

The Session of Union Presbyterian Church respectfully submits to the Presbytery of Donegal the following overture to the 220th General Assembly:

Whereas Scripture is revered as the inspired and authoritative Word of God for His people to obey and specifically defines and blesses marriage as a oneness relationship between a man and a woman, condemns same gender sexual relationship, and calls for sexual purity; and,

Whereas the Presbyterian Church is and has been founded upon Biblical principles; and,

Whereas the current ordination standards reduce the authority of inspired Scripture to that of guidance, whereby:

the qualifications allow sexual practices that Scripture calls ungodly making it possible within the PC(USA) to be at odds in ecumenical relationships with Brothers and Sisters who stand on God's word and seek to be holy as God is holy;

said qualifications for a candidate's lifestyle no longer require sexual purity and make possible approval of life styles leading to moral confusion;

said qualifications may be applied to individuals differently between Presbyteries; and,

a lack of uniform qualifications makes it possible for an act of one council to be unacceptable throughout the whole church (F-3.0203, G-3.0101) thus further eroding the Unity of our Denomination.

Whereas the foundation of the Church cannot survive independently of God and the truths of the Bible, and whereas our civilization is doomed as were ancient civilizations that ignored God, Romans 12:2 calls us "not to be conformed to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind".

Whereas Scripture is replete with examples of compassion for others throughout both the Old (Rahab in Joshua 2:1-6:26) and the New (the adulterous woman in John 8:1-11) Testaments, we are reminded that our Lord lovingly confronted people who have gone astray and when they acknowledge their sins, repent and move back into fellowship, our Lord does not judge;

Therefore we overture the 220th General Assembly (2012) to amend the current text of G-2.0104b of the Book of Order in the following manner: (~~Text to be deleted with strike through.~~) (**Inserted text is shown in bold text.**)

b. Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects 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).

Governing bodies shall be ~~guided~~ **bound** by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards ~~to individual~~ **uniformly to all candidates who are leading a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessions 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 in chastity in singleness.**

(Revised by Overture and Amendment Committee, November 15, 2011.)
(OAR revision approved by Union Session December 5, 2011 @ regular stated meeting.)