

**Presbytery of New
Covenant
Stated Meeting**

June 8, 2013

Addendum Report

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The Presbytery of New Covenant

“Growing congregations that passionately engage their communities to make disciples”

Stated Meeting June 8, 2013

First Presbyterian Church, Galveston, Texas

409/762-8638

This year’s theme: Revival

Offering: To purchase a generator for our missionaries in South Sudan

9:30 am Registration Opens in Fellowship Hall

9:45 am New Commissioner Orientation in the Parlour (Room 120)

For your information, TE = Teaching Elder, RE = Ruling Elder

The Revised Docket

Please silence your devices!

9:55 am **Gathering Music**

“How Great Is Our God”

10:00 am **Call to Order/Opening Prayer**

Moderator, TE Winfield “Casey” Jones

Worship – Morning Prayer

Minute for Mission – Jacob and Aliamma George – Ministry to South Sudan
Offering – to Presbytery of New Covenant – to purchase a generator for the George’s
Music – Presbyterian Pilgrimage Community

10:35 am **Opening Business**

Declaration of Quorum and Adoption of the Docket

Welcome by host church – TE Bob Murphy, Interim Pastor

Welcome of others (First time commissioners, Corresponding Members, New Minister Members, Visitors)

Report of the Stated Clerk (B)

TE Lynn Hargrove

Administrative Commissions for Installations/Ordinations

Dismissal Recommendation: Kingwood, First

Omnibus Motion (B.1) – includes approval of minutes for 10/2012 and 3/2013

Moderator’s Remarks and Appointments

Tellers:

Nominations to Nominating Committee: 2013 - TE Debbie Measells (Brazoria, First)

11:25 am **Celebration of Ministry:** *Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services – Chuck Mendenhall*

11:30 am **Ministries Division (G)**

RE Jody Harrington

Grant Recipients

E&R/NCD – 1001 Worshipping Communities (G.1)

TE Wayne Eberly

11:50 am **Celebration of Ministry:** *Bless Friday*

RE Chuck Fox (MDPC)

11:55 am **Blessing before the Meal/Instructions**

NOON **Fellowship At Table/Open Space Conversations**

1:15 pm **Reconvening Hymn** “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

1:20 pm **Candidates Preaching for Ordination**

Three locations: sanctuary, fellowship hall, room 213 (upstairs)

Nathan Carlin (213), Andrew Keyes (Sanctuary), Keatan King (Fellowship Hall)

1:50 **Ministries Division (G)**

Outreach – report on Peru Mission Trip/prayer for CEDEPCA and youth trips

Administrative Division (C)

RE Jim Hegenbarth

Committee on Ministry (D)

RE Shelley Hernandez

Action Items

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (E)

RE Charles Dunagan

Service of Candidacy: Brandon Gaide, Sabrina Hergert, Lauren Suba, Joshua Silva-Noah

Nominating Committee (H)

RE Doug Arrick

Report of General Council (F)

RE John Jo

New Business (*only if submitted four days prior to meeting date, so it can be posted online 3 days prior to the meeting*)

Adjournment

By rule of the presbytery, no later than 4:00 pm, unless the assembly votes by a 2/3 majority to extend beyond

Following adjournment, clerks will meet for session records review in Room 110 (Library).

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Covenant will be Saturday, November 8, 2013 at Atascocita Presbyterian Church, Atascocita

For other calendar information, please check www.pbyofnewcovenant.org!

Postlude is the publication that highlights the events and business conducted at presbytery meetings. It will be posted on the presbytery’s website. Commissioners will receive an email notification when Postlude is available. Please share it with your sessions. Comments and suggestions should be directed to Helen Wolf at hwolf@pbyofnewcovenant.org.

Errata from Meeting Packet:

Page 9, Table of Motions: From Committee on Preparation for Ministry – not of page 25, May 11, 2013 Item 5 – the word “behind” should be “behalf”

Additions to the Table of Motions

From Committee on Ministry

1. The committee recommends and moves that the examination of **Andrew Keyes** candidate for ordination be sustained; nominated to serve as Designated Associate Pastor at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Missouri City, TX
2. The committee recommends and moves that the examination of **Keatan King** candidate for ordination be sustained; nominated to serve as Associate Pastor at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX
3. The committee recommends and moves that **Teaching Elder Linda Herron** be granted Honorably Retired Status effective August 1, 2013.

