

PRESBYTERY MEETING

March 21, 2015

POSTLUDE

Stated Clerk of PC(USA) delivers morning message

By Margaret Swarts, RE St. Paul PC, Houston—Postlude Reporter

Commissioners and guests to the March meeting of New Covenant Presbytery were not daunted by the heavy spring rains on the Saturday of the presbytery meeting. Instead, sounds of laughter and joyful hellos filled the halls and rooms as commissioners greeted one another and feasted on a marvelous spread of goodies.

As the commissioners gathered for morning worship, they found themselves surrounded by great beauty and singular details of the St. Philip sanctuary. The service opened with the rich sounds of St. Philip's magnificent pipe organ and choir. The hymns, from the Presbyterian hymnal *Glory to God*, introduced many of the participants to two new hymns, "Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters" and "There in God's Garden." The anthem, "Steal Away," by the St. Philip Choir, wafted over our heads from the balcony in the back of the sanctuary, causing the preacher to begin his sermon with the comment, "Wow!"



Gradye Parsons

Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), delivered the morning's sermon, "Can Anything Good Come from the Church?" The Gospel Reading from John 1:43-51, is reminiscent of Philip's question to Nathanael, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip replies, "Come and see."

In these days when many are inclined to disregard the influence of the church, our neighbors might ask, "Can anything good come from the Church?" The quality of the church's relationship with people outside of the church is the measure of the church's faith. Many outside the church do not know what the church is about. As church members, we must "see" our unchurched neighbors and share their lives. The church's invitation should be to "come and see"... not the church, but the Christ.

The morning offering will be given to the Presbyterian Historical Society, an official organization under General Assembly since 1925. It offers many resources to assist Presbyterians with writing congregation histories and marking historical events. Grant opportunities provide financial assistance to small congregations looking to digitize church records. The offering received was \$2,352.03.

Keynote speaker passionately engages the presbytery

By RE Connie Nyquist, Clear Lake PC, Houston—Postlude Reporter

Rodger Nishioka, Benton Family Associate Professor of Christian at Columbia Theological Seminary, engaged the presbytery with energy and humor in a conversation on the topic of church growth and evangelism in the twenty-first century.

Rodger set the stage by emphasizing that the #1 reason people choose to unite with a church is



Rodger Nishioka

the *warmth factor*. We were encouraged to step outside our comfort zone and greet the newcomer in our midst. After a brief period of mixing and mingling in which we were to greet three strangers, he gathered us back to examine eight trends affecting the church today.

1. **From tribal education to immigrant education**-The immigrants in this statement are anyone who is not a part of a particular congregation. In our Presbyterian churches today, 60% were not raised Presbyterian and 15% have no prior church experience. We must not assume but rather teach the language of the church.
2. **From mission out there to mission right here**. We are losing our youth. 64% of the youth confirmed within our churches are gone shortly thereafter.
3. **From reasoned spirituality to**



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mystery-filled spirituality. Surely we want reason, but we also need to be about sharing the mystery, awe, and wonder of God.

4. **From credentialed leadership to gifted leadership.** People should be invited into leadership because of the gifts they have to share.
5. **From long term planning to short term planning.** The question is how will you respond to what is happening around you right now - not what will you do in the future?
6. **From mass evangelism to one-on-one evangelism.** Gone are the big crusades of the past. Evangelism begins with a relationship. We need to learn to speak about Jesus in relationship with another person.
7. **From high tech to high touch.** The personal touch in our interaction with others is key.
8. **From discipleship to apostleship.** We have been about growing disciples, but now we are called to move out and engage the community with the gospel.

Rodger ended by reminding us that we are called to be a part of the Mission of God. He challenged the body saying "We can do this. We are created for the proclamation of the Gospel. We are created to share the hope that only Jesus brings."

Applications for Presbytery grants

Carlton Currie reminded congregations that it is time to submit applications for funds from the Vision Initiative Grant and the Lynn Johnson Social Justice Grant. The Presbytery offers these grants for the purpose of assisting congregations to achieve dreams and visions focused on engaging their community. More information about these grants may be found on the presbytery website, www.pbyofnewcovenant.org, Look in Our Filing Cabinet in the folder, Grant Information and Application.

Deadline to submit an application is Apr. 30. Recipients of these grants will be announced at the July presbytery meeting.

