

1 **OVERTURE 4** from Calvary Presbytery

(to OC)

2 “Declare the Council on Biblical Manhood & Womanhood’s ‘Nashville
3 Statement’ on Biblical Sexuality as a Biblically Faithful Declaration”
4

5 **Whereas** the Council on Biblical Manhood & Womanhood’s "Nashville Statement" declares:
6

7 **Article 1**

8 WE AFFIRM that God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual,
9 procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife,
10 and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the
11 church.

12 WE DENY that God has designed marriage to be a homosexual, polygamous,
13 or polyamorous relationship. We also deny that marriage is a mere human
14 contract rather than a covenant made before God.
15

16 **Article 2**

17 WE AFFIRM that God’s revealed will for all people is chastity outside of
18 marriage and fidelity within marriage.

19 WE DENY that any affections, desires, or commitments ever justify sexual
20 intercourse before or outside marriage; nor do they justify any form of sexual
21 immorality.
22

23 **Article 3**

24 WE AFFIRM that God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his
25 own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female.

26 WE DENY that the divinely ordained differences between male and female
27 render them unequal in dignity or worth.
28

29 **Article 4**

30 WE AFFIRM that divinely ordained differences between male and female
31 reflect God’s original creation design and are meant for human good and human
32 flourishing.

33 WE DENY that such differences are a result of the Fall or are a tragedy to be
34 overcome.
35

36 **Article 5**

37 WE AFFIRM that the differences between male and female reproductive
38 structures are integral to God’s design for self-conception as male or female.

39 WE DENY that physical anomalies or psychological conditions nullify the
40 God-appointed link between biological sex and self-conception as male or
41 female.
42

43 **Article 6**

44 WE AFFIRM that those born with a physical disorder of sex development are
45 created in the image of God and have dignity and worth equal to all other image-
46 bearers. They are acknowledged by our Lord Jesus in his words about “eunuchs

1 who were born that way from their mother's womb.” With all others they are
2 welcome as faithful followers of Jesus Christ and should embrace their
3 biological sex insofar as it may be known.

4 WE DENY that ambiguities related to a person’s biological sex render one
5 incapable of living a fruitful life in joyful obedience to Christ.
6

7 **Article 7**

8 WE AFFIRM that self-conception as male or female should be defined by
9 God’s holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture.

10 WE DENY that adopting a homosexual or transgender self-conception is
11 consistent with God’s holy purposes in creation and redemption.
12

13 **Article 8**

14 WE AFFIRM that people who experience sexual attraction for the same sex
15 may live a rich and fruitful life pleasing to God through faith in Jesus Christ, as
16 they, like all Christians, walk in purity of life.

17 WE DENY that sexual attraction for the same sex is part of the natural goodness
18 of God’s original creation, or that it puts a person outside the hope of the gospel.
19

20 **Article 9**

21 WE AFFIRM that sin distorts sexual desires by directing them away from the
22 marriage covenant and toward sexual immorality— a distortion that includes
23 both heterosexual and homosexual immorality.

24 WE DENY that an enduring pattern of desire for sexual immorality justifies
25 sexually immoral behavior.
26

27 **Article 10**

28 WE AFFIRM that it is sinful to approve of homosexual immorality or
29 transgenderism and that such approval constitutes an essential departure from
30 Christian faithfulness and witness.

31 WE DENY that the approval of homosexual immorality or transgenderism is a
32 matter of moral indifference about which otherwise faithful Christians should
33 agree to disagree.
34

35 **Article 11**

36 WE AFFIRM our duty to speak the truth in love at all times, including when
37 we speak to or about one another as male or female.

38 WE DENY any obligation to speak in such ways that dishonor God’s design of
39 his image bearers as male and female.
40

41 **Article 12**

42 WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ gives both merciful pardon and
43 transforming power, and that this pardon and power enable a follower of Jesus
44 to put to death sinful desires and to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord.

45 WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ is insufficient to forgive all sexual
46 sins and to give power for holiness to every believer who feels drawn into
47 sexual sin.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43

Article 13

WE AFFIRM that the grace of God in Christ enables sinners to forsake transgender self- conceptions and by divine forbearance to accept the God-ordained link between one’s biological sex and one’s self-conception as male or female.

WE DENY that the grace of God in Christ sanctions self-conceptions that are at odds with God’s revealed will.

Article 14

WE AFFIRM that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners and that through Christ’s death and resurrection forgiveness of sins and eternal life are available to every person who repents of sin and trusts in Christ alone as Savior, Lord, and supreme treasure.

WE DENY that the Lord’s arm is too short to save or that any sinner is beyond his reach.

Therefore be it resolved that the Calvary Presbytery hereby overture the 47th General Assembly and asks it to declare the Council on Biblical Manhood & Womanhood’s "Nashville Statement" on biblical sexuality as a biblically faithful declaration and refer the “Nashville Statement” to the Committee on Discipleship Ministries for inclusion and promotion among its denominational teaching materials.

Grounds:

“The Nashville Statement,” carefully worked out by the Council on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood in 2017, is a timely statement that speaks into the current confusion surrounding gender and sexuality within the evangelical church (including the PCA) and the broader culture. Signed by many leaders within the Reformed and evangelical world, it is a balanced and biblically faithful attempt to “speak the truth in love” (Eph. 4:15) on one of the most pivotal and controversial issues facing the church today.

Additionally, “The Nashville Statement” clearly reiterates the truth of foundational passages of Scripture and our confessional understanding of marriage, gender, and sexual ethics. It affirms God’s good purpose in ordaining the binary nature of gender while bestowing His image on mankind (Gen. 1:27), His design for marriage between one biological man and one biological woman (Gen. 1:23, 24), and the sinfulness of homosexual and transgender desire as well as conduct (Mat. 15:18, 19; I Cor. 6:9-11). In addition to affirming these historic, orthodox truths, the Nashville Statement also lifts up the hope of the gospel to the sexual struggler, pointing the reader to our Lord Jesus Christ as “the double cure,” saving us both from sin’s guilt and power. Therefore, the PCA would do well to commend “The Nashville Statement” and prepare it for distribution through Committee on Discipleship Ministries.

Adopted by Calvary Presbytery at its stated meeting, October 25, 2018.
Attested by /s/ RE Melton L. Duncan, stated clerk