

Outline for Seminar I
“What the Changes Are and How They Affect Us”

John 1:14-17

Keeping “grace and truth” together

Opening Prayer

I. Prefatory Comments

- a. Difficult conversation to have
- b. Not just about gays, but also about the approval of other forms of sexual expression outside of marriage between one man and woman.
- c. Not about “beating up” on homosexuals, bisexuals, transgender, and people who live together outside of marriage
- d. Issue affects us all
- e. People who have traditional views on these views will become increasingly marginalized

II. The Changes to the Ordination Standards of the Church

- a. The ordination standards as contained in G-6.0106b has been replaced with new language
- b. In the new language the requirement to be faithfully married in a relationship between one man and woman, or to be single and sexually abstinent, has been removed as a blanket requirement for ordination in the PCUSA.
- c. The purpose of the change is to allow for sexually active homosexual, bisexual, and transgendered people, as well as those heterosexuals who engage in a sexual relationship outside of marriage to be ordained
- d. The new language weakens the authority of Scripture.

III. How the Changes to the Ordination Standards Affect our Local Church

- a. Our church is now free to ordain people who are sexually active outside the bonds of marriage between one man and one woman
- b. We can no longer guarantee to our congregation that such ordinations won’t happen in our church.
- c. Our local church is “guilty by association.”

- d. We are now in a denomination that is clearly parting ways with the teaching of Scripture on matters of human sexuality.
- e. Such changes severely grieve the consciences of those who oppose it to the point that it adversely affects their ability extend “the right hand of fellowship” to those who are in favor of the new ordination standards in the church. This is an essential tenet for many people.
- f. It affects the kids. How do we teach our children Biblical truth on matters concerning human sexuality in a denomination that is clearly teaching them something else on these matters?