State of the Presbytery

By TE Mary Currie, Postlude Reporter

By now Mike Cole should know better than to ask New Covenant presbyters a rhetorical question: "How is the state of the Presbytery like this glass of water?" From the assembly there came an answer: "Wet!" "That's Baptized!" Mike replied.

Indeed baptized might be the answer we seek, for Mike was talking about the state of our faith as a presbytery and churches. He noted that society watches our behavior and concludes what we have to share in the world today is "not-such-good" news. But we are baptized into Jesus Christ who is our message, who is our baptism. We are surrounded by a dry and parched world needing the living water of the gospel—and we don't need to be "pure" to share it. Additionally, we do need each other to deliver grace, hope, and encouragement to a world that doesn't trust people who do not trust each other. Indeed the strength of the Presbyterian system has always been that we covenant to connect with dissimilar people to do common work in the name of Jesus.

As both churches and society divide into smaller and smaller special interest groupings, we have the opportunity to show the world the strength of our bond in Jesus Christ—our baptism, if you will—is what keeps us together. We can have different opinions, yet live the reality that the 98% of what we agree on is more important than the 2% we may disagree on—and we need to be about the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Eighty-eight per cent of the "nones" (none of the above on religious surveys) are not even looking for a religious setting. Yet they **are** searching for spiritual answers. We've got to be willing to get out in that world, to care about these seekers in order to share the good news we hold. We need to look to the deepest needs of the world around us—as Jesus did. Scripture reminds us Jesus emptied himself—put everything aside to come to this world for us. We are called to do the same.

We are baptized—we hold a glass of faith—half empty or half full. We never answered that rhetorical question: We said it was wet, and even though it's not as much as we might wish, it is enough to share. Which sounds like something Jesus would expect of us.



Mike Cole

Candidate completes examination process

Candidate Jonathan Britt completed his ordination exams by preaching a sermon before the presbytery and answering questions from the Committee on Examinations. After voting to approve the sermon portion of his examination, the assembly then approved a motion to sustain his examinations in full. Congratulations, Jonathan!

Jonathan received his BA degree from Furman University, SC, in Religion/Music, and his MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary. He has been called to serve as Designated Associate Pastor at St. Thomas PC, Houston.

When Jonathan first came to Houston, he served as a Chaplain Resident at Memorial Hermann SW. He will work with the youth and the missional and congregational aspects of God's ministry at St. Thomas. His wife Allison is a Genetic Counselor for UTMB. Their dog Wrigley is training to be a Therapy Dog.



Lynn Hargrove congratulates Jonathan Britt on completing his ordination exams

Proposed amendments to the Book of Order

By Rev. Dr. Brent Hampton, Teaching Elder, Brenham PC

In all, the Presbytery of New Covenant considered seven amendments to the *Book of Order*, the second volume of our church constitution. Four came to the floor in the form of an Omnibus Motion which passed with no discussion.

14B proposed changes to the language which would more easily distinguish Ordination Exams from the examination of a candidate by the Presbytery of care.

14B.2 proposed language to present a more neutral presentation with respect to candidates for ordination as Teaching Elders whom the Presbytery of care believe are in need of alternatives to some of the requirements listed in the *Book of Order*.

14C requires all councils to adopt and implement a child protection policy, in addition to a sexual misconduct policy.

14D allows a Synod and the General Assembly to make exceptions to the current minimum of 10 Sessions and 10 TEs to constitute a presbytery.

Other proposed motions were discussed on the floor. Speakers alternated between those for and those

against each motion and each was given the same amount of time to speak.

Amendment 14A proposes that any Teaching Elder who renounced jurisdiction while in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding be barred from performing any work (paid or volunteer) in the PC(USA). This motion was lifted from the Omnibus Motion and taken up separately. After discussion, this motion failed.

Amendment 14E clarifies the language governing dialogue and interaction with persons and entities of other religious traditions. This motion passed.

Amendment 14F proposes an amendments defining marriage, expressly upholding marriage as traditionally between a man and a woman, but in terms broad enough to include same sex unions in states where such unions are legal under civil law. This amendment also gives express freedom of Spirit-led conscience to: 1) each Teaching Elder with respect to performance or non- performance of same sex marriages in states where civil law allow such unions 2) Individual sessions with respect to whether or not

such unions may take place on church property.