From Committee on Preparation for Ministry

1. That Joshua Silva-Noah (Houston, Heritage) be enrolled as a candidate.
2. That the following be elected to serve as Ordination Exam Readers for 2013 - 2014:

<p>Ruling Elders Bill Hargrove (Houston, First) Julie MacLemore (Houston, St. Philip) Bob Patterson (Houston, St. Luke’s) Jody Harrington (Houston, Memorial Drive)</p> <p>Alternate Ruling Elders Forbes Baker (Houston, Westminster) Debbie Battise Kleiman (Livingston, Indian)</p>	<p>Teaching Elders Jolene Currie (Chaplain) Kristy Vits (Bellaire, ChristChurch) Laura Grice (Member at Large) Kevin Boyd (Houston, St. Paul)</p> <p>Alternate Teaching Elders Christa Brewer (The Woodlands) Barrett Ingram (Navasota, First)</p>
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From Nominating Committee

1. To approve the nomination of TE James Currie (Pasadena, First) to the class of 2015 of the Committee on Ministry/Examinations subcommittee. This notice serves as the report of the committee, usually found under letter H.



1. Financial Implications for the Dismissal of Kingwood, First

Presbytery of the New Covenant
Attn: Mike Cole, General Presbyter

At your request, we have reviewed the following information furnished to us by First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood, Texas ("FPC Kingwood"):

1. Audited Profit and Loss Statement for the year ended December 31, 2012
2. Audited Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2012
3. Harris County Property Tax Assessed Value Statement
4. Church Mutual Insurance Company Statement of Insured Value

The purpose of our review was to determine if the payment of the dismissal contribution of \$148,000 is within the abilities of FPC Kingwood. Based on our review, and in consideration of the factors listed below, we believe that the payment of the dismissal contribution of \$148,000 will not present a financial hardship to FPC Kingwood.

Cash and cash equivalents as of December 31, 2012 were \$1,175,802

Other investments as of December 31, 2012 were \$967,613

No debt as of December 31, 2012

Church property assessed by Harris County for \$2,708,000 as of December 31, 2012

Insured value as of December 31, 2012 of \$7,674,000 for buildings and \$1,153,000 for personal property

2012 Operating revenues of \$1,821,588

We have also been asked to compute, based on the procedure enumerated below, the maximum payment which FPC Kingwood would be required to make if a verifiable and viable congregation of 25 or more members wishes to form a new development church. The procedure and our computation is shown below:

Procedure:

The total insured value of the building, property and contents is divided by the number of members to equal the "per member share" of the value of the building, property and contents. This figure will be multiplied by the number of members wishing to establish a PCUSA congregation as long as there is a verifiable and viable group of at least 25 persons. The maximum number of members allowed for the purpose of this payment is 165 (the number of "no" votes cast against seeking dismissal). The number of members in this Northeast New Church Development will be verified by the New Church Development Committee after working with this group for a minimum of two months, and shared with the session of First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood.

Computation:

Insured Value of Church:

Buildings	7,674,000
Personal Property	<u>1,153,000</u>
Total Insured Value	8,827,000
Number of Members	1,651
Insured Value per Member	5,346
Number of No Votes at Meeting	<u>165</u>
Maximum Potential Payment	<u>882,165</u>

Signed

Sandy Smith

Bill Strange

May 16, 2013



The Presbytery of the West

June 4, 2013

Rev. Lynn Hargrove
Stated Clerk
The Presbytery of New Covenant
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Re: First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood, TX (the "Church")

Dear Rev. Hargrove,

We are pleased to inform you that, pursuant to the constitution of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians ("ECO"), ECO Presbytery of the West has agreed to assume ecclesiastical authority over the First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood, TX, and their pastors, Rev. Dr. Jim Davis, pending their dismissal from the Presbytery of New Covenant.

We agree to assume such authority immediately upon the Presbytery of New Covenant's dismissal of the Church and their pastor from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to ECO.

It is our understanding that Rev. Dr. Jim Davis will continue his service to the First Presbyterian Church of Kingwood, TX. He has already completed his application and interview process with ECO Presbytery of the West, in order to facilitate the transfer.

Please be aware that we are, at the same time, agreeing to assume ecclesiastical authority over the Rev. Mark Renn, pending his dismissal from the Presbytery of South Alabama.

I truly appreciate your gracious cooperation through this process. Please contact me if any questions or concerns arise.

