

HELPFUL QUOTES ABOUT WHAT BEING A COMMISSIONER MEANS

The role of the Holy Spirit:

From *TO BE A PRESBYTERIAN*

by Louis B. Weeks:

“Presbyterians believe that church councils, confessions, and assemblies can err. But they still have more authority than does the isolated Christian. Though God alone is Lord of the conscience, Christians are to realize the power of the Spirit working within the life of the church. Such a realization brings modesty. The Christian can be made “teachable”, ready to grow in graces, with humility and willingness to listen to the true church.

In fact, the Holy Spirit gives authority to all powers recognized on earth for good.

In the words of the *Westminster Confession of Faith* as amended earlier in this century: ‘By the indwelling of the Holy Spirit all believers being vitally united to Christ, who is the head, are thus united one to another in the Church, which is his body. He calls and anoints ministers for their holy office, qualifies all other officers in the church for their special work, and imparts various gifts and graces to its members. He gives efficacy to the Word and to the ordinances of the gospel. By him the Church will be preserved, increase, purified, and at last made perfectly holy in the presence of God.’” (Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.171)

From the *Book of Order*

G1.0100b:

“It is up to Christ alone to rule, teach, call and use the Church as he wills.”

About the Relationship of belief in the work of the Holy Spirit and Commissioners:

From *Presbyterian Polity for Church Officers*

By Joan S. Gray and Joyce C. Tucker

“Our officers are commissioners because they must be free to listen for the word of Christ to his church. Thus they are independent decision makers, they can’t be bound to vote according to the wishes of those who elected them...A meeting of Commissioners is a deliberative body open to the give and take of the discussion and to the free working of the Holy Spirit. In contrast, delegates may be instructed and then obligated to act in accordance with their instructions.” (p.7)

Presbyters/commissioners are to be LEADERS in the church NOT mirrors. (G4.0301d) They finally are responsible, not to the congregation or presbytery, but to Christ for the decisions they make. (p.7&8)