

Presbytery of New Covenant
Called Meeting
May 19, 2015
John Knox Presbyterian Church
Draft Minutes

The meeting was called to order at Noon by Moderator TE Laurey Murphy (Houston, Spring Branch).

A quorum was declared. First time commissioners were asked to stand and were welcomed with applause. TE Becky Downs offered a greeting from our host church, John Knox.

We began with worship, as Laurey lit the Christ candle. The worship bulletin will be part of the minutes in a separate document.

We act in God's name: Shall we dismiss the congregation of Windwood Presbyterian Church to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), pending completion of the transfer to that body?

RE Jane Larkin (Houston, St. Philip), chair of the Administrative Division Steering Committee and a member of the Administrative Commission for the mediation of the Windwood lawsuit, gave details about the mediated settlement.

TE Ted Foote (Bryan, First) offered a substitute motion: "That the Presbytery of New Covenant in the called meeting of May 19, 2015, prayerfully authorizes the Administrative Commission of Presbytery specifically assigned to the Windwood Presbyterian Church dispute to act for Presbytery in resolution of that dispute, consistent with the terms described in the official correspondence distributed as information prior to the meeting.

"Such action shall include, but not be limited to, ecclesiastical dismissal of the Windwood congregation to another Presbyterian/Reformed body, with the clear stipulation by Presbytery that other terms and/or conditions include a signed legal "dismissal with prejudice" by the Windwood Presbyterian Church of all claims against the Presbytery of New Covenant which the Windwood congregation has asserted in the litigation pursuant to this end."

The motion was seconded. There was discussion about the substitute motion. The substitute motion was ruled out of order.

TE Scott Harbison (Houston, St. Luke's) offered this substitute motion: To dissolve Windwood Presbyterian Church and to revert the property to their corporation. The motion was ruled out of order, and was retracted by the maker.

A question was asked by TE Dan Alexander (Waverly and Trinity) about the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure. Although it had been offered to the congregation at Windwood, they declined to engage it.

RE Jody Harrington (Houston, Memorial Drive) offered an amended motion: "Shall we dismiss the congregation of Windwood Presbyterian Church to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) and authorize the Administrative Commission of Presbytery specifically assigned to the Windwood Presbyterian Church dispute to act for Presbytery in resolution of that dispute, consistent with the terms described in the official correspondence distributed as information prior to the meeting, pending completion of the transfer to that body?" The amended motion became the main motion.

TE Jim Currie (Pasadena, First) asked if the final document(s) could be shared with the presbytery. The document(s) will appear in the packet for the July stated meeting of the presbytery.

There was further discussion about the motion, both for and against. There was a call for the question which passed.

The amended motion passed, with one dissenting vote.

TE Pat Clark (HR) offered prayer for the church, including the congregation of Windwood.

The meeting adjourned with a benedictory prayer at 1:12 pm.

The reported attendance was 153: 60 Teaching Elders; 77 Ruling Elder Commissioners; 2 Commissioned Ruling Elders; 1 Certified Church Educator; 8 Elders with privilege by virtue of office; 2 former moderators of presbytery; 1 Fellow in the NACBA; 6 visitors

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn R. Hargrove

Stated and Recording Clerk