

1 **OVERTURE 17** from Rocky Mountain Presbytery (to OC)
2 "Expand Scope of Proposed Committee on Deaconesses"
3

4 **Whereas** no conservative Presbyterian Church has addressed the issues of women in office
5 in over 20 years (OPC in 1988 at their 55th GA and the RPCES in 1977 at its 154th
6 GS); and
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8 **Whereas** at the present time, within the PCA, many are confused as to what practices
9 constitute "keeping within the bounds of orthodoxy" and which are considered as
10 having "crossed the line"; and
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12 **Whereas** some perceive irregularities of practice by various churches which appoint women
13 as non ordained deaconesses, have women teaching men in contexts (e.g., Sunday
14 School, Seminary, Church sponsored seminars, etc.) they deem contrary to 1 Timothy
15 2:11-12; and
16

17 **Whereas** our sessions and presbyteries continue to face questions such as: What does it
18 mean that women cannot teach men? May women teach Sunday School classes
19 where both men and women attend? May women teach in seminary?; and
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21 **Whereas** over the past 15 years, the PCA has witnessed churches leave the denomination over
22 these issues, both doctrinal and practical; and
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24 **Whereas** our own judicatories, session and presbyteries, continue to contend over these
25 matters; and
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27 **Whereas** the peace, purity and unity of the church is threatened by the lack of the PCA
28 addressing these issues and giving guidance to our judicatories;
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30 **Therefore**, the Rocky Mountain Presbytery requests of General Assembly that: If the 36th
31 General Assembly answers either Overture 9 and/or Overture 15 in the affirmative
32 and erects a study committee on the role of women, that this study committee's
33 mandate be expanded to include: the Scriptural teaching on the role of women in the
34 church touching on matters such as the following:

- 35 • the ordination of women to the office of deacon, stating clearly and positively, as
36 well as negatively,
- 37 • where women may and may not serve in the life of the church,
- 38 • and establishing parameters or guidelines as to the breadth and boundary
39 Scripture deems legitimate for women to teach men and be a part of leading in
40 various parts of public worship.

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42 *Adopted by Rocky Mountain Presbytery at its meeting, April 24, 2008*

43 *Attested by /s/ TE Kevin Allen, stated clerk*