

Holy Conversations Around Difficult Topics – The Amendments

Agenda

Prayer and Opening Remarks (3:00 – 10 min)	Bill Reinhold
Remarks and Dialogue (3:10 – 50 min)	Jim Randall and Ernie Thompson
Questions (4:00 – 25 min)	Submitted by Audience on Cards
Closing Hymn and Prayer (4:25 – 5 min)	Bill Reinhold
Adjourn (4:30)	

Ordination Question for Deacons, Elders and Pastors (W-4.4003)

- a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
- b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's word to you?
- g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the Church?

The Church's One Foundation

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the word;
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses with every grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

Background on Participants and Suggested Resources

Jim Randall serves as pastor of MacPherson Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville NC and he has been there since 2008. He was ordained to ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2000 after retiring from the US Army. He is a graduate of Methodist University, Union Presbyterian Seminary, and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Some resources which have been helpful to him are:

Achtemeier, Paul J. The Quest for Unity in the New Testament Church. Philadelphia: Fortress, 1987.

Gagnon, Robert A. J. The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics. Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.

Hartman, Keith. Congregations in Conflict: The Battle over Homosexuality. New Brunswick: Rutgers University, 1996.

Lebacqz, Karen and Ronald G. Barton. Sex in the Parish. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1991.

Shore, John. Unfair: Christians and the LGBT Question. John Shore, 2013.

Stott, John. Issues Facing Christians Today. 4th ed. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2006.

Via, Dan O. and Robert J. Gagnon. Homosexuality and the Bible: Two Views. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2003.

White, Mel. Stranger at the Gate: To Be Gay and Christian in America. New York: Penguin, 1994.

Yarhouse, Mark A. Homosexuality and the Christian: A Guide for Parents, Pastors, and Friends. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 2010.

Ernie Thompson serves as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington NC. He was ordained to ministry of Word and Sacrament in 1988, and has served in Wilmington since 2000. He is a graduate of the University of South Carolina, Union Presbyterian Seminary, and Columbia Theological Seminary.

Some of the resources which have been helpful to him are:

Godviews: The Convictions that Drive Us and Divide Us by Jack Haberer,

Leading From the Center: Strengthening the Pillars of the Church by William Weston,

God and the Gay Christian: The Biblical Case for Same-Sex Relationships by Matthew Vine,

Bible, Gender, Sexuality: Reframing the Church's Debate on Same Sex Relationships

by James Brownson,

A Time to Embrace: Same Gender Relationships in Religion, Law, and Politics

by William Stacy Johnson