## Ethical Writing and Preaching

Presbyterians believe that the efficacy of preaching is the work of the Holy Spirit, not the cleverness or even the scholarship of the preacher. Thus, preaching is a regular spiritual partnership involving the preacher, the Holy Spirit, and the people of God who hear the Word and respond – not to the preacher, but to God.

Over the past decade, the development of the Internet has given rise to a vast amount of information (much of it unedited) that is accessible through a variety of technologies. With the growth of this communication medium has also grown the problem of utilizing such materials in improper ways.

The Internet is a great tool for learning and background research, but these materials must be chosen and evaluated carefully in light of our primary allegiance to Jesus Christ as Lord, the Scriptures, the Reformed tradition and the Constitution of our church. We misrepresent ourselves, as well as demean the labor of others, if we fail to make proper attribution of borrowed material.

This word from the Commission on Ministry is offered to the preachers in our Presbytery as a corrective for failures in the past. It is also an encouragement to practice excellence and integrity in the study and the pulpit. To fulfill the gospel as truly good news, it must take up residence in the preacher, the preaching, and the listening Church.