

**MAIN MOTION WITH COUNCIL ADDITION OF 4<sup>TH</sup> ORDINATION VOW INSERTED**

Affirming that *“The Gospel leads members to extend the fellowship of Christ to all persons.” (G-1.0302)*

The Presbytery of Los Ranchos, meeting on September 15, 2011, affirms that the Bible, The Book of Confessions and the Book of Order (including G-2.0104b and G-2.0105 <sup>1</sup> & <sup>2</sup>) 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 singleness and will so notify candidates for ordination/installation and/or membership in the presbytery. *In obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture and guided by our 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.

**MAIN MOTION WITH AMENDMENT TO STRIKE**

Affirming that *“The Gospel leads members to extend the fellowship of Christ to all persons.” (G-1.0302)*

The Presbytery of Los Ranchos, meeting on September 15, 2011, affirms that the Bible, The Book of Confessions and the Book of Order (including G-2.0104b and G-2.0105 <sup>1</sup> & <sup>2</sup>) 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 singleness~~ and will so notify candidates for ordination/installation and/or membership in the presbytery. *In obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture and guided by our 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.

**Moved: “That the Presbytery of Los Ranchos adopt the following (top) statement interpreting this presbytery’s understanding of certain behavioral expectations of members.”**

**Moved: “That the motion before the presbytery be amended by striking the phrase beginning “including living...” and ending “...chastity in singleness...” so that the paragraph would read [lower left].**

This Main Motion was presented to the May meeting of Presbytery, was interpreted as a “Controversial Issue”, and the requirements of presbytery’s policy in such instances was followed. Comments, suggested changes in wording, alternative wording, substitute motions and other input was solicited, received, and reviewed by Council. It was eventually determined that the Council preferred to bring the original document to presbytery with the addition of the language of the 4<sup>th</sup> ordination vow inserted; with an opening sentence from new Form of Government, G-1.0302; and with an amendment to strike the language of former 6.0106b.

The order will be for someone involved with the creation of the original document be invited to present a five minute argument in favor of the proposal; then a person who supports the proposed amendment will have five minutes to present arguments in favor of the amendment. The Amendment will then be on the floor for debate. When debate has concluded and a vote taken, the Main motion will then be on the floor for debate—including possible additional amendments or substitute motions.

Anyone wishing to vote by ballot needs to make the request at the beginning of debate so that tellers can be chosen and ballots made ready.

Council also reminds Presbytery that no action is required.

<sup>1</sup> G-2.0104b Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspect of life (F-1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered ministry. 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). Council shall be guided by Scripture and the confession in applying standards to individual candidates.

<sup>2</sup> G-2.0105. It is necessary to the integrity and health of the church, that the persons who serve it in ordered ministries shall adhere to the essentials of the Reformed faith and polity as expressed in this Constitution. 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. It is to be recognized, however, that in entering the ordered ministries 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 serve in ordered ministry. 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 council in which he or she is a member.