



the call to leadership. The testing of the call to leadership roles within the church is guided by the Spirit. The Church affirms an ethic of leadership founded on unqualified love and compassion toward all people and the whole of creation. This ethic is fully expressed in the life and teaching of Jesus Christ.

- ii. Recognising that the Knox Centre for Leadership is grounded in this ethic, each congregation and presbytery is encouraged to engage with the work of the Knox Centre so as to support the development of individuals' leadership potential and strengthen leadership across the Church.
- iii. That Section 9.1(1A) is inconsistent with this ethic of leadership and be deleted from the Book of Order.

2 The reasons for the proposal are that:

- i. The Church faces challenges in finding and nurturing leaders for ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There is strength in affirming the position that we hold as a Church to respond to these challenges. We inherit traditions of leadership that are a foundation for responding to today's fast-changing Aotearoa New Zealand. The tradition includes the insight that leaders are part of the community which is the "priesthood of all believers" (1 Peter 2:9).

We share the responsibility to face the challenge of finding and nurturing leaders. Each community needs to discover what taking on this challenge means for their situation. Leadership reflects the demand for vision, accountability, character and variety.

In terms of ordained leaders, the light of the Spirit enables candidates and congregations to discern a call to ministry. It is this same light that enables presbytery to perceive the appropriateness of the candidate's character for ministry.

Some of the concrete elements of trustworthy leadership are:

- an appropriate use of power that avoids its misuse and abuse
  - a commitment to reconciliation, a willingness to be decisive without being divisive, a determination to advocate for those whose voice is not being heard
  - faithful stewardship of the resources available for mission
- ii. Ongoing support of leaders and particular encouragement of emerging or new leaders is critical for our Church. The Knox Centre for Leadership exists to support the whole Church in this.  
[www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/knox-centre-for-ministry-and-leadership](http://www.presbyterian.org.nz/national-ministries/knox-centre-for-ministry-and-leadership)
- iii. The Book of Order should be consistent with what the Church understands about God's love that encompasses all humanity. The following is not consistent with a vision that urges us to consider ethical leadership in its fullness:  
Section 9.1(1A) is "Sexual relations outside marriage -

In accordance with the supreme and subordinate standards of the Church, sessions, parish councils, presbyteries and united district councils shall not accept for training, license, ordain or induct anyone involved in a sexual relationship outside of a faithful marriage between a man and a woman. In relation to homosexuality, and the interests of natural justice, this ruling shall not prejudice anyone who, as at 29 September 2006, had been accepted for training, licensed, ordained or inducted.