

RESOLUTION OF THE SESSION OF MANDARIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WHEREAS we believe the Holy Bible to be the infallible Word of God and the only reliable guide to Christians in matters pertaining to morality and

WHEREAS we further believe that:

"Christian marriage is an institution ordained of God, blessed by our Lord, Jesus Christ, established and sanctified for the happiness and welfare of mankind, into which spiritual and physical union one man and one woman enter, cherishing a mutual esteem and love, bearing with each other's infirmities and weaknesses, comforting each other in trouble, providing in honesty and industry for each other and for their household, praying for each other and living together the length of their days as heirs to the grace of life." (Westminster Confession of Faith, XXIV - Book of Confessions, 6.131) and

"The relationship between man and woman exemplifies in a basic way God's ordering of the interpersonal life for which he created mankind. Anarchy in sexual relationships is a symptom of man's alienation from God, his neighbor and himself.... The church, as the household of God, is called to lead men out of this alienation into the responsible freedom of the new life of Christ. Reconciled to God, each person has joy in and respect for his own humanity and that of other persons; a man and woman are enabled to marry, to commit themselves to a mutually shared life and to respond to each other in sensitive and lifelong concern; parents receive the grace to care for children in love and to nurture their individuality. The church comes under the judgement of God and invites rejection by man when it fails to lead men and women into the full meaning of life together or withholds the compassion of Christ from those caught in the moral confusion of our time." (The Confession of 1967 - Book of Confessions, 9.47) and

WHEREAS, having surveyed the congregation, we have found a majority of the respondents in agreement with this,

WE DO HEREBY RESOLVE TO CALL OURSELVES AND OUR CONGREGATION to live a life that:

- (1) Respects all family members in an atmosphere of love, forgiveness and grace and so avoids any kind of abuse of children, spouses and/or parents;
- (2) Confirms God's intention for humanity that those who enter into marriage shall seek in mutual love and respect to live, one man and one woman, in Christian fidelity as long as both shall live;
- (3) Fulfills God's design for the gift of sexuality to be exercised and enjoyed only within the covenant relationship of Christian marriage of one man and one woman;
- (4) Acknowledges God's expectation that the unmarried shall live a pure and celibate life refraining from sexual intimacy;
- (5) Obeys the voice of God through the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to extend the privilege of ordination to church office only to repentant sinners and to withhold this ordination privilege from the unrepentant whose practice of sexual sin prevents their manner of life from being "a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world" (Book of Order, G-6.0106) and

- (6) Extends to all who sin in failing to keep these revealed standards of God regarding Christian marriage and family life, human sexuality, celibate continence and ordination to church office that same forgiving love that the father extended to the prodigal son and that same costly grace which Christ himself extended to the woman taken in adultery when he said to her: "Neither do I condemn you: go and sin no more."

FOR THESE CONVICTIONS WE SHALL BAND TOGETHER FOR A PUBLIC WITNESS FOR BIBLICAL MORALITY AND FAMILY/PERSONAL RIGHTEOUSNESS IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.).

Signed this 23rd day of September, 1990.

Joseph C. Meux, Moderator

Robert W. Givens, Clerk