

1 **OVERTURE 2** from Central Carolina Presbytery (to CCB, OC)
2 "Amend *BCO* 9-7 to Prohibit Deaconesses"
3

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

9 **Whereas**, the PCA also believes that, the officers of the Church, by whom all its powers are
10 administered, are, according to the Scriptures, teaching and ruling elders and deacons
11 (*BCO* 1-5) and that in accord with Scripture, these offices are open to men only
12 (*BCO* 7-2); and
13

14 **Whereas**, the PCA believes that scripture teaches that the officers of the church are to be
15 *ordained* not *commissioned*. (*BCO* 17, 12-5, 8-6); and
16

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

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

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

31 **Therefore**, Central Carolina Presbytery hereby overtures the 38th General Assembly to
32 amend *BCO* Chapter 9-7 by adding the words:
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34 These assistants to the deacons shall not be referred to as deacons or deaconesses,
35 nor are they to be elected by the congregation nor formally commissioned,
36 ordained, or installed as though they were office bearers in the church.
37

38 So that the revised version would read:
39

40 9-7. It is often expedient that the Session of a church should select and appoint godly
41 men and women of the congregation to assist the deacons in caring for the sick, the
42 widows, the orphans, the prisoners, and others who may be in any distress or need.
43 **These assistants to the deacons shall not be referred to as deacons or**
44 **deaconesses, nor are they to be elected by the congregation nor formally**
45 **commissioned, ordained, or installed as though they were office bearers in the**
46 **church.**
47

48 * Documents of Synod: Study Papers and Actions of the Reformed Presbyterian Church,
49 Evangelical Synod--1965 to 1982, pp.476-77
50

51 *Adopted by Central Carolina Presbytery at its stated meeting, October 27, 2009*

52 *Attested by RE Flynt Jones, stated clerk*