



A global movement of  
evangelistic presbyterians

**46-28** (to the floor)

**From the Ad-Interim Committee on Same-Sex Attraction and Ordination Standards**

Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Government* 9-3

Current Language: G. 9-3.A and B	Proposed Language: G. 9-3.A and B <b><i>additions, in bold italics,</i></b> <del>deletions</del>
<p>A. According to Scripture, those who bear office in the Church should exhibit certain characteristics of life. This includes being above reproach, sound in the faith, wise in the things of God, and discreet in all things. Persons who fill this office should exhibit a lifestyle that is an example to all, both in and outside the Church. A congregation preparing to elect persons to this holy office should carefully study appropriate passages of Scripture relating to the Ruling Elder and be very prayerful in selecting persons to this office.</p> <p>B. As the law of love places certain duties upon each Christian, Church Officers are especially bound by their calling to fulfill them and to be an example to all.</p>	<p>A. According to Scripture, those who bear office in the Church <del>should</del> <b><i>shall</i></b> exhibit certain characteristics of life. This includes being above reproach, sound in the faith, wise in the things of God, and discreet in all things. Persons who fill this office <del>should</del> <b><i>shall</i></b> exhibit a lifestyle that is an example to all, both in and outside the Church. <b><i>Whether single or married, officers must conform to the biblical requirement of chastity and sexual purity (see Westminster Larger Catechism Q&amp;A 138-139) in their descriptions of themselves, their convictions, character, and conduct.</i></b> A congregation preparing to elect persons to <del>this</del> <b><i>these</i></b> holy offices <del>should</del> <b><i>shall</i></b> carefully study appropriate passages of Scripture relating to <del>the</del> <b><i>these offices</i></b> Ruling Elder and be very prayerful in selecting persons to <del>them</del> <b><i>this</i></b> office.</p> <p>B. As the law of love places certain duties upon each Christian, Church Officers are especially bound by their calling to fulfill them and to be an example to all. <b><i>Officers in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church must be above reproach in their walk and Christlike in their character. While office bearers will see spiritual perfection only in glory, they will continue in this life to confess and to mortify remaining sins in light of God’s work of progressive sanctification. Therefore, to be qualified for office, they must affirm the sinfulness of fallen desires, the reality and hope of progressive sanctification, and be committed to the pursuit of Spirit empowered victory over their sinful temptations, inclinations, and actions.</i></b></p>