In His Service,

Rev. Rory A. Gillespie
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of the West
First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 958
Lamar, CO 81052

To build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ

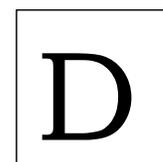
Presbytery of New Covenant, Inc. 2013 Budget

	A	B	C	D
1		CY 2013 Budget	5 Mths Actual	Variance
2	Operating Revenues:			
3	Benevolences From Churches	\$ 1,014,268	\$ 437,409	\$ 576,859
4	Per Capita	\$ 118,639	\$ 69,651	\$ 48,988
5	Rental & Interest Income	\$ 18,800	\$ 11,614	\$ 7,186
6	Contributions From Individuals	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,515	\$ 485
7	GA NCD Income	\$ 38,000	\$ 6,250	\$ 31,750
8	Synod NCD Income	\$ 14,000	\$ 3,333	\$ 10,667
9	Others & Project Support for NCD	\$ 125,684	\$ 50,372	\$ 75,312
10	Total Operating Revenues	\$ 1,331,391	\$ 580,144	\$ 751,247
11	Operating Expenses:			
12	General Council:-			
13	Benevolence to GA	\$ 13,000	\$ -	\$ 13,000
14	Benevolence to Synod	\$ 16,000	\$ -	\$ 16,000
15	Per Capita to GA (Footnote 1)	\$ 118,639	\$ 61,779	\$ 56,860
16	Audit Fees	\$ 21,000	\$ -	\$ 21,000
17	PJC Expense	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 500
18	GC Expense	\$ 2,000	\$ 384	\$ 1,616
19	Total General Council	\$ 171,139	\$ 62,163	\$ 108,976
20				
21	Ministries Division:-			
22	Scholarships	\$ 1,000	\$ 250	\$ 750
23	COM	\$ 1,500	\$ (4,645)	\$ 6,145
24	CPM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
25	Communications	\$ 13,550	\$ 5,311	\$ 8,239
26	Congregational Resourcing	\$ 15,500	\$ 535	\$ 14,965
27	Resource Center	\$ 3,500	\$ 828	\$ 2,672
28	NCD Development	\$ 207,184	\$ 66,849	\$ 140,335
29	Evangelism Committee	\$ 7,500	\$ (1,888)	\$ 9,388
30	Outreach Committee	\$ 49,000	\$ 12,336	\$ 36,664
31	Total Ministries Division	\$ 298,734	\$ 79,576	\$ 219,158
32				
33	Administrative Division:-			
34	Finance	\$ 87,050	\$ 27,572	\$ 59,478
35	Operations-Bldg. Maint.	\$ 28,067	\$ 17,167	\$ 10,900
36	Operations-ExcessCopier Leases	\$ 23,750	\$ 6,570	\$ 17,180
37	Budget	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ (500)
38	Operations-Income	\$ (600)	\$ (1,254)	\$ 654
39	Operations-Office Supply	\$ 9,400	\$ 2,317	\$ 7,083
40	Operations-Postage	\$ 12,200	\$ 3,622	\$ 8,578
41	Operations-Utilities	\$ 33,900	\$ 10,464	\$ 23,436
42	Ecclesiastical Affairs	\$ 3,200	\$ 1,278	\$ 1,922
43	Personnel	\$ 1,000	\$ 132	\$ 868
44	Compensation	\$ 422,830	\$ 175,514	\$ 247,316
45	Benefits	\$ 141,629	\$ 64,059	\$ 77,570
46	Professional Reimbursement	\$ 43,100	\$ 20,578	\$ 22,522
47	Total Administrative Division	\$ 805,526	\$ 328,519	\$ 477,007
48				
49	Total Operating Expenses	\$ 1,275,399	\$ 470,258	\$ 805,141
50				
51	Net Operating Income/(Loss)	\$ 55,992	\$ 109,886	\$ (53,894)
52				
53				
54	Footnote 1: Per Capita to GA payments (line 15) will be equal to Per Capita Revenue received from churches (line 4) for this budget year.			

Committee on Ministry

Addendum Report

June 8, 2013



I. Recommendations for Presbytery action:

A. The committee recommends and moves that the examination of **Andrew Keyes** candidate for ordination be sustained; nominated to serve as Designated Associate Pastor at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Missouri City, TX

B. The committee recommends and moves that the examination of **Keatan King** candidate for ordination be sustained; nominated to serve as Associate Pastor at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX

C. The committee recommends and moves that **Teaching Elder Linda Herron** be granted Honorably Retired Status effective August 1, 2013.

II. Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery

June 3, 2013 meeting

A. Approved Pastoral Call

1. **Candidate for ordination Andrew Keyes** called to serve as Designated Associate Pastor for 2 years effective 6/10/17 at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Missouri City, TX. **(Statement of Faith following Report)**

<i>Salary</i>	<i>\$30,000</i>
<i>Housing & Utility Allowance</i>	<i>15,000</i>
<i>Auto Allowance @ IRS Rate</i>	<i>Included</i>
<i>Books, Professional Dues</i>	<i>1,000</i>
<i>Board of Pensions Dues</i>	<i>14,850</i>
<i>Study Leave Allowance (cumulative for 3 years)</i>	<i>1,000</i>
<i>Study Leave (cumulative for 3 years)</i>	<i>2 weeks</i>
<i>Vacation</i>	<i>4 weeks</i>
<i>Moving Costs</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Annual Review</i>	<i>June 2014</i>

5/7/13 COM approved salary; 5/25/15 Committee on Examination sustained examination;
 6/3/13 COM sustained examination of Committee on Examinations. Under the care of New Covenant Presbytery. Formal Education: MDiv Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary 5/13
 BS Texas A & M University 5/10

2. **Candidate for ordination Keatan King** called to serve as Associate Pastor at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, effective 8/1/13 **(Statement of Faith following Report)**

<i>Salary</i>	<i>\$25,000</i>
<i>Housing and Utility Allowance</i>	<i>20,000</i>
<i>Auto Allowance @ IRS Rate</i>	<i>3,000</i>
<i>Books, Professional Dues</i>	<i>1,200</i>
<i>Moving Costs</i>	<i>5,000</i>
<i>Board of Pensions Dues</i>	<i>14,850</i>
<i>Study Leave Allowance (cumulative for 3 years)</i>	<i>2,450</i>
<i>Study Leave (cumulative for 3 years)</i>	<i>2 ks & 3 days 3 days for presbytery retreat</i>
<i>Vacation</i>	<i>4 weeks</i>

<i>Other paid insurance</i>	2,400
<i>Social Security Compensation (up to 8.24%)</i>	3,708
<i>Other – Housing Endowment Loan (if needed)</i>	Up to 75,000

5/7/13 COM approved salary; 5/25/15 Committee on Examination sustained examination;
6/3/13 COM sustained examination of Committee on Examinations. Under the care of Mission Presbytery.

Formal Education: MDiv Louisville Presbyterian Seminary 5/13
BS Austin College, Spanish and Cultural Anthropology 5/09

B. Approved Interim Pastor Contract

1. Teaching **Elder J. Howard Edington** called to serve as Interim Pastor at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, Houston, TX effective for 12 months, 6/17/13 – 6/16/14. **(Statement of Faith following Report)**

<i>Salary</i>	\$150,000
<i>Housing & Car Allowance – not to exceed</i>	50,000
<i>Auto by Mileage</i>	@ IRS Rate
<i>Expenses associated with the completion of mandatory Interim Pastor training, as required</i>	
<i>Board of Pensions Dues</i>	18,000
<i>Professional Development/Study Leave</i>	2 weeks/including Sundays
<i>Vacation</i>	4 weeks/including Sundays
<i>Moving Costs</i>	Yes

5/7/13 COM approved salary; 5/25/15 Committee on Examination sustained examination;
6/3/13 COM sustained examination of Committee on Examinations. Ordained 1967

Transferring from Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery

Formal Education: MDiv Louisville Presbyterian Seminary 1967
BA Rhodes College, Memphis, TN 1964

C. Approved request to be put on the Pulpit Supply List

1. Jim McLeod, HR
2. Janice Desterhaft member of South Louisiana Presbytery pending meeting with the Initial Contact team
3. Committee on Preparation for Ministry request to place Laureen Suba (Houston, St. Philip) candidate under the care of presbytery of the Pulpit Supply List.
4. Approved Pulpit Supply List Policy

The Pulpit Supply List will consist of members and candidates of New Covenant Presbytery. Others will be considered on a case by case basis by the subcommittee after a successful interview with the initial contact team. Those currently on the pulpit supply list may continue on the list.

