

1 **OVERTURE 22** from Philadelphia Presbytery (to AC, OC)

2 “Establish a Study Committee Regarding *BCO* 21-5, 3rd Ordination Vow”

3 [emphasis added in the overture]

4
5 **Whereas**, the first ordination vow requires a candidate for ordination or transfer “to believe
6 in the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the
7 inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice” (*BCO* 21-5,
8 1st Vow); and

9
10 **Whereas**, the second ordination vow requires a candidate for ordination or transfer to
11 “sincerely receive and adopt the *Confession of Faith* and the *Catechisms* of this
12 church, as containing the system of doctrine taught in the Holy Scriptures; (*BCO* 21-5,
13 2nd Vow); and

14
15 **Whereas**, the third ordination vow requires a candidate for ordination or transfer to
16 “approve of the form of government and discipline of the Presbyterian Church in
17 America, in conformity with the general principles of biblical polity” (*BCO* 21-5,
18 3rd Vow); and

19
20 **Whereas**, our constitution does not clearly delineate or define “the general principles of
21 biblical polity” or their relation to male only eldership; and

22
23 **Whereas**, some candidates for ordination or transfer may come forward who understand
24 scripture to allow women to be ordained to the office of elder, contrary to *BCO* 7-2,
25 but are willing to practice their ministry in accord with *BCO* 7-2, while not believing
26 their view violates the general principles of biblical polity;

27
28 **Therefore, be it resolved** that Philadelphia Presbytery overtures 42nd GA to establish a
29 study committee in order to clarify and define the general principles of biblical polity
30 referenced in the third ordination vow (*BCO* 21-5, 3rd Vow), and their application to
31 gender and the office of elder, and to evaluate whether or not the constitution should
32 be amended and if necessary to recommend a constitutional process to that end. The
33 study committee shall have an operating budget not to exceed \$3,000.00

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35 *Adopted by the Philadelphia Presbytery at its Called Meeting, February 27, 2014*

36 *Attested by /s/ TE Gregory C. Hobaugh, stated clerk*