

1 **OVERTURE 5** from James River Presbytery (to OC, AC)  
2 “Appoint Study Committee on Role of Women in the Church”  
3

4 **Whereas,** *The Book of Church Order* follows Scripture in forbidding the ordination of  
5 women to positions of authority over men; and  
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7 **Whereas,** the PCA has faithfully held to this standard; and  
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9 **Whereas,** the PCA has struggled with the question of how women in the local church are to  
10 exercise their God-given gifts within the framework of the *BCO*; and  
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12 **Whereas,** many PCA churches are uncertain about how to use appropriately God’s gifts  
13 among the many capable women within the membership of those churches; and  
14

15 **Whereas,** in many PCA churches those gifts are under utilized;  
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17 **Now, therefore, be it resolved,** that the James River Presbytery respectfully overtures the  
18 37th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America to authorize the  
19 Moderator to appoint a study committee representing the diversity of opinion within  
20 the PCA to study and report to the 38th General Assembly on the following  
21 questions:  
22

- 23 (1) What sorts of roles may women fill in the life of the church?
- 24 (2) What are some models of local church practices that have developed as ways  
25 of employing the gifts of women in the lives of their congregations that might  
26 be exemplary and encouraging to other local churches?
- 27 (3) What elements of organization and accountability to ordained leadership can  
28 be commended to PCA churches that are consistent with the *BCO*?
- 29 (4) What modifications, if any to the *BCO* might be desirable for achieving the  
30 best utilization of the gifts of PCA women in light of the teaching of  
31 Scripture?  
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33 **And be it further resolved,** that expenses of the committee, not to exceed \$10,000, be paid  
34 out of private contributions.  
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36 *Adopted by The James River Presbytery at its stated meeting, January 17, 2009*

37 *Attested by /s/ RE Thomas A. Taylor, Jr., stated clerk*