In both cases, nothing in the amendment itself may be used to compel the conscience of a Teaching Elder or the conscience of a particular Session to a specific interpretation of Scripture (Word of God written) on this matter; rather, each are to be guided by their discernment as the Holy Spirit leads them. After orderly and respectful discussion, this motion passed.

The Amendment to the Constitution on Marriage has received a majority vote to approve by the presbyteries. The amendment will go into effect on June 21, 2015, and will have a similar effect as the previously adopted Authoritative Interpretations passed by last year's GA. When this amendment takes effect, the Authoritative Interpretation will become null and void.

We are encouraged to continue to be in conversation about marriage and family. Hopefully, the recent voting does not mark the end, but the continuation of our desire to live in community; a partnership that requires prayer, the study of Scripture, listening to and with one another, and a dedication to partnership in the midst of our diversity of opinion.

Brief report concerning changes to Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure

The full text of Mort' McPhail's presentation to the presbytery appears on pages 6 and 7.

Commissioners to the presbytery meeting approved the first reading of the Revision to the GRDP. The second reading of the document is planned for the July 18, 2015 presbytery meeting.

In 2011, we the presbytery undertook a new approach to dealing with congregations expressing a desire to depart from the PC(USA) over matters of polity and theology. The result of this quest was the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure (GRDP) that was adopted by this Presbytery in December 2011 after much consideration, discussion, and prayer.

There are parts of the process as it was originally designed that have worked as intended and others that deserve

improvement. In particular, the initial intent of the process was to foster reconciliation first, with dismissal being an undesired, second-best outcome. This intent has not been achieved.

Further, two cases decided by the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission (GAPJC) require us to make corrections in the process in order to be in compliance with ecclesiastical law as it now stands.

Additionally, the Texas Supreme Court in two cases involving the Episcopal Church has reinterpreted previous appellate rulings on matters of property in ecclesiastical cases so that it is no longer clear to what extent

the "Trust Clause" in the *Book of Order* will be enforced by state courts in Texas. The law in this state is still in flux. There is litigation in several venues still pending, including two involving this Presbytery.

The GRDP document is available on the presbytery website in two forms. One is a "mark-up" version showing changes from the current policy and a more readable form of the final proposed document. They are located in Our Filing Cabinet in the folder "Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure."

It is the prayer of the writing team and General Council that every invocation of this procedure will lead to the path of reconciliation, but we are convinced that if we truly work together to discern God's will, God's grace and power will surround and uplift us in whatever path we take.

Honorably Retired!

TE Mark Stoub was granted Honorably Retired status. After presenting Mark a certificate and gift, Lynn Hargrove prayed and gave thanks for Mark and his ministry.

Addressing the assembly, Mark told the story of the time someone described him as a vagabond because of the many places he has served. He wasn't sure that he liked being thought of as a vagabond. "But," he said, "if true, I certainly saved the best for last!" Mark thanked the assembly for allowing him to be a colleague here. Mark will retire in Kyle, TX, (between San Marcos and Buda).



Mark Stoub

New children's curriculum

"Growing in Grace and Gratitude" is a new children's church school curriculum for ages 3-10. It will be available this fall, taking the place of "We Believe" children's resources. It is marked by 3 core values.

Rooted in the foundations of the Presbyterian identity.

Extends an invitation to discipleship that inspires children to practice hospitality, generosity, and love. Reaches beyond Sunday morning, encouraging children to live their lives as an expression of God's grace.

Learn more about the curriculum and download samples at:

www.growinggracegratitude.org

2015 Stated Presbytery Meetings

The theme of the 2015 presbytery meetings is "Engaging our Community."

TE Laurey Murphy, Moderator

Sat., July 18 – Woodlands Community PC, The Woodlands

Sat., Nov. 21 – St. John's PC, Houston

Welcome to the Six! New Faces and Old Friend

TE Dr. Charles Teykl, HR, is an "old friend." A former minister member of New Covenant, Charles is transferring from Grace Presbytery. Charles received both his MDiv and DMin degrees from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Charles was ordained in Gulf Coast Presbytery in 1961 (now New Covenant Presbytery), pastored at First PC, Rosenberg, and granted HR status here in 2003, interspersing periods in Plainview and Hurst, TX. Welcome back, Charles!

