



PCUSA Ordination Standards Bulletin – Session Summary

➤ ***Naegeli v. San Francisco Presbytery***

- **Case could provide definitive guidance whether it is ever proper for an ordaining body to waive mandatory ordination requirements.**
- Appeal from decision of the Synod of the Pacific scheduled to be heard on October 30, 2009, with a decision expected that same week.
- Specifically, the case could decide whether G-6.0106b is a mandatory standard that cannot be waived.

➤ **Background:**

- In January 2008, Presbytery of San Francisco considered the departure statement of clergy candidate, Lisa Larges.
- Ms. Larges is a self-identified lesbian, who is currently the director of That All May Freely Serve, an activist group in favor of gay ordination.
- Ms. Larges declared that she would neither enforce nor comply with Book of Order section G-6.0106b, the mandatory “fidelity/chastity” ordination requirement. She called it “a mar on the church and a stumbling block to its mission.”
- G-6.0106b: “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 with the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman..., or chastity in singleness.”
- By a close vote the presbytery determined that Ms. Larges’ departure was not from “an essential of Reformed faith and polity” and therefore did not disqualify her from ordained service.
- The result of the vote was challenged by a remedial complaint to the Synod of the Pacific. Trial was held in March 2009.
- The Synod overturned the vote, citing a procedural flaw not raised by either party, without commenting on the unconstitutional result, thus missing the opportunity to declare mandatory standards.

➤ **How can you help:**

- Use the Bulletin insert provided, or one of your own, to inform your congregation.
- Pray, and encourage your congregation to pray:
 - That the GAPJC will boldly declare the clear mandate of Scripture, the Confessions, and the *Book of Order* and hold that mandatory standards such as G-6.0106b cannot be waived by ordaining bodies but must be enforced throughout the CPM process
 - That the San Francisco Presbytery CPM be admonished to faithfully enforce churchwide standards
 - That the candidate removed from the roll of candidates—23 years is more than enough!
- Complainants need to raise \$60,000 to pay for the expense of trial through the appeal.
 - Send tax-deductible contributions to:

Community Presbyterian Church
attn: Myra Samson
222 W. El Pintado Road
Danville, CA 94526

- Make checks payable to “CPC-Denominational Relations”
- Put “Legal Fund-Complaint” on the memo line.