D. Approved Parish Associate Covenant between Linda Herron and Houston, St. John’s effective 4/3/13 – 4/3/14

E. Approved Changes in Terms of Call

1. Between **John Wurster** and Houston, St. Philip effective 1/1/13

<i>Salary</i>	\$70,000	\$70,000
<i>Housing and Utility Allowance</i>	40,000	40,000
<i>Auto Allowance</i>	3,600	3,600
<i>Books, Professional Dues</i>	2,620	2,620
<i>Board of Pensions Dues Full 33%</i>	35,475	36,300

<i>Study Leave Allowance</i>	<i>cumulative for 3 years</i>	2,000	2,000
<i>Study Leave</i>	<i>cumulative for 3 years</i>	2 weeks	2 weeks
<i>Vacation</i>		4 weeks	4 weeks
<i>Other paid insurance</i>		2,672	2,672
<i>Social Security Compensation Up to 8.24%</i>		8,415	8,415
<i>Annual Review</i>			5/1/13

F. Validated Call of Candidate for Ordination

1. Candidate David Augustus has been called to serve as Associate Pastor at St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, NC, Coastal Carolina Presbytery, to ordained 7/14/13

G. Approved renewal of Interim Pastor Contract

1. Between **Jim Gill** and Baytown, Faith for six months effective 8/1/13 – 1/31/14

<i>Salary</i>		\$ 16,401.80
<i>Housing Allowance</i>		\$ 12,000.00
<i>Board of Pension Contribution</i>		9,537.59
<i>Vacation</i>		14 days
<i>Auto by Mileage Record @ IRS Rate</i>		1,500.00
<i>Books, Professional Expenses</i>		500.00
<i>*Professional Development Allowance</i>	<i>*Clergy Retreat \$125</i>	500.00
<i>*Professional Development Leave</i>	<i>*Clergy Retreat 3 days</i>	One week

H. Approved request from Houston, John Knox to call **Becky Downs** as their installed pastor effective 8/15/13.

I. Approved request from Candidate **Andrew Keyes** to be ordained in Mission Presbytery on June 30th pending approval from Mission Presbytery.

J. Granted **Brian Wiggins** permission to labor out of the bounds of New Covenant Presbytery in Mission Presbytery, Saturday, November 9, 2013 to officiate a wedding in Boerne, TX, members of Lufkin Church.

K. Approved salary and housing change for new call between **Andrew Keyes** and Missouri City from \$30,000 salary and \$15,000 housing to \$20,000 salary and \$25,000 housing; the rest of the numbers are unchanged.

L. Approved Interim Pastor Contract

1. Between Houston, Westminster and **John Hirling** for one year effective 7/1/13 – 6/30/14

<i>Salary</i>		\$ 24,934
<i>Housing Allowance</i>		\$ 16,623
<i>Social Security Allowance</i>		3,443
<i>Board of Pension Contribution</i>		14,850
<i>Vacation</i>		4 weeks
<i>Auto by Mileage Record</i>		@ IRS Rate
<i>Dental</i>		included
<i>Books, Professional Expenses</i>		1,700
<i>*Professional Development Allowance</i>	<i>*Clergy Retreat \$125</i>	500.00
<i>*Professional Development Leave</i>	<i>*Clergy Retreat 3 days</i>	two week

M. Granted permission to elect Associate Pastor PNC

1. The Woodlands

N. Approved CIF

1. Houston, Pinecrest (Part-time Designated Pastor)

BIO

LINDA A. HERRON

My husband Dan and I joined St. John's Presbyterian Church in March of 1997. He had been a Catholic and I had been a Baptist, and neither one of us felt called to the other's church. But when we joined St. John's Presbyterian Church, we were finally united on the pew, three little girls sitting between us.

I enjoyed serving in many capacities at St. John's, and in 2001 God called me to deeper service. I came under the excellent care of New Covenant's COPM and studied at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Beginning in September 2002, I lived in a little on-campus apartment while Dan kept the home fires burning in Houston. We made so many trips between the two places that we memorized all the landmarks.

After I graduated in May 2005, I came back to Houston and in August was contacted by the PNC in Palestine, Texas. I'd seen their CIF the day it came on the website that spring, and it soon became obvious it was a true call to that church.

Dan and I moved to Palestine the next February, and I preached my first sermon on Feb. 12, 2006. As time went on, everything confirmed that this church was a wonderful match for Dan and me. We were very sad when the call ended in December 2010, but we moved back to Houston and now spend lots of time with our daughters' families.

In April 2012, I became the parish associate at St. John's, working with a truly gifted pastor, Jon Burnham. I am very grateful to Jon and to the congregation for giving me a wonderful place to serve.

STATEMENTS OF FAITH

The Examinations Committee would like to remind commissioners that the Statement of Faith is a starting point for the conversation which includes questions in the areas of theology, polity, worship and sacraments, and Bible.

KEATAN KING

I believe that God is relational. Community exists within the Godhead and God's inner life is characterized by wholeness, communion, unity, and mutuality. I believe God is revelatory-God chooses to be known foremost in Christ, and in Scripture, the Confessions, Christian community, and in Creation.

