

**Common Beginning of Worship and of Church Life  
July 10, 2011**

**Procession**

**(run free with banners, scarves, ribbons, streamers, etc)**

Leader or leaders: (say or sing) Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light upon my path! Let the people now say (or sing):

**All: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light upon my path!**

Leader or leaders: (processing some steps forward) Our most loving Holy One has made this glorious new day as the world turns and as the church lives out its faithfulness.

**All: We will rejoice and be glad in the beauty of this moment for the church and the world.**

Leader or leaders: (processing again) Jesus is Word and Light, now and forever, opening our hearts, shining new light upon God's good creation.

**All: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light upon my path!**

Leader or leaders: (processing again) In a broken and fearful world, the Holy Spirit gives us courage to hear the voices of people long silenced.

**All: We rejoice that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been inspired by the Holy Spirit to hear the voices of its lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender faithful**

Leader and leaders: and to recognize that the Holy Spirit—everywhere the giver and renewer of life--calls whom God desires into the ministries of the Church.

**All: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light upon my path!**

Leader or leaders: (reaching the front of the sanctuary) God be praised that the Spirit of life in Christ has set us free from sin and death!

**All: God be praised that yet more light has broken forth from the Word, so that we may see the Spirit dwelling in all God's beloved children.**

Leader or leaders: Affirming the inherent beauty, worth and dignity of every lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and straight person,

**All: we support each person's journey of integrating spirituality and sexuality which leads to wholeness.**

Leader or leaders: Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we worship God in Christ, for

**All: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light upon my path!**

**Proclamation**  
**(to be read aloud in a dignified, prayerful fashion)**

**Today--this day, July 10, 2011--G-2.0104b enters the PCUSA Book of Order:**

Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. The council responsible for ordination and/or installation shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibility of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

**These words join the often-neglected G-2.0104a:**

To those called to exercise special functions in the church—deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders—God gives suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, 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 judgment of a council of the church.

**True to our distinctive gift to the body of Christ, we are, this day, being reformed by the living Word, Christ Jesus, to whom we most joyfully submit.**

**Prayer**

Wondrous, mighty God, You create us, redeem us and sustain us. You, through Your loving power, have brought us to this new day. Give us all we need to make real the possibilities You offer to us in these, our ordination requirements.

Keep before our eyes all the faithful Presbyterians, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender and their fierce straight loved ones who worked so hard to reform the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In our gratitude for their sacrificial witness to Your love, we will draw upon their example of courage as we move forward from this day.

May the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people among us always keep us mindful of what it is like to be in the minority. Help us exercise the responsibility of the majority with your Grace. Give us ears to hear all voices inspired by Your Spirit and hearts to craft a church that embodies Your love for all.

Led by Your Light, we strive to honor the light in all we meet. Make it be so. Amen.