

POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT LANGUAGE FOR PRESBYTERY'S AI FOR ORDINATION AND MEMBERSHIP

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THE PRESBYTERY OF LOS RANCHOS, MEETING ON _____, AFFIRMS THAT THE BIBLE, THE BOOK OF CONFESSIONS AND THE BOOK OF ORDER (INCLUDING G-6.0106 AND G-6.0108¹) SET FORTH THE SCRIPTURAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS FOR ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION. LOS RANCHOS PRESBYTERY BELIEVES THE MANNER OF LIFE OF ORDAINED MINISTERS SHOULD BE A DEMONSTRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN GOSPEL IN THE CHURCH AND IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING LIVING EITHER IN FIDELITY WITHIN THE COVENANT OF MARRIAGE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN OR CHASTITY IN SINGLESNESS AND WILL SO NOTIFY CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION/INSTALLATION AND/OR MEMBERSHIP IN THE PRESBYTERY. GUIDED BY SCRIPTURE AND THE CONFESSIONS, THIS PRESBYTERY WILL PRAYERFULLY AND PASTORALLY EXAMINE EACH CANDIDATE'S CALLING, GIFTS, PREPARATION, AND SUITABILITY FOR THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICE, INCLUDING A COMMITMENT TO FULFILL ALL REQUIREMENTS AS EXPRESSED IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS OF ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION.

¹ G-6.0106 a. To those called to exercise special functions in the church —deacons, elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament— God gives suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, natural and acquired, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. They must have the approval of God's people and the concurring judgment of a governing body of the church.

~~b.—Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.~~

6.0106b Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240; 14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

¹ G-6.0108-a. the persons who serve in it as officers shall adhere to the essentials of the Reformed faith and polity as expressed in *The Book of Confessions* and the Form of Government. So far as may be possible without serious departure from these standards, without infringing on the rights and views of others, and without obstructing the constitutional governance of the church, freedom of conscience with respect to the interpretation of Scripture is to be maintained.

b. It is to be recognized, however, that in becoming a candidate or officer of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) one chooses to exercise freedom of conscience within certain bounds. His or her conscience is captive to the Word of God as interpreted in the standards of the church so long as he or she continues to seek or hold office in that body. The decision as to whether a person has departed from essentials of Reformed faith and polity is made initially by the individual concerned but ultimately becomes the responsibility of the governing body in which he or she serves. (G-1.0301; G-1.0302)¹

c. Persons seeking to be received as candidates for ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall have their attention drawn to the constitutional documents of the church including its statement on freedom of conscience. (G- 14.0304)