

**Christ Covenant EPC & Grace Lakin EPC
Overture to the 46th General Assembly**

The Presbytery of the West overtures the 46th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to amend the Book of Government 9- 3A. as follows:

<p style="text-align: center;">Current Book of Government 9-3A.</p> <p>According to Scripture, those who bear office in the Church should exhibit certain characteristics of life. This includes being above reproach, sound in the faith, wise in the things of God, and discreet in all things. Persons who fill this office should exhibit a lifestyle that is an example to all, both in and</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Proposed Book of Government 9-3A.</p> <p>“According to Scripture, those who bear office in the church shall exhibit certain characteristics of life. This includes being above reproach, sound in the faith, wise in the things of God, and discreet in all things. Persons who fill these offices shall exhibit a lifestyle that is an example to all, both in and</p>
<p>outside the Church. A congregation preparing to elect persons to this holy office should carefully study appropriate passages of Scripture relating to the Ruling Elder and be very prayerful in selecting persons to this office.</p>	<p>outside the Church. Therefore, persons eligible for church office shall conform in heart, mind, and conduct to God’s design for human sexuality, embracing with gratitude the calling of either chastity in singleness or fidelity within marriage between one man and one woman.¹ Those who profess, persist in, or identify with desires or affections contrary to God’s created order and condemned by Scripture as against nature, are disqualified² from holding office in Christ’s Church.³ A presbytery or congregation preparing to elect persons to these holy offices shall carefully study appropriate passages of Scripture relating to the Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder, and Deacon, and be very prayerful in electing persons to these offices.</p> <p>¹ See Westminster Confession of Faith 24:1</p> <p>² While these individuals are disqualified from ordination, repentant believers with such ongoing yet not embraced unnatural desires are true believers and included in Christ’s church. Likewise, by the redemption of Jesus Christ, such desires and the resulting disqualification may be removed in this life.</p> <p>³ See Romans 1:26–27 on desires contrary to God’s created order; Genesis 1–2 on the creation of male and female; Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 138-139 and 150-151 on the moral duties of Christians and the proper ordering of affections, especially for those in church leadership.</p>