



Peace Presbyterian Church

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We, the members of Session of Peace Presbyterian Church in Elk Grove, California, affirming the Holy Bible and our Book of Order are in unity over our understanding of purity concerning the qualifications for the ordination of leaders in the Body of Christ. We hold that those who are called to exercise special functions in the church -- deacons, elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament -- God has gifted and He has called to live a life of purity through obedience to the standards found in the Holy Scriptures and in conformity to the standards of the church. One of the standards being, *"the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman (W-4.9001), or chastity of 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."*

We hold a high view of Scripture: the canon, being the inspired word of God, is reliable concerning all its teachings.

2Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete and thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2Peter 1:20-21, "First of all, you must understand this: No prophecy in Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever originated through a human decision. Instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

We hold that all of the tenants of Scripture are essential to faith and the faithful service of Jesus.

Genesis 1:27 clearly states that men and women were created in the image of God. *Isaiah 43:5-8* states that each of us are gifted by God. *Galatians 5* speaks concerning our obedience and our disobedience. It is our belief that to be in a position of leadership within any ministry it is crucial for each person to be practicing obedience to what God has declared 'righteous behavior' throughout the Holy Scriptures because Christian leaders *"shall be judged by a more severe standard than others"* according to *James 3*.

Titus 1:6-7, "An elder must be blameless. He must be the husband of one wife and have children who are believers and who are not accused of having wild lifestyles or of being rebellious. Because an overseer is God's administrator, he must be blameless."

1Timothy 1:8-11 speaks specifically about people being involved in sexual immorality as a prime example of teaching that goes against the glorious gospel.

2Peter 1:5-9, "...you must make every effort to supplement your faith with moral character, your moral character with knowledge, your knowledge with self-control, your self-control with endurance, your endurance with godliness, your godliness with brotherly kindness, and your brotherly kindness with love. For if you possess these qualities, and if they continue to increase among you, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in attaining a full knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the person who

lacks these qualities is blind and shortsighted, and has forgotten the cleansing that he has received from his past sins.”

We hold that His Will and Law is for our benefit, and therefore, we must lead by example.

2Peter 3:9, “The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some people understand slowness, but is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to perish, but wants everyone to come to repentance.”

Our Recommendation

Based on these Holy Scriptures we will continue to accept the requirements for ordination as already stated in our Book of Order without change or exemption.

...to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory, with great joy. Jude 1:24

All Holy Scripture quotations above taken from the *International Standard Version*, except James 3 taken from the *Twentieth Century New Testament*.

TAKEN FROM THE BOOK OF ORDER

G-6.0106

Chapter VI, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, *THE CHURCH AND ITS OFFICERS*

1. Offices of Ministry

Gifts and Requirements state:

a. To those called to exercise special functions in the church -- deacons, elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament -- God gives suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, natural and acquired, 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 in the world. They must have the approval of God's people and the concurring judgement of a governing body of the church.

b. 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 of 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.