

IMPLEMENTING THE NOVEMBER 2006 PRESBYTERY RESOLUTION RESPONDING TO
THE AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATION OF THE 2006 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REGARDING G-6.0106a,b & 6.0108a,b,c

The following is offered as a process for the Presbytery of Los Ranchos to follow as it implements its action of November, 2006. It is intended to guide the Presbytery, its Committee on Preparation for Ministry and its Committee on Ministry, along with Sessions, Pastor Nominating Committees, pastors, those seeking to become Inquirers, and candidates for membership in the presbytery as they seek to understand and fairly apply the Resolution approved by the Presbytery.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Those individuals seeking to become Inquirers.

- ☉ When meeting with the session and potential Inquirer for the first time, the liaison from the Committee will present to the individual and session a one page document containing a) the full resolution, b) the committee approved summary of the implications of the Resolution for the “Candidating” process--and will be prepared to answer questions regarding the information provided.
- ☉ The Clerk of Session, Moderator, and potential Inquirer will sign a document acknowledging having received the above and having had its implications explained to them.
- ☉ This document will be kept in the permanent file of the potential Inquirer.
- ☉ At the Candidate’s Final Assessment, the question required by the Resolution will be put to the Candidate by this committee. If the Candidate expresses that they are unwilling or unable to comply with the standards for ordination, the committee shall diligently inquire further into the reasons and prayerfully seek to discern its recommendation to presbytery.
- ☉ When examined on the floor of Presbytery, the Moderator of the committee shall ask, as the final question before presbytery votes (if not already asked), “Are you unable or unwilling to comply with any standards for ordination or installation in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?” If the answer is “no”, the examination is arrested and a vote taken. If the answer is “yes”, the presbytery may diligently inquire into specifics prior to arresting the exam and proceeding to a vote.

Those presently in the Process.

All Inquirers and Candidates presently under the care of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos, along with the Pastor and Clerk of Session of their home church, shall receive a copy of the Resolution, along with explanatory notes, and shall sign and return their acknowledgement to the Stated Clerk for filing.

Appeal

A candidate whom the CPM recommends not seek ordination because they cannot meet the standards set by this presbytery has the right to request an examination before the full presbytery, which alone determines “essentials” for ordination.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

☞ When meeting for the first time with the Pastor (or other pastoral) Nominating Committee [PNC] of a congregation, the liaison from the Committee on Ministry will present to the PNC a one page document containing a) the full resolution, b) the committee approved summary of the implications of the Resolution for the search process for a candidate for a Minister of Word and Sacrament position. If there are additional questions, they can be addressed to the Stated Clerk and/or Moderator of COM who will respond (in person if available and asked).

☞ The PNC shall be advised to include in the CIF, in some manner, the Presbytery's Resolution and implications for potential candidates for the position.

☞ Prior to meeting with the Credentials Committee of the Committee on Ministry, the candidate for a Call (installed, Temporary, validated) will receive a copy of the Resolution. The Credentials committee shall ask, prior to voting on whether to recommend the individual, the questions contained in the Resolution. If they answer that they are unwilling or unable to comply with any of the standards for ordination, the Credentials Committee will decide whether to proceed with a recommendation to the full Committee. If the answer is negative, the Credentials Committee will make a recommendation consistent with the policy and give the candidate the opportunity to appear before the full committee. A signed copy of the document, with the pastor's response, shall be secured by the Moderator of Credentials (or their appointee) and submitted immediately to the Stated Clerk of Presbytery for the minister's file.

FOR CONGREGATIONS AND SESSIONS

☞ Sessions (and congregations) MAY take action related to the Resolution, but are not required to do so.

☞ It is recommended that sessions be proactive in determining if and how this policy affects their process of nominating and examining candidates for the office of Elder and Deacon and might affect their calling of ministers of Word and Sacrament.

☞ Pastors and sessions are reminded that the Stated Clerk is available to meet with you as you seek to understand how this might apply in specific situations.