I believe our Sovereign God is the creator of the universe and everything within and beyond it. Our knowledge of the Creation is not full and God is at work in ways we do not perceive. God our Creator conceives us, forms us, knows us, and has a place prepared for us on earth. The Creator creates each person in the image of God and invites all humans to honor the divine image in one another. God celebrates, blesses, and counts the days of all members of creation's lives. I believe the Creator chose Israel to enter into covenant relationship through which God blesses all families of the earth. I believe the Creator brings forth new life and fosters growth in all people.

I believe that Jesus Christ is God Incarnate and the Redeemer of all creation. I believe Jesus' ministry was one of hope, reconciliation, inclusion, love, and redemption. Through his teaching and healing ministries, Jesus demonstrated how to be in right relationship with God and with our neighbor.

Jesus established by example, not by decree, how we should live as members of the kingdom of God. Jesus called the disciples, as we are called today, through baptism to leave the former things behind and take up a new life in him. I believe that Jesus Christ was crucified, dead, and raised to eternal life. Through Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection, the creation is redeemed to God and absolutely nothing can estrange us from God's love. I believe the Risen Christ is at work in our world and calls the Church to follow and join in his on-going ministry.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is set loose in the world to stir hearts and minds for loving God and neighbor. The Holy Spirit sanctifies the faithful; comforts the oppressed and vulnerable; sustains our spiritual journeys; renews us for God's purposes; authenticates the Sacraments; reveals God's truth; and inspires us to make manifest the kingdom on earth. As the Spirit called the prophets, the Spirit opens to us new insights and fresh perspectives, calls us to continual reformation, and gives us a word to speak into the world. Scripture is a living word because the Spirit reveals Scripture's meanings to us and guides the word rightly proclaimed. I believe the Spirit transforms and equips us for the ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Creation is invited into the communion and fellowship of the Godhead and we, the created, are called to reflect the quality of relationship within the Triune God into the world.

God's presence and activity in the world are the places the Church is called to be present and active. I believe the Church is the body of Christ and the head of the Church is Jesus Christ. The Church celebrates the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as visible signs of the invisible grace of God. The Church is called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world, faithfully participating in Christ's ministry, even at the risk of losing its life, as God ushers in the kingdom on earth. As members of the body of Christ, we are called to love and serve God and neighbor and to live our life together in community. Though the Church is comprised of many traditions and communities, we are still one body called into community by God to have a healing, reconciling witness in the world. Trusting in God's faithfulness, our Christian discipleship is devoted to enacting the reign of God; we live into the hope of a world which reflects God's love, justice, and *koinonia*. In God's continuing faithfulness, God works to reconcile and renew our world; God is not finished with us.

J. HOWARD EDINGTON

Having grown up in a Presbyterian minister's home, I was surrounded completely by an atmosphere of faith in Christ and love for the Church. The things of Christ and His Church came to me as naturally as eating, sleeping, and breathing. I have never known anything else. Of course, as I grew into adulthood, my faith in Christ crystallized and my call to the ministry became the supreme driving, shaping factor in my life. For more than 45 years of serving Christ in the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, I have held fast to, and been held fast by, the great beliefs of our Presbyterian/Reformed faith.

I believe in a sovereign God. The God who spun creation into existence out of absolutely nothing is a God who exercises sovereign control not only over the vast reaches of the universe, but also the tiny beat of your heart and mine. Nothing is too big or too small for Him. No human being is beyond the reach of His saving power, and no human problem is beyond the reach of His transforming spirit.

I believe in Jesus Christ. God so loved the world, so loved you, so loved me, so loves all humankind that He sent His One and Only Son to live, to die, and to be raised again for our salvation. When Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me" – when Jesus said this, I take Him at His word. He, and He alone, is our Savior, our Lord, our best friend and our eternal hope.

I believe the Bible. I did not say, “I believe in the Bible.” I said, “I believe the Bible.” I do not worship a book; I worship the Christ. However, it is through the pages of the Bible that the Savior Christ is most clearly revealed and encountered; and it is from those pages that we draw all the instructions we ever need for living as God desires in the world. Therefore, I believe the Bible to be the inspired written Word of God, the only infallible rule for all we are to think, say, do and believe.

I believe that we are saved by grace. Wretched and sinful though we are, God in His mercy and grace extends to us a forgiveness for that sinfulness, which is unmerited, undeserved, unconditional. The horror of Christ’s death on the cross and the splendor of Christ’s resurrection from the dead combine to give us a significant life here and eternal life hereafter.