TE Ebenezer Boateng was commissioned Mar. 22 as Organizing Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of the Redeemer Ghanaian NCD. He was ordained in 2002. Ebenezer attended Akokerr, Teacher Training College and Ghana Trinity Theological Seminary. Ebenezer pastored in Pennsylvania before coming to Texas.

TE Dr. Keith Uffman is transferring from Salem Presbytery in North Carolina and has been called to serve as pastor/head-of-staff at Webster Presbyterian. He comes to New Covenant from Greensboro, NC, where he served as a pastor for almost 20 years and his wife Mary Helen taught and coached young athletes.

Keith was born and raised in Baton Rouge, LA, where he attended Louisiana State University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Finance. He studied law before earning his MDiv from Duke Divinity School and his DMin from Union Theological Seminary.

TE Dr. Young E. Song has transferred from Korean Presbyterian Church of America and is currently a Member-at-Large. He has been called to plant a new church in Katy.

Rev. Song attended Boston University School of Theology and received a Sacred Theology Degree (equivalent to a Bachelor's degree) in 1995, as well as a Master of Divinity that same year. He later received a Master of Theology and a DMin in Christian Education from Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA.

TE Ed Wolf is transferring from Grace Presbytery and has been called to serve as pastor of First PC, Galveston. Ed received a BS degree from Shippensburg University in Pennsylvania and his MDiv from Austin Presbyterian Seminary.

When asked what others might like to know about him, he answered cycling. He has ridden 300 miles in support of AIDS and 200 miles just to get to a beach! Ed and wife Shellie and daughter Abigail come to New Covenant from Flower Mound PC, TX. Born and raised in southern PA. Ed commented, "I got to Texas as fast I could!"

TE Cyndi Wunder is transferring from Cascades Presbytery where she was ordained in 2014. She has been called to serve half time as Pastor of First PC, Jasper, and half time as Director of Peace Beyond Understanding.

Cyndi received a BS degree in Psychology from the University of Maryland, University College and her MDiv in 2012 from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Cyndi finds herself often an advocate for those who are on the margins of society. She worked as a drug and alcohol counselor for 8 years. Cyndi likes to knit, crochet, and cook but has also enjoyed building cabins and living off-grid in the badlands. Currently, she is restoring a 100-year-old farmhouse. She has 2 children, Joyce and Gunther, who live in Germany.



'New Life Fund' approved

Departing congregations are asked to contribute to the ongoing life of the portion of the Body of Christ we know as Presbytery of New Covenant. A motion was approved to establish The New Life Fund with the purpose of supporting congregational vitality in the Presbytery.

The purposes of this would include but are not limited to:

- Small Church Residency Program – currently First PC, Jasper, is involved in this program that matches first-call pastors with small churches for a 2-year designated minimum. There is a \$3,000 upfront investment by the presbytery. Coaching support for the pastor plus a small grant for the congregation from PC (USA) are included. A second church is in the wings (Caldwell) and a number of other churches who could take advantage of the program in future.
- 1001 New Worshipping Communities funding paths are changing. New Guidelines mean presbyteries will need to offer a dollar-for-dollar match of second and third year grants. This could cost up to \$50,000 over the life of the grant cycle.
- New Beginnings is an assessment and coaching program of the PC(USA). Currently 6 New Covenant congregations are on this route. This is a process that leads to clarity of vision and purpose that could be incredibly helpful to many of our congregations who feel stuck. It could be especially beneficial to congregations before their decline in the congregational life cycle is so pronounced that re-energizing for transformation is all but impossible.

Postlude is published after each Stated Meeting.

