

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 Inquirer/Candidate: _____

Name Printed: _____

Signature of Clerk of Session: _____

Signature of Moderator of Session: _____

Signature of CPM Liaison: _____

Date: _____

Dear

Inquirers and Candidates Under Care of the Presbytery of Los Ranchos
Sessions with Inquirers and Candidates under Care
Committee on Preparation for Ministry

At its November 2006 meeting, the Presbytery of Los Ranchos approved a Resolution stating the 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 Inquirers and Candidates, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry is providing you a copy of the policy and asking that the Inquirer/ Candidate, the Clerk and Moderator of Session, and the CPM Liaison all sign acknowledging receipt of these documents. This signed document will be kept in the Inquirer/Candidate's file to confirm that 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 ordination or membership must 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 vote not to sustain the examination for ordination or for membership in the presbytery.

⇒ It is the responsibility of Sessions and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to counsel with individuals regarding this requirement so as to have sufficient time to address concerns and/or the inability to comply. It is not fair to the Session and Inquirer/Candidate to proceed through the Care process, only to discover that their noncompliance is grounds for a vote not to sustain the final ordination Exam. Inquirers and Candidates should notify their Session immediately upon determining they are unable or unwilling to comply with one of more of the standards for ordination, especially those cited in this policy.

⇒ During a candidate's Final Assessment, they will be asked whether they are unwilling or unable to comply with any standard for ordination. The inability to comply at this point could result in the denial of being "Certified Ready to Receive a Call" and/or a recommendation to presbytery that the ordination exam not be sustained.

⇒ During the examination for ordination on the floor of presbytery, if the question in the policy has not yet been asked, the Moderator of CPM will make that question the final one asked of a Candidate.

⇒ A Candidate/Session has the right to appeal to the full presbytery a negative decision or recommendation by CPM. Technically, presbytery does not have to grant such a request. If it does, the Candidate/Session realizes that any information in the Candidate's file is no longer privileged and may be summarized for use before presbytery by CPM 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 ordination.