



THE
PRESBYTERIAN
COALITION



The Clear Teaching of Scripture

August 25, 2009

Dear Sarah,

Presbyterian Coalition work doesn't slow down during the lazy days of summer, and neither does our need for your involvement through prayer and financial support. In fact, your partnership is more important than ever as plans start brewing for next summer's [General Assembly](#).

Just a few days ago, the Lutheran Church (ELCA) [voted to allow](#) the ordination of clergy who are in "publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships." My dismay upon hearing this news was immediately followed by the realization that "***This could happen to us.***" Friends, let our prayers for our Lutheran brothers and sisters be joined with stronger-than-ever determination to preserve both a biblical view of marriage and our own constitutional integrity!

How Will We Answer?

Coalition leadership has been carefully monitoring the [Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage](#), which was approved by the last General Assembly and is pressing to finish its work in time for the 2010 G.A. How will we Presbyterians answer the question, "What is the place of covenanted same gender partnerships in the Christian community?" Will we, too, give in to the cultural temptation to "update" the biblical message, as though we could be wiser and more compassionate than God by approving what God seeks to redeem? Or will we hold fast to the clear teaching of Scripture? German theologian Wolfhart Pannenberg put the matter plainly when he said,

If a church were to let itself be pushed to the point where it ceased to treat homosexual activity as a departure from the biblical norm, and recognized homosexual unions as a personal partnership of love equivalent to marriage, such a church would stand no longer on biblical ground but against the unequivocal witness of Scripture. A church that took this step would cease to be the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church.

Be a Part of this Important Work

Let's work together to ensure that the PC(USA) remains true to the Gospel. Coalition leadership is already preparing for this major issue coming to the 2010 General Assembly. Our website has a growing wealth of [resources](#) that will prepare you to give witness and take action, and the October edition of our new e-newsletter, News and Action, will supply even more timely resources.

All of this requires strong financial support. We need your financial support to present a biblically faithful message with strength and effectiveness, both now and at General Assembly-and not only for the defense of marriage, but for other [critical issues](#) as well. Please:

- [Give generously](#). Every gift, whether large or small, makes a difference.
- Encourage your session to include the Coalition in your congregation's 2010 budget.
- Pray, pray, pray for the PC(USA), and for the church worldwide.

Thank you for your partnership!

Yours in Christ,

Sarah Hill, Coordinator

804-615-3243 or sarah@presbycoalition.org

