

Central Florida Presbytery approved the following overture on September 13, 2011.

The Presbytery of Central Florida overtures the 220th General Assembly (2012) to direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

**Shall G-2.0104a be amended by inserting the following text:
[text to be inserted is shown as italic]**

a. To those called to exercise special functions in the church—deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders—God gives suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and the world, *including living either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity in singleness.* They must have the approval of God's people and the concurring judgment of a council of the church.

RATIONALE

Ordained persons who have abused the power of their office have harmed many in the church. This sends a strong message that such behavior will not be tolerated.

The removal of clear standards regarding sexual behavior is harmful not only to the Presbyterian Church (USA) but also to many of our ecumenical relationships.

The removal of clear standards about appropriate sexual behavior has created misrepresentation of our beliefs and persecution of Christians in parts of the world where Christians are in the minority.

The passage of Amendment 10A has been destructive to the peace, purity and unity of the church.

In a world filled with confusion about sexual ethics and commitment, the church needs to emphasize the importance of fidelity within the bonds of marriage.