



THE
PRESBYTERIAN
COALITION



The Difference One Single Vote can Make

March 17, 2009

Dear Sarah & Keith,

The voting today stands at 46 presbyteries in favor of Amendment B and 74 opposed. Fifty-three presbyteries have yet to vote. The outcome will be determined when 87 votes have been cast for or against the amendment.

To date, three presbyteries defeated Amendment B with tie votes: Cincinnati (83-83); Central Nebraska (21-21); and Mission (181-181). Many other votes have been close. In eight of the nineteen presbyteries whose votes were reversals of their vote in 2001-02, the change was effected by fewer than ten votes. In three of the presbyteries the change was by a two vote margin.

The closeness of the voting within our presbyteries highlights the importance of showing up.

The National Korean Presbyterian Council (NKPC) has sent a letter to every congregation affirming its support for the current ordination standards. The letter urges minister and elder commissioners more strongly and urgently than ever to vote in their presbyteries. One of our Korean brothers tells the following story:

Today I received an email from a Korean pastor in the Mission Presbytery of Texas. His presbytery met for two days. He went to the opening worship on Friday evening, but had to return home because of emergency.

Next morning he hesitated whether he should go back to the presbytery meeting or not, because it was a three hours driving (one way) distance. He thought momentarily that one vote would not make much difference, but then he was reminded of how much the NKPC leadership emphasized the importance of voting, and so he drove three hours to arrive at the meeting at 9 a.m.

After heated debate, they voted. The result was 181 to 181 with 4 abstentions. The approval of the amendment was defeated. The pastor told me in his email that it was the first time in his life to experience what difference one single vote can make. He thanked the NKPC leadership for its passionate plea to vote and defeat the amendment.

Once again, our Korean brothers and sisters hold out a challenge of faithfulness and perseverance to us all.

If you are a commissioner in one of the presbyteries still to vote on Amendment B, I urge you to block out that date on your calendar, and be sure you are present and voting.

Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Yours in Christ,

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