

1 **OVERTURE 19** from Central Georgia Presbytery (to OC)  
2 "Decline to Elect Study Committee on Deaconesses"  
3

4 **Whereas**, two presbyteries have recently overtured the General Assembly which is  
5 scheduled to meet next month in Dallas, Texas, seeking to form a study committee  
6 for the purpose for determining whether our *Book of Church Order* (the *BCO*)  
7 should be revised to permit the ordination of women as deacons; and  
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9 **Whereas**, the same overtures further assert that if the General Assembly, with or without a  
10 study committee report, should determine that the *BCO* should not be so amended,  
11 that it then consider permitting our churches to "commission" women as deacons  
12 without ordination.  
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14 **Now therefore be it resolved by Central Georgia Presbytery** at a regular meeting held at  
15 Vineville Presbyterian Church, Macon, Georgia, as follows:  
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- 17 1. That there is no legitimate theological dispute concerning who may be ordained  
18 as a deacon inasmuch as 1 Timothy 3:12-13, and other passages, plainly provide  
19 that the office is limited by God to men only; and  
20
- 21 2. That there is no biblical warrant for establishing a process of "commissioning"  
22 people to perform the duties of an ordained deacon, or elder, so as to side step the  
23 plain limits the scripture places on who may hold such offices; and  
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- 25 3. That it has long been the policy of the PCA that "No one who holds office in the  
26 Church ought to usurp authority therein, or receive any official title of spiritual  
27 preeminence, except such as are employed in the Scriptures" *BCO* 7-3; and  
28
- 29 4. That we regard the overtures of Philadelphia and West Canada Presbyteries a  
30 clear challenge to a vital provision of the Westminster Standards which ought to  
31 be resisted and rejected without appointment of any study committee; and  
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- 33 5. That we hereby express our decided opposition to these overtures, both  
34 substantively and procedurally such that we urge the General Assembly to  
35 decline to appoint the requested study committee, to decline to amend the *BCO*,  
36 to decline to authorize a new process of "commissioning of females as deacons,"  
37 and to reaffirm its commitment to but two biblically authorized ordinary and  
38 perpetual classes of office in the church, that of elder and of deacon, both to be  
39 held only by men.  
40
- 41 6. That nothing in this Resolution is intended to oppose the authority of a Session to  
42 select and appoint godly men and women of a congregation to assist the  
43 Diaconate in caring for the sick, the widows, the orphans, the prisoners, and  
44 others who may be in any distress or need, all as currently provided by *BCO* 9-7.  
45
- 46 7. That this Resolution be spread upon the minutes of this Presbytery and a second  
47 original duly executed by our Clerk and Moderator, be forwarded immediately to  
48 the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly electronically and by regular mail.  
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50 *Adopted by Central Georgia Presbytery, at its stated meeting, May 10, 2008*

51 *Attested by /s/ TE James E. Shipley, Stated Clerk*