I believe that faith is a gift. It is not through my own machinations of mind and spirit that I come to believe, but only through the workings of God’s Spirit in my heart and life, turning me toward the things of Christ like a blossom is turned toward the sun to receive life-giving life.

I believe the Church to be the body of Christ. To be Christ’s hands, feet, lips, heart, and mind for the world is a high and holy privilege. While the Church is limited by the sinfulness of those of us who are part of it, nevertheless, God has chosen to work out His Word, His will, and His way through this imperfect vessel. My greatest joy in life then is to serve our Christ through His Church.

On these beliefs I stake my life. *Soli Deo Gloria*

ANDREW KEYES

I believe that God made heaven and earth, as well as everything contained within. God created humanity in the image of God for us to be in relationship with God. God is relational and communal by nature as demonstrated through the Trinity. I believe the Trinity consists of God the Father/Creator, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit which are revealed to us through the scriptures of the Old Testament and the New Testament, which serve as the ultimate authority in all matters of faith. I believe all three persons of the Trinity are involved in the work of salvation.

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who made salvation possible for humanity. God came down to humanity through Jesus Christ as an act of revelation, redemption and forgiveness. Salvation is necessary because humanity’s relationship to God became broken when humanity sinned and turned away from God. I believe this is when death and sin entered into humanity’s reality. The only way to fix this relationship with God is through a blood sacrifice, or atonement, by someone who knew no sin, Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was born from a virgin and conceived by the Holy Spirit. I believe Jesus Christ is fully human and fully divine. Jesus Christ suffered with us in His humanity, and pays for our sins by taking our place on the cross. He was crucified under the order of Pontius Pilate, and was then buried in the tomb. I believe that when Jesus died he descended into hell. In accordance with the scriptures, he rose after three days proving that sin and death no longer have the final word. He spoke to several eye witnesses, and then ascended into heaven where he is seated on the right hand of God the Father. I believe that through this act God shows God’s mercy and redeems creation. God delivers us from our bondage to sin through this loving act.

I believe Jesus Christ will come a second time for a final judgment day where the living and dead will both be judged. I believe through his life, death and resurrection, Jesus Christ fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies regarding the Messiah. Through this action, Jesus Christ also establishes a new covenant with us. I believe Jesus Christ is also the only way to salvation, and no one can come to God except through Jesus Christ. We are only able to know Jesus Christ through the Bible when the Holy Spirit removes our hardened hearts and enables us to receive the good news of Jesus Christ. I believe that we are able to bear witness to our faith in Jesus

Christ through the reading of the Word, proclaiming the Word through preaching, and also through the Word enacted and sealed through the sacraments.

I believe we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ when we take part in communion. By eating the bread and drinking the wine, we remember the new covenant that Jesus Christ made with us; we remember his life, death, resurrection, and his second coming. I believe that in the Lord’s Supper, we recognize that Christ is always with us, that we are all members of his universal church, and one day Christ will come back in glory to bring all things together in him.

I believe The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who enables humanity to believe the good news of the gospel and receive salvation through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ sent the Holy Spirit to us after his ascension, so that He might be with us throughout all ages. I believe that the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to see and understand the mind of God when we hear the Word proclaimed, hear the Word preached, and partake in the Word through the sacraments of baptism and communion.

I believe when we are baptized, we are showing an outward sign of the inward grace that we have experienced when we put our faith in God through Jesus Christ because of the revelation of the Holy Spirit. I believe that when we are baptized, we are brought into the covenant between God and the church that says our faith is in God, our sins have been washed away, and we have been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe the power of the Holy Spirit empowers the church to be a new community of the covenant, and also empowers believers to no longer be slaves to flesh. We gather together on the Lord’s Day to remember this covenant, and to bring others into this covenant through mission.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Addendum Report
June 8, 2013**



I. Recommendation for Presbytery action:

A. The committee recommends and moves that **Joshua Silva-Noah (Houston, Heritage)** be enrolled as a candidate.

B. The committee recommends and moves that the following be elected to serve as Ordination Exam Readers for 2013 - 2014:

Ruling Elders

- Bill Hargrove (Houston, First)
- Julie MacLemore (Houston, St. Philip)
- Bob Patterson (Houston, St. Luke’s)
- Jody Harrington (Houston, Memorial Drive)

Alternate Ruling Elders

- Forbes Baker (Houston, Westminster)
- Debbie Battise Kleiman (Livingston, Indian)

