

### Motion to Palo Duro Presbytery (Adopted Fall 2011)

Whereby the traditional language of G.6.0106b that stated, *“Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in conformity to the historic confessional standards of the church. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, or ministers of the Word and Sacrament”* is being replaced with the new standard that states *“Those who are called to ordained service in the church, by their assent to the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003), pledge themselves to live lives obedient to Jesus Christ the Head of the Church, striving to follow where he leads through the witness of the Scriptures, and to understand the Scriptures through the instruction of the Confessions. In so doing, they declare their fidelity to the standards of the Church. Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate’s sincere efforts to adhere to these standards.”*

And whereby this new standard promotes what has become known as “local option” by clearly stating that *“Each governing body charged with examination for ordination and/or installation (G-14.0240 and G-14.0450) establishes the candidate’s sincere efforts to adhere to these standards.”* **We move that Palo Duro Presbytery help clarify its standards of ethical conduct and expectations by adopting the historical “Standards of Ethical Conduct Approved by the 210<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in 1998” excluding its reference to the historical G-6.0106b that will be replaced with a reference to Romans 1:26-27 and 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 under the reference section of 1.3 “Be faithful, keeping the covenants I make and honoring marriage vows.” In addition to these changes a ninth standard will be added under the “Standards For Ordained Officers in the Presbyterian Church (USA).” Under the heading, “I will conduct my life in a manner that is faithful to the gospel and consistent with my public ministry. Therefore I will:” the new ninth standard will clearly state “Joyfully submit to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Part of this joyful submission includes living in fidelity in the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness.”**

**We also move that these Standards of Ethical Conduct will be given to every inquirer and/or candidate by the COPM who seeks ordination through Palo Duro Presbytery, and as a part of the interview process they will be asked, “As a minister of Word and Sacrament will you seek to uphold these Standards of Ethical Conduct?”**

**We also move that these standards will be given to any minister who seeks membership within the bounds of Palo Duro Presbytery by the COM, and as a part of the examination per G-11.0402 they will be asked, “As a minister of Word and Sacrament will you seek to uphold these Standards of Ethical Conduct?”**

These Standards of Ethical Conduct from the 210<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (1998) with the aforementioned changes have been adopted by our sessions to provide clarity of ethical expectations among our members and officers, and we believe these Standards of Ethical Conduct should be adopted by Palo Duro Presbytery as San Diego Presbytery has done.