

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SESSION RESOLUTION

JUNE 7, 2011

I. PREAMBLE

We, the duly elected and serving members of the Session of Second Presbyterian Church (Knoxville, TN), in issuing our response to the adoption by the Presbyterian Church (USA) of Amendment 10-A to the Book of Order, first affirm the following:

- 1) We are a church family that invites, welcomes and embraces all persons whom God sends our way, as visitors, enquirers or members.
- 2) We strive to be inclusive in our membership, evangelical in our community and Christian witnesses to all.
- 3) We accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ and God's Word to us.
- 4) We accept the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the historical confessions of our church.
- 5) We value Godly leaders, whom we hold to a higher standard.
- 6) We desire and intend to remain a member congregation within the Presbyterian Church (USA).

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF GODLY LEADERS

We believe all Deacons, Elders and Ministers of Second Presbyterian Church (Knoxville, TN) should exhibit the following characteristics:

All ordained leaders, male and female, are called to be set apart, living a life of holiness through the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

God seeks for His leaders to be an example for others to follow, in word and deed, through their public and private lives (1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Timothy 6:11; 1 Peter 5:1-6). Models of Jesus Christ to the church and to the world, these leaders by no means are perfect (Romans 6:1-17). Yet, they are aware of their own sin, able to discern good from evil and rely on God's mercy as they come to Him in humble repentance and faith (1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 1:9).

All ordained leaders are to live a life under the authority of and in obedience to the Scriptures.

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are inspired by God for the totality of life and are "useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). Through study, reflection and listening to these very Scriptures and by the work of the Holy Spirit, our decisions on what to do and how to live will be discerned and enacted (Psalm 19:7-11; Psalm 119: 105-112; Romans 12:1).

III. STANDARDS OF ORDINATION

Therefore, as a church seeking to remain within the Presbyterian Church (USA), we will maintain and continue to require all ordained leaders at Second Presbyterian Church to lead a life in obedience to the Scriptures and in conformity to the historical confessions of the church. Only candidates who exhibit in their personal lives and behavior adherence to Scriptural standards regarding all sins of the flesh and spirit (as noted in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and 1 Timothy 3: 1-13); and who are willing to repent and do repent of any sinful behavior, shall be eligible for ordination as Deacons, Elders or Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Leadership in the church thus is a privilege bestowed upon individuals who demonstrate and embrace such character.

As we individually and collectively fulfill our mission of moving "off the hill and into the city", we renew our commitment to being a community that believes the Gospel of Jesus Christ is powerful, beautiful, redemptive and the essence of hope for all!

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Session of Second Presbyterian Church (Knoxville, TN) at a duly called special meeting, at which a quorum was present and voting throughout, this seventh day of June, 2011.



Edwin H. Batts III
Clerk of Session



The Rev. Bryan A. Wilson
Moderator