

POLICY REGARDING AUTHORITATIVE INTERPRETATION OF G-6.0106 A & B AND 6.0108, A, B, C.
 Adopted 11/16/2006

THE PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS, MEETING ON NOVEMBER 16, 2006, AFFIRMS THAT “THE BOOK OF CONFESSIONS AND THE FORM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE BOOK OF ORDER (INCLUDING G-6.0106 AND G-6.0108) SET FORTH THE SCRIPTURAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS FOR ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION.” THIS PRESBYTERY ALSO AFFIRMS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRESBYTERY TO DETERMINE THEIR MEMBERSHIP BY APPLYING THESE STANDARDS TO THOSE ELECTED TO OFFICE. LOS RANCHOS PRESBYTERY CONSIDERS G-6.0106A & B AND G-6.0108A, B, C ESSENTIAL STANDARDS, AND WILL SO NOTIFY CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION AND/OR MEMBERSHIP. THIS PRESBYTERY WILL CONDUCT ITS EXAMINATIONS REASONABLY, PRAYERFULLY, AND DELIBERATELY, INCLUDING IN ITS EXAMINATION THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: “ARE YOU UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO COMPLY WITH ANY STANDARDS FOR ORDINATION OR INSTALLATION IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)? IF SO, WHICH ONES?” FURTHERMORE, AS THE PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS, WE DIRECT OUR PRESBYTERY COMMITTEES AND EXPECT OUR CHURCHES TO UPHOLD THESE STANDARDS.

I/we have received a copy of the above resolution and the accompanying explanation.

Signature of Moderator of PNC: _____

Signature of Clerk of Session: _____

Signature of COM Liaison: _____

Date: _____ Church: _____

*Signature of Candidate Seeking Call: _____

Name Printed: _____

* Prior to meeting with Credentials Committee

Dear

Minister candidate seeking membership in the Presbytery of Los Ranchos
Pastor Nominating Committees & Sessions seeking temporary ministerial leadership.
Committee on Ministry

At its November 2006 meeting, the Presbytery of Los Ranchos approved a Resolution stating this presbytery's understanding of the standards for ordination and its position that it considers G-6.0106a & b and G-6.0108a, b, c to be "essential standards" for ordination.

In an effort to make sure all parties are aware of the policy, the meaning of the policy, and the possible consequences for ministers seeking membership in the presbytery, the Committee on Ministry is providing you a copy of the policy and asking that the candidating minister, the Clerk and Moderator of PNC, and the CPM Liaison all sign acknowledging receipt of these documents. This signed document will be kept in the candidate for membership's file to confirm awareness of the policy.

⇒ The Presbytery is affirming that the Constitution sets forth the standards for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and thus, that candidates for membership must first of all be familiar with those standards in answering the question posed in the policy.

⇒ The Presbytery is affirming that it understands G-6.0106a & b and G-6.0108a, b, c to be "essential". In the technical meaning of the word as used here, the inability to comply with any of the provisions contained in these designated paragraphs will almost certainly result in a vote not to sustain the examination for membership in the presbytery.

⇒ It is the responsibility of the Pastor Nominating Committee and COM liaison to make sure applicants for Calls are aware of this policy as early in the process as possible—preferably as part of the CIF. When interviewing Candidates, PNC's should raise this issue and determine whether the answer permits all parties to proceed with integrity. It is not fair to proceed through the Call process, only to discover that inability to comply is grounds for a vote not to recommend membership. Ministers who have "scruples" against any standard, and/or who are unable or unwilling to comply with G-6.0106a,b and G-6.0108a, b, c should notify the PNC immediately upon determining they are unable or unwilling to comply with one of more of the standards for ordination.

⇒ This policy will again be addressed during the Credentialing process of the COM, with the committee asking the question required by the policy. The inability to comply at this point could result in an unfavorable recommendation to the COM and/or a recommendation for interview by the full COM.

⇒ A Candidate for membership and/or the Session of the congregation seeking to call the pastor has the right to appeal to the full presbytery a negative decision by COM. Technically, presbytery does not have to grant such a request. If it does, the Candidate for membership and Session realize that any information in the ministerial candidate's file is no longer privileged and may be summarized for use before presbytery by COM in defense of its decision. Consistent with the Authoritative Interpretation, Presbytery has the final authority to determine if departure from specific Standards of the church is sufficient reason to deny membership.