

**RESOLUTION AFFIRMING CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARDS FOR ORDINATION-
INSTALLATION ADOPTED BY THE PRESBYTERY OF SHENANGO**

WHEREAS, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is deeply divided as to actions taken by the 2006 General Assembly, including receipt of the report of the task force on Peace, Unity and Purity, and the adoption of an “Authoritative Interpretation” which purportedly allows portions of the Constitution to be deemed “non-essential”;

WHEREAS, the Presbytery of Shenango, a constituent part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), wishes to state its position on certain points under debate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Presbytery of Shenango hereby declares that it stands by the following constitutional standards:

1. We strongly oppose any application of the “Authoritative Interpretation” which would permit Presbyteries and Sessions to consider Section G-6.0106b of the Book of Order to be “non-essential.” This section requires all who are ordained as ministers, elders or deacons to observe either chastity in singleness or fidelity within the covenant of marriage (i.e., a union between a man and a woman); and this language represents a statement of morality for those in leadership positions which must not be compromised.

2. We interpret recommendation No. 5 of the PUP Report, as amended by the 2006 General Assembly as making no change to the constitutional standards for ordination and installation, which standards are determined solely by the constitutional process of approval by the General Assembly, followed by ratification by the requisite number of presbyteries.

3. We declare that all examinations within the Presbytery of Shenango connected with ordination and installation decisions as to ministers, elders and deacons shall comply with the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including the requirements contained in Section G-6.0106b of the Book of Order. Further, we recommend that the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, the Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry and all sessions within the Presbytery conduct such examinations “reasonably, responsibly, prayerfully and deliberately,” and that each candidate for ordination/installation be asked, among other things, whether he/she has any scruples with the plain meaning of Section G-6.0106b of the Book of Order.

Adopted by the Presbytery of Shenango at a duly convened meeting held on April 24, 2007, at Tower Presbyterian Church, Grove City, Pennsylvania.