Editor: RE Helen Wolf

Postlude Reporters: RE Margaret Swarts, St. Paul PC, Houston; RE Connie Nyquist, Clear PC, Houston; TE Mary Currie, Director of Adult Ministries at Clear Lake PC, Houston; TE Brent Hampton, Brenham PC; RE Mort McPhail, Northwoods PC, Houston

Photographers: James Cooper, Roderick James St. Philip PC, Houston

Circulation: Patricia Brantley and Sandra Lopez

CODA

Elder and minister commissioners received the following announcements and conducted the following additional business:

- TE Shelley Craig (HR), and Cindy Houlihan (Pines PC, Houston) were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- TE Victor Dindot, HR, is serving as Parish Associate at First PC, Navasota.
- TE Belinda Koenig, HR, is now serving as Parish Associate at Pines PC, Houston.
- Received notification that Memorial Drive PC, Houston, has voted to enter into the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Process.
- TE Katherine Doehring, United Campus Ministries-Agglieiland, was appointed to serve as a Commissioner to the Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Sun, Mar. 9-10, 2015.
- Approved the slate of 25 individuals to serve on presbytery committees.
- Granted permission to the congregation of Faith PC, Baytown, TX to elect Teaching Elder Richard Kleiman as Pastor Emeritus
- Approved the sale of the manse of First PC, Bryan.
- Approved the new Contract between TE Thomas Edward and Houston International Seafarer Center for one year, beginning 12/1/14.
- General Council has approved the pursuit of an appeal of the Summary Judgment in the lawsuit filed by First PC, Houston. The report is found on page 33-34 of the Packet.
- Approved the election of an Administrative Commission to mediate with Windwood PC, Houston, on behalf of the presbytery. The Commission is authorized to agree to a mediated settlement but shall have only limited power to agree to a court-mediated settlement. Members of the commission are: RE Shelley Hernandez, RE Jane Larkin, RE Dave Johnson, Stated Clerk Lynn Hargrove, and General Presbyter Mike Cole.
- Approved the budget for 2015.

Complete text of 'Summary of proposed changes to Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure'

By RE Mort McPhail, member of General Council and Writing Team for GRDP

In November a proposed revision of the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedures was presented to the Presbytery for first reading. Based on extensive consultations, the writing team with General Council's approval made a somewhat complex set of changes to that document. In doing so, however, the same situation arose that we faced in November: Because of the extent of the changes would have been difficult to address by applying multiple amendments at the Presbytery meeting in March, We are also concerned that trying to perfect the document with amendments from the GC as well as those that may arise from the floor will introduce still other inconsistencies. With that in mind, GC again moved to rescind the motion that presented the first reading in November and moved to reintroduce a revised GRDP for first reading at the March meeting. Both of these motions were approved.

For those who did not attend all of the meetings, a little background may be helpful.

In 2011, we the presbytery undertook a new approach to dealing with congregations expressing a desire to depart from the PC(USA) over matters of polity and theology. The result of this quest was the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure (GRDP) that was adopted by this Presbytery in December 2011 after much consideration, discussion, and prayer.

Now, more than three years later, nine congregations in this Presbytery have gone through the procedure with eight of them being dismissed to other reformed bodies. Much has been learned from these experiences. There are parts of the process as it was originally designed that have worked as intended and others that deserve improvement. In particular, the initial intent of the process was to foster reconciliation first, with dismissal being an undesired, second-best outcome. This intent has not been achieved.

Further, two cases decided by the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission (GAPJC) require us to make corrections in the process in order to be in compliance with ecclesiastical law as it now stands. Additionally, the Texas Supreme Court in two cases involving the Episcopal Church has reinterpreted previous appellate rulings on matters of property in ecclesiastical cases so that it is no longer clear to what extent the "Trust Clause" in the Book of Order will be enforced by state courts in Texas. The law in this state is still in flux. There is litigation in several venues still pending, including two involving this Presbytery.

To that end, the writing team members who were still available began meeting again in 2014 to develop a set of revisions which were presented for first reading in July last year.

Under our procedural rules, at the first reading of a proposed action (when that is required), no debate or

amendments are allowed. In preparation for the second reading and vote to be held at the November meeting, the staff and writing team hosted listening meetings which were attended by both Ruling and Teaching Elders from all over the Presbytery. Additionally, emails were received from many others describing both concerns and suggestions for revision. All of these recommendations were reviewed and still further revisions were made. Because the changes that resulted from that review were even more extensive and complex than those initially presented, it became clear that making and approving them through a series of detailed amendments would be both confusing and ineffective. Accordingly, in November General Council offered a motion to rescind the original proposal and then submitted for first reading a new revised GRDP. That revision was to come before the Presbytery last Saturday for second reading and vote.

