

**PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA  
MARCH 12, 2011**

**Report of the Stated Clerk**

1. On January 24, 2011, I received the following letter from Clarence Maeng, minister member of the Presbytery of The Twin Cities Area:

I am writing to inform you of my decision to renounce jurisdiction of this church and be removed from the rolls. Thank you for your time and support.

I report to you that I immediately wrote to Clarence, informing him that his renunciation had been reported to the Office of the General Assembly in accordance with G-6.0701, and his name has been removed from the rolls of the Presbytery.

2. I also report to you the following Orders and Decision resulting from a disciplinary case tried by the Permanent Judicial Commission of this Presbytery on February 28, 2011, at Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, Minnesota.

**THE PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION  
PRESBYTERY OF THE TWIN CITIES AREA**

Investigating Committee, )  
PTCA

Complainant )

v. )

Erwin C. Barron, )

Respondent )

**ORDERS**

Disciplinary Case

This case was referred to the Permanent Judicial Commission by the Investigating Committee that was duly appointed by the Presbytery on October 29, 2009, in response to a complaint received about the actions of The Rev. Dr. Erwin C. Barron. The report of the Investigating Committee was submitted to the Permanent Judicial Commission on June 7, 2010.

*a. History*

The Permanent Judicial Commission finds that it has jurisdiction, that the Complainant has standing to file the case, that the case was properly and timely filed, and that the Complainant states a claim upon which relief can be granted (D-6.0305).

According to the brief submitted by the Rev. Barron's attorney, the following constitute the essential, agreed-upon facts:

On September 27, 2008, Rev. Barron married his partner, Roland Abellano in San Francisco, California. Rev. Barron's marriage was performed in accordance with, and authorized by, California law. California law specifically authorizes and empowers a "minister . . . of any religious denomination" to solemnize civil marriages for the State of California (Cal. Fam. Code §400(a)), and, consistent with California law, Rev. Barron's marriage was solemnized by a PCUSA minister at the Old First Church in San Francisco.

*b. Findings of the Investigating Committee*

The Investigating Committee found that there was probable cause that Erwin C. Barron had violated the book of order and, therefore, charged the Rev. Barron with the following offense:

On September 27, 2008, you, ERWIN C. BARRON, did marry another man which is contrary to the Constitution of the PC(USA).

*c. Recommendations of the Investigating Committee*

The Investigating Committee recommended the following:

Temporary exclusion from office until either the civil marriage of two persons of the same sex is recognized by the PC(USA) or the civil marriage between Rev. Barron and Mr. Abellano is dissolved.

*d. Orders*

At its meeting on February 28, 2011, the Permanent Judicial Commission failed to approve the following motion:

On September 27, 2008 Erwin C. Barron did marry another man which is contrary to the Constitution of the PC(USA).

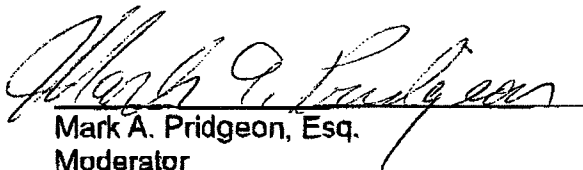
The PJC voted on the charges as submitted:  
In favor of convicting Rev. Barron of the charges – 3  
In favor of acquitting Rev. Barron of the charges – 3

Therefore Rev. Barron is acquitted.

The PPJC used as its primary authorities in deciding this issue G.6.0106b and W.4900 from the Book of Order and previous decisions by the PJC of the General Assembly (Benton, Spahr, and Southard). However, there was not agreement among the members of the PJC about the appropriate interpretations and applications of those authorities.

It is the opinion of all the PJC members that the guidance of the Book of Order on the issue of same-sex civil marriage is unclear. We believe that the church is in need of more definitive direction on this topic.

The PJC instructs the stated clerk to report on the proceedings of the trial at the next regular stated meeting, and to spread the entire Orders and Decision upon the minutes of that meeting.



Mark A. Pridgeon, Esq.  
Moderator  
Permanent Judicial Commission  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area



The Rev. Margaret Newswanger  
Clerk  
Permanent Judicial Commission  
Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area