of the Church, by whom all its powers are  
11 administered, are, according to the Scriptures, teaching and ruling elders and deacons  
12 (*BCO* 1-5) and that in accord with Scripture, these offices are open to men only  
13 (*BCO* 7-2); and  
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15 **Whereas** the PCA believes that scripture teaches that the officers of the church are to be  
16 ordained not commissioned (*BCO* 17, 12-5, 8-6); and  
17

18 **Whereas** while some RPCES congregations had women on their diaconates, the RPCES  
19 resolved as part of the J&R agreement with the PCA to "amend the existing doctrinal  
20 standards and Form of Government of the Reformed Presbyterian Church,  
21 Evangelical Synod, by substituting for them the doctrinal standards and Book of  
22 Church Order of the Presbyterian Church in America" \* ; and  
23

24 **Whereas** several churches in the PCA currently elect and commission women to the office  
25 of deacon and call them by the title deacon or deaconess and allow them to serve on  
26 the diaconate; and  
27

28 **Whereas** *BCO* 9-7, which states that women may be selected and appointed by the session  
29 of a church to serve as assistants to the deacons, is often cited as pretext for this  
30 practice of electing and commissioning female deacons; and  
31

32 **Therefore**, Westminster Presbytery hereby overtures the 38th General Assembly to amend  
33 *BCO* Chapter 9-7 by adding the words  
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35 **These assistants to the deacons shall not be referred to as deacons, nor**  
36 **are they to be elected by the congregation, ordained, or installed as**  
37 **though they were office bearers in the church.**  
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39 So that the revised version would read:  
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41 9-7. It is often expedient that the Session of a church should select and appoint godly men  
42 and women of the congregation to assist the deacons in caring for the sick, the widows, the  
43 orphans, the prisoners, and others who may be in any distress or need. **These assistants to**  
44 **the deacons shall not be referred to as deacons, nor are they to be elected by the**  
45 **congregation, ordained, or installed as though they were office bearers in the church.**  
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47 \* Documents of Synod: Study Papers and Actions of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, Evangelical Synod--  
48 1965 to 1982, pp.476-477  
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50 *Adopted by Westminster Presbytery at its stated meeting, April 10, 2010*

51 *Attested by /s/ TE Daniel J. Foreman, stated clerk*