

From: The Presbyterian Coalition <office@presbycoalition.org>
Subject: News from The Presbyterian Coalition
Reply: office@presbycoalition.org



Church Court Cases Need Our Support

January 19, 2009

Dear The Presbyterian,

In addition to the attempt to remove "fidelity and chastity" (G-6.0106b) from the church's constitution, there is an active effort by some to use "scrupling" as a way around that requirement for ordination. Generous financial help from Presbyterians is needed to stop the circumvention of good and moral church law.

Currently, there are three of these cases in the courts of the church. Each case challenges action taken by a presbytery to approve a candidate who has made clear his or her intent not to comply with G-6.0106b. Each case is making its way to the General Assembly's high court, the GA-PJC.

The GA-PJC said in February of 2008 that "no presbytery may grant an exception to any mandatory church wide behavioral ordination standard." We in the Presbyterian Coalition believe the church has reason to hope that the court will repeat itself when it hears these cases. Some cases are blessed with pro bono legal services. Some are not. Each case is different and, for the sake of the church, each case must be carried forward.

Here are details of a case that needs financial support:

[The Remedial Case Naegeli et al v. San Francisco Presbytery](#) is now in full swing, with a trial date set for March 20, 2009. The Complainants, supporters of the Book of Order ordination requirement of "fidelity and chastity" (G-6.0106b), have challenged the presbytery's action in January 2008 to continue the examination of Ms. Lisa Larges after her declaration that she would not abide by G-6.0106b.

The case is before the Synod of the Pacific PJC. The Complainants are developing two legal briefs this month: the full trial brief due January 28 and the argument against a preliminary finding in support of dismissing the case, due February 5. The hearing on the dismissal motion will take place on Thursday, March 19. If the way be clear, the full trial will be the next day.

Pray that God will bless those involved in bringing the remedial case with wisdom, intelligence, and perseverance during this critical time.

The Complainants also need financial help. A minimum of \$30,000 in new funds will be required to get them through the trial phase, and more, of course, if an appeal is required. They have spent \$48,000 in legal fees so far and have \$23,000 to cover January's intense activity.

Gifts should be made out to CPC Denominational Relations, with "Legal Fund/Complaint" on the memo line. Please mail to:

Community Presbytery Church

attn: Myra Samson
222 W. El Pintado Road
Danville, CA 94526

For further information about the case, contact the Rev. Mary Holder Naegeli at revmary@mac.com, or see the article by the attorney for the complainants, linked [here](#).

Thank you for supporting this effort to retain biblical, confessional, and constitutional requirements for ordination!

Yours in Christ,

Terry Schlossberg
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Did you know that you can support The Presbyterian Coalition online? [Click here](#) for more information and a user-friendly form.