



May 11, 2011

Dear Grand Canyon Presbytery

This is to inform you that as of yesterday, a majority of Presbyteries has now approved an amendment to the church's constitution that changes our national ordination standards. This is a significant change in our church's polity. The specific wording changes are found at the bottom of this letter.

The news media is being informed of this change and you may read information that does not completely communicate what this says and means to our church. We encourage you to read the information that can be found at the attached website addresses:

oga.pcusa.org

ga.amendments@pcusa.org

- **[A Message about Amendment 10-A to the Constitution of the PC\(USA\)](#)**

The Presbytery Council has authorized a work team to organize several conversations around our presbytery over the coming weeks and summer months. Two members of Council, Rev. Doug Baer and Rev. Ed Spence, have agreed to be part of a planning team. Karen Muenich, Council moderator, is seeking additional persons to plan these gatherings. As Karen will be away for a couple of weeks, please contact her through Joe Keesecker, Temporary Stated Clerk (joe@pbygc.org) and offer to join this team. Please plan to participate. And please keep this team in your prayers.

Finally, we ask you to read the attached letter from our Interim Executive Presbyter, Dave Wasserman, as you reflect on what lies ahead for our presbytery and our church.

Our help is always in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we pray. So we live.

Sincerely,

Elder Gloria Young, Moderator, Grand Canyon Presbytery
Rev. Karen Muenich, Chair, Presbytery Council
Rev. Terry Palmer, Moderator-Elect
Rev. Joe Keesecker, Stated Clerk

Attachment- G-6.0106

**Letter from Interim Executive Presbyter
PC(USA) Press Release**

Book of Order: G-6.0106

(Paragraph A – was the only paragraph in this section until 1996)

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.

(Paragraph B – was added in 1996, and is now amended in 2011)

~~*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.*~~

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-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."