

# My mind was changed.

I am a life-long conservative Presbyterian.

I never got very excited about the issue of gay and lesbian participation in ministry, simply assuming that things had been set for two thousand years.

I was so smug that I never explored God's Word on the matter any further.

Then a study of early baptismal practices led me to Acts 8 and 10. I became aware of a progression of calls for a broader inclusion in the church beginning in Luke's gospel.

Luke names Levi among the favored four. He stresses Samaritans, and talks about a "Good" Samaritan. He stresses the supernatural in Philip and the baptism of the eunuch. He lays great stress on Cornelius and the Holy Spirit falling on the Gentiles.

All of these call for the inclusion of persons formerly excluded.

I came to recognize that I was so certain in my beliefs that I never explored the true meaning behind God's Word.

Today, inspired by Galatians 3:28, I now affirm:

*All of us who have been baptized into Christ have been clothed in Christ.  
There is no issue of ethnic identity except citizenship in God's kingdom,  
no issue of servitude except the service to Christ,  
no issue of gender or sexual orientation, except the bonds of covenant faithfulness,  
for all of us are one in Christ Jesus.*

Moved by the study of Scripture, my mind was changed on the place of faithful gay and lesbian Christians in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



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## I hope you will join me in voting "yes" on Amendment 10-A.



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