

1 **OVERTURE 9** from Eastern Carolina Presbytery (to CCB & OC)

2 "Revise *BCO* 9-7 to Prohibit Assistants to the Deacons from
3 Being Commissioned or Installed as Office Bearers"

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- 5 1. **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
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- 10 2. **Whereas** the PCA also believes that, the officers of the Church, by whom all its powers
11 are administered, are, according to the Scriptures, teaching and ruling elders and
12 deacons (*BCO* 1-5) and that in accord with Scripture, these offices are open to men
13 only (*BCO* 7-2); and
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- 15 3. **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
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- 18 4. **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*
20 *doctrinal 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 5. **Whereas** several churches in the PCA currently elect and commission women to the
25 office of deacon and call them by the title deacon or deaconess and allow them to
26 serve on the diaconate; and
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- 28 6. **Whereas** *BCO* 9-7, which states that women may be selected and appointed by the
29 session of a church to serve as assistants to the deacons, is often cited as pretext for
30 this practice of electing and commissioning female deacons;
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32 **Therefore**, Eastern Carolina Presbytery hereby overtures the 38th General Assembly to
33 amend *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 or**
36 **deaconesses, nor are they to be elected by the congregation nor formally**
37 **commissioned, ordained, or installed as though they were office bearers in the**
38 **church.**
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40 So that the revised version would read:

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42 9-7. It is often expedient that the Session of a church should select and appoint godly
43 men and women of the congregation to assist the deacons in caring for the sick, the
44 widows, the orphans, the prisoners, and others who may be in any distress or need.
45 **These assistants to the deacons shall not be referred to as deacons or**

1 deaconesses, nor are they to be elected by the congregation nor formally
2 commissioned, ordained, or installed as though they were office bearers in the
3 church.
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5 * Documents of Synod: Study Papers and Actions of the Reformed Presbyterian Church,
6 Evangelical Synod--1965 to 1982, pp. 476-477

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8 *Adopted by Eastern Carolina Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 23, 2010*

9 *Attested by TE D. Andrew (Andy) Jones, stated clerk*