

## **Presbytery of the Cascades endorses the Christian Clergy Letter**

At its stated meeting on March 12, 2016 **The Presbytery of the Cascades**, a middle governing body comprised of 101 congregations within the Synod of the Pacific of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), **voted to endorse the Clergy Letter Project and the Christian Clergy letter.**

The action was done in the spirit of faith that joyfully acknowledges

- that God brings all things into being by the Word. (W-1.2001),
- that God transcends creation and cannot be reduced to anything within it (W-1.2002),
- that God created the material universe and pronounced it good, and
- that the material world reflects the glory of God. (W-1.3031), and,
- with the understanding that in prayer we earnestly thank God for creation and providence. (W-3.3613)

Evolution has been wrongly viewed in some Christian communities as contrary to Christian beliefs. According to a Gallup Poll in May 2014, 46% of Americans think that evolution is “inconsistent with [their] religious beliefs.”

As a scientific theory based solidly on extensive scientific evidence, it has shaped our thinking in the natural sciences and has become the underlying theory for numerous medical advances. As a scientific theory it does not contradict the existence of God, but can be seen as a natural, creative process in God's creation. It is important for the Presbytery of the Cascades to be clear that people do not need to reject Evolution to affirm their faith.

The 214th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) has stated that it:

- 1.Reaffirms that God is Creator, in accordance with the witness of Scripture and the Reformed Confessions.
- 2.Reaffirms that there is no contradiction between an evolutionary theory of human origins and the doctrine of God as Creator.
- 3.Encourages State Boards of Education across the nation to establish standards for science education in public schools based on the most reliable content of scientific knowledge as determined by the scientific community.
- 4.Calls upon Presbyterian scientists and scientific educators to assist congregations, presbyteries, and the public to understand what constitutes reliable knowledge.