



**“To live by Faith—to be known by Love—to declare Hope.”**

June 8, 2011

Dear Journey Church Family,

As you may know, our denomination, PCUSA, cast enough presbytery votes this past month to ratify and implement, at General Assembly in July, an amendment known as 10-A, which changes the *Book of Order* (our constitution) by removing the following wording.

**Current G-6.0106b**

*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.*

**Newly Approved Replacement G-6.0106b**

*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.14.02.0240; 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.*

Also, of note and close to being ratified is Amendment 10-1, New Form of Government (nFog) which would replace the current *Book of Order* completely. This is half of our denomination’s constitution. The other half of our constitution is *The Book of Confessions*.

Although we as a church did not make these decisions, we as members of PCUSA will be bound by them. Your session therefore feels it is imperative that all members of this church have the opportunity to fully understand the amendments and to express their opinions, concerns and feelings about their implementation. To that purpose, Journey Church session has approved a congregational town hall style meeting to be held

**June 26, 2011 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in our Sanctuary**

In preparation for that meeting we would ask you to do two things: First, hold up in prayer Journey Church, our leadership, and our denomination. Second, we strongly encourage all that have internet access to go to <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/ga219-voting-tallies-proposed-amendments/> and read for yourself the information regarding these changes, (*If you don’t have internet access, we’ll have some copies available in the office for you to read.*) then, write down your questions and thoughts, and bring them with you to the meeting.

Our desire, as your elected leaders and as fellow Christians, is to continue to serve our Savior here at Journey Church, to love each other and to respect each other’s views in the way we approach what we realize is a potentially divisive issue. Remember, the world is watching and how we respond to these issues may be even more important than the issues themselves.

In His service,

Journey Church Session 2011

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