However, since November, guidance has been received from the Office of the General Assembly legal counsel, our own legal counsel, and from several experts in church polity as it is codified in the *Book of Order*. The advice was insightful, enlightening, educational, and ... difficult. Upon considering it, it was evident that some of the language was imprecise and in some cases inconsistent. In addition to the changes made previously, some polity issues arising out of the intersection of the Book of Order and rulings by the GAPJC have been addressed. Additionally, some structural problems with the document have been corrected and some grammatical and organization issues cleaned up. It is these issues that resulted in the presentation of a new revision for first reading on Saturday.

Including the changes made in the previous proposals, the current revision includes a broad array of changes from the existing GRDP. A few of the more substantive changes are highlighted below, but for a full understanding, please consult the documents on the Presbytery website.

1) The role of Discernment Teams was expanded beyond listening and reporting. We gave the teams more active roles in the management of the process, including oversight to ensure fairness and balance in hearing from the widest possible array of viewpoints.

2) Issues raised with the legality of the procedure under our polity were of considerable concern. The focus of the concern was whether the Book of Order allows for a vote to request dismissal at a congregational meeting. In an attempt to avoid remedial complaints filed against either a session calling for such a vote, or against the presbytery for allowing such a vote, language has been introduced that describes the action as an "advisory vote" requested by the session. A congregation may make known to its session and to the presbytery its desire to be dismissed through such a vote, but

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Complete text of 'Summary of proposed changes to Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure

By RE Mort McPhail, member of General Council and Writing Team for GRDP

neither the session nor the congregation may take the action on its own without the approval of the presbytery.

3) However, the advisory vote of the assembled congregation cannot bind the session. Accordingly, the current revision refers the decision about subsequent steps back to the session following each advisory vote. Thus, once the congregation has voted about whether or not to enter the process, the session may decide to do so regardless of the outcome of the vote. It is assumed that, ordinarily, a session will not move forward in this regard in the event of a negative vote of the congregation, but the procedure does not preclude them from doing so. Similarly, following the advisory vote regarding dismissal, the session may then decide to submit a request for dismissal to the Presbytery, under the requirement that the results of the advisory vote will be reported to the Presbytery. Again, it is assumed that, ordinarily, sessions will not bring this request to the Presbytery in the absence of an advisory vote that meets the requirements established in the GRDP. If they do so, it is expected that, absent some remarkably compelling rationale, the Presbytery will refuse to grant that request.

4) The *Book of Order* and the case law are consistent in assigning to presbyteries alone the responsibility and authority to grant dismissal. Thus, the current revision contains language that makes clear this role and does not allow the process to guarantee any outcome regarding dismissal or adjudication of property other than through the Presbytery's official action.

5) One of the most difficult sticking points was the issue of financial arrangements in the event of a request for dismissal. Recent litigation in the GAPJC has made it clear that each such request must be treated independently and cannot be the result of a formulaic computation. In every case the Presbytery is charged with the duty to take cognizance of the fiduciary interests of the denomination at large. Among the initial intents of the GRDP was to provide some level of predictability for churches which sought dismissal. However, the extant situation does not permit

laying out terms in advance. Accordingly, the current revision creates two additional committees. The first of these has been named the Financial Analysis Consultation Team (FACT) separate from the Discernment Team to carry out the required analysis. The General Presbyter will appoint representatives to the FACT recommended by the Administrative Division Steering Committee with approval of the General Council. In addition, if a session should submit a request for dismissal, the General Council will appoint a Negotiation Team, which, in consultation with the FACT, will enter into negotiations with the session to propose a legally binding contract regarding financial settlement. The only required provision of the contract is that, at a minimum, it will include the offset for the actual or expected contributions to the Presbytery budget as were outlined in the existing GRDP. Of course, consistent with the second point above, the contract cannot be executed until presbytery has voted on the requested dismissal and the proposed terms, which this body might accept, reject, or return for further negotiation.

The document in two forms is available in two forms. One is a "mark-up" version showing changes from the current policy (not the ones presented in July or November) with additions in red and deletions with strike-through. However, because this sort of document is difficult to read, a more readable form of the final proposed document is also available.

It is the prayer of the writing team and General Council that every invocation of this procedure will lead to the path of reconciliation, but we are convinced that if we truly work together to discern God's will, God's grace and power will surround and uplift us in whatever path we take.



RE Mort McPhail, member of Writers Team for GRDP