Teaching Elders

- Jolene Currie (Chaplain)
- Kristy Vits (Bellaire, ChristChurch)
- Laura Grice (Member at Large)
- Kevin Boyd (Houston, St. Paul)

Alternate Teaching Elders

- Christa Brewer (The Woodlands)
- Barrett Ingram (Navasota, First)

II. Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery

June 1, 2013 Meeting

A. Approved Annual Consultation for **Ray Henderson (Houston, Northwoods)** and that he continue in the process.

- B. Approved Annual Consultation for **Dan Aikins (Houston, Memorial Drive)** and that he continue in the process.
- C. Approved assessing **Charles Kelly (Houston, St. Philip)** ready to receive a call.
- D. Granted **Joshua Silva-Noah (Houston, Heritage)** permission to take all of the ordination exams.
- E. Approved transferring candidate **Will Briggs (Kingwood, First)** to the Presbytery of Philadelphia once he has transferred his membership to a church in that presbytery.
- F. Approved transferring inquirer **Craig Clarkson (Houston, First)** to Grace Presbytery once he has transferred his membership to a church in that presbytery.
- G. Granted permission to **Greg Davis (Houston, San Pablo)** to move forward in the process toward ordination
- H. Approved Annual Consultation for **Francisco Garibay (Houston, Grace)** and that he continue in the process.
- I. Granted **Francisco Garibay (Houston, Grace)** permission to take all of the ordination exams.
- J. Granted **Brandon Gaide (Houston, Memorial Drive)** permission to do CPE with Steve Spidell.

General Council Addendum Report
June 8, 2013



The following instructions were voted on at the February meeting of General Council, and have been shared with the discernment team that began its work after that date. We are sharing this with the presbytery at large.

Presbytery of New Covenant
Process Instructions for Discernment Teams

1. Presbytery of New Covenant adopted a Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure (RDP) on December 10, 2011. This procedure is designed to address the circumstances of a congregation seeking dismissal from the PCUSA. As of December 15, 2012, six churches in the Presbytery have formally requested dismissal under this procedure.
2. On October 28, 2012, in a case which originated in the Presbytery of San Francisco, the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission published a decision which sought to clarify for Presbyteries and Discernment teams, some important elements of dismissal procedures. In particular, the GAPJC decision considers how the fiduciary responsibilities of a presbytery under the Trust Clause of the Book of Order are to be discharged when dealing with church property.
3. The time may come when modifications to the PNC Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure are appropriate. In the meantime, actions taken by individual Discernment Teams engaged on behalf of specific congregations and the presbytery General Council may help to demonstrate that the fiduciary obligations of the Presbytery

were taken seriously and properly handled in each case. These same actions may also serve to underscore the “grace” in the RDP by avoiding unnecessary and costly litigation and minimizing third party involvement.

4. Therefore, actions of Discernment Teams established from December 15, 2012 forward shall include the following, which shall also be documented in a report to the Presbytery, properly minuted at a called meeting.

a. Initial charge to the Discernment Team will emphasize that in order to fulfill the constitutional responsibility of PNC, it is understood that property is in trust for the PCUSA, and the use of the property for the benefit of PCUSA must be recognized.

b. There shall be a financial evaluation, relying jointly on the resources and records of Presbytery and the congregation involved, of the proposed property transfer including

- Assessed value of the property, including land
- Whether the congregation claimed the exemption offered in the reunion of the PCUS and UPCUSA denominations in 1983
- Existing liens on the property
- Outstanding loans of the congregation
- Current financial statement – audited income statement and balance sheet of the congregation
- Insofar as practical, history of property acquisition and values

c. As the congregation moves toward the point of voting to request dismissal to another Reformed body, consideration should be given to a voluntary financial gift to the Presbytery that bears some relationship to the value of the property involved and the history of Presbytery support. This would be in addition to the payments required by the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure.

d. In order to maintain an appropriate Presbyterian witness in the area, and as an expression of our concern for the interests of the whole PC(USA), payments received by PNC from dismissed congregations, net of expenses, will be allocated 50% to New Church Development and 50% to Operating Expenses of Presbytery.

5. It is recommended that Discernment Teams established prior to this date take these actions into consideration in order to balance the fiduciary responsibility of Presbytery and the graciousness that is intended in the RDP.

6. Since the GAPJC decision and Book of Order make it clear that dismissal of congregations is to be considered and voted upon in a case-by-case basis, a motion to dismiss each congregation with property shall be presented and voted upon by the Presbytery in each request for dismissal.

Approved by General Council of the Presbytery of New Covenant

February 19, 2013