

## News Release for Tres Rios Presbytery

On Friday, February 20, 2009, Tres Rios Presbytery voted on amendments to the Book of Order passed by the Presbyterian General Assembly in June, 2008. Of the eleven amendments, the one that held the most interest for the presbytery was proposed wording for ordination requirements of deacons, elders, and ministers of the word and sacrament.

The proposed wording would no longer single out one standard to be included in the Book of Order. It requires those charged with selecting officers and ministers of the word and sacraments to evaluate the entire person.

In order for the proposed wording to be adopted into the Book of Order, a majority of the 173 presbyteries across the country must vote in favor of it. If a majority does not vote in favor of the change, the current wording will stand as it is. The final outcome will not be known until May or June. Tres Rios Presbytery voted in favor of the proposed amendment. Selection of officers is made by each local congregation. Ministers of the word and sacrament are called by a local congregation, then examined and installed by the presbytery.

Votes totals for the amendments follow:

Amendment	In Favor	Opposed
Vows of Membership (G-5.0200)	13	58
Ordained Officers (G-6.0106b, G-14.1240, G-14.0450)	37	34
Replacing Sympathy with Compassion (G-6.0202b, G6.0401)	28	43
General Assembly Council Name Change (throughout Book of Order)	48	22
Nongeographic Presbyteries (G-11.0102, G12.0102k)	30	42
Presbytery Membership of Certified Christian Educators (G-11.0407, G-14.0730)	17	55
Synod Membership on Permanent Committees (G-13.0107, G-13.0108, G-13.0202a)	12	59
Five Ordination Examinations (G-14.0431)	15	59
Certified Christian Educators (G-14.0730)	14	58
Alternative Forms of Resolution (D-2.0103, D-10.0202h)	62	9
Ecumenical Statement with the Roman Catholic Church	70	3
Ecumenical Statement with the Episcopal Church	70	3
Ecumenical Statement with the Korean Presbyterian Church in America	71	1
Ecumenical Statement with the Moravian Church	69	2