

The Session of Bethel U. P. Church respectfully requests that the Presbytery of Shenango adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS WE, THE PRESBYTERY OF SHENANGO, BELIEVE

- I. that followers of Jesus Christ are called to submit themselves to Jesus' Lordship, and that this call is especially significant for ordained leaders in Christ's Church;
- II. the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the authoritative source for discovering our Lord's will;
- III. that, with respect to human sexuality, the Scriptures call us to either fidelity within the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman, or to chastity in singleness;
- IV. that all people fail to obey the will of God in numerous ways, and that followers of Jesus are called to respond to such failings with confession and repentance, knowing the joyful assurance that in, through, and as Jesus Christ, God is most willing to forgive;
- V. that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s removal of the constitutional standard of fidelity and chastity for its ordained leaders represents a departure from the global church's historic commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Holy Scriptures;

WE THEREFORE RESOLVE TO

1. seek to build and strengthen relationships with others within the PCUSA who are also opposed to the recent passage of amendment 10A (e.g. groups such as Presbyterians for Renewal, the Presbyterian Coalition, the Global Presbyterian Fellowship, and Fellowship PCUSA);
2. direct the Council of Shenango Presbytery to propose for presbytery adoption at its Sept. 27 2011 meeting a policy to guide congregations within Shenango Presbytery who wish to explore dismissal from the PCUSA to another Reformed body with the requirement that this policy would reflect Shenango Presbytery's spirit of graciousness and collegiality, and thus not be administratively cumbersome or financially punitive.