

Presbyterian USA



We are thankful to inform you that The Presbyterian Church (USA) has decided for the fourth time in twelve years to uphold the current ordination standard in its constitution (G-6.0106b). On April 25, the Presbytery of Northern Plains cast the deciding vote.

In an unprecedented vote, our own presbytery, the Presbytery of San Francisco also voted to uphold the current ordination standard and becoming one of only two presbyteries to "flip" positions in favor of keeping 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". Unfortunately, so far, many presbyteries that voted to keep this standard in 2001-2002 have voted to remove it in this round of voting, meaning that while we rejoice in this current decision to uphold "fidelity and chastity", we recognize that cultural pressures to normalize non-marital relations continues to grow within the PCUSA.

The decision by the Presbyteries gives witness to the Church's strong conviction that the Savior came to offer redemption to those held captive by any sin, including the prevailing sexual sins of our time. We have the Savior's promise that he will care for us, forgive us, and tenderly lead us to repentance. This is the standard. Our repentance and newness of life is the qualification for office in the Presbyterian Church (USA), as it is in the Church Universal. In that we rejoice. We rejoice in the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who died that we might have life abundant.

The Denominational Relations Task Force, CPC Pastors and Session continue to be actively involved in attempting to shape and monitor events as they continue to unfold. Your continued prayers are

AMENDMENT B
VOTING UPDATE AS OF 05-11-09
YES 75 NO 92

Proposed amendment at 218th GA to remove paragraph G-6.0106b that currently requires pastors, elders and deacons to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001) or chastity in singleness.