

**STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD OF  
THE PRESBYTERIAN COALITION  
REGARDING THE COVENANT-BREAKING DECISION  
MADE IN JOHN KNOX PRESBYTERY**

John Knox Presbytery voted on Saturday, February 20, 2010 to ordain a candidate who self-acknowledges not being in compliance with the Constitutional standards for ordination in the PC(USA). The action of the presbytery, left uncorrected, breaks covenant within the church and fractures the peace, unity, and purity of the PC(USA).

Candidate Scott Anderson, both publically and reportedly in his statement of departure and declaration during an examination held in executive session, stated that his relationship with his male partner is in every way a marriage with only one exception: their inability to have biological children. The clear implication of his admission is that he is engaged in a sexual relationship that does not comply with the PC(USA) standard for ordination in G-6.0106b: “fidelity in the marriage of a man and a woman or chastity in singleness.”

The General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission has interpreted the PC(USA) constitution to disallow any governing body from granting an exemption or waiver from any mandatory provision of the constitution, including G-6.0106b. The GA PJC ruled that, “It would be an obstruction of constitutional governance to permit examining bodies to ignore or waive a specific standard that has been adopted by the whole church, such as the ‘fidelity and chastity’ portion of G-6.0106b, or any other similarly specific provision.”

Examination of candidates for ordination in our presbyteries is done in the open and is subject to the oversight of higher governing bodies. The decision by John Knox presbytery to conduct this examination in private session further corrodes trust in the church.

The Coalition Board is committed to the repair of this breach. We commit ourselves to use all available constitutional means to address this and any other similar breach in our governing bodies so as to keep covenant within the church. The Presbyterian Coalition calls on the PC(USA) to administer the discipline necessary to correct John Knox Presbytery. We also call on the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to use his office to maintain constitutional order in the face of this breach. We call on the governing bodies of our church to uphold the constitution and support those who seek to restore constitutional integrity. And we call on our fellow Presbyterians to act in every case where vows are broken and our covenant is breached.

*The Board of Directors  
February 24, 2010*