

## OVERTURE TO AMEND THE DIRECTORY FOR WORSHIP

I move that the Session of Govans Presbyterian Church send the following recommendation to the Presbytery of Baltimore for a first reading at its June 21, 2007 Stated Meeting and a second reading and vote at its November 15, 2007 Stated Meeting:

THAT, the Presbytery of Baltimore approve the following proposed overture to the 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA 2008:

That the Directory for Worship of The Book of Order be amended in the following manner: (strike through indicates portions to be deleted; italics indicate additions)

W-4.9001      Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage is a ~~civil contract~~ *covenant* between a ~~woman and a man~~ *two people* and according to the laws of the state also constitutes a *civil contract*. For Christians marriage is a covenant through which ~~a man and a woman~~ *two people* are called to live out together before God their lives of discipleship. In a service of Christian marriage a lifelong commitment is made ~~by a woman and a man to each other~~ *between two people*, publicly witnessed and acknowledged by the community of faith.

W-4.9002            a. In preparation for the marriage service, the minister shall provide for a discussion with the ~~man and the woman~~ *two people* concerning

(The remainder of this section remains the same)

W-4.9004      The service begins with the scriptural sentences and a brief statement of purpose. The ~~man and the woman~~ *two people* shall declare their intention to enter into Christian marriage and shall exchange vows of love and faithfulness. The service includes appropriate passages of Scripture, which may be interpreted in various forms of proclamation. Prayers shall be offered for the couple, for the communities which support them in this new dimension of discipleship, and for all who seek to live in faithfulness. In the name of the triune God the minister shall declare publicly that the ~~woman and the man~~ *two people* are now joined in marriage.

(The remainder of this paragraph remains the same)

W-4.9006      A service of worship recognizing a civil marriage *or civil union* and confirming it in the community of faith may be appropriate when requested by the couple. The service will be similar to the marriage service except that the opening statement, the declaration of intention, the exchange of vows by the ~~husband and wife~~ *couple*, and the public declaration by the minister reflect the fact that the ~~woman and man~~ *two people* are already ~~married to one another~~ *united* according to the laws of the state.