

**ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
(formerly Coordinating Council)
Rev. Dr. James Aydelotte, Chair
April 24, 2012**

The Administrative Board of the Presbytery makes the following recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|-----------------------------|---|---------------|----------------------|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| OM | 1. | <p>THAT the Presbytery elect the following persons to serve on the Nominating Committee:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Mrs. Jane Hansel (Swannanoa, First)</td> <td style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">B</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Class of 2014</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ms. Bonnie Sanford (Shelby)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">C</td> <td>Class of 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mrs. Betty Davenport</td> <td style="text-align: center;">D</td> <td>Class of 2013</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Don Baucom (Spruce Pine, First)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">F</td> <td>Class of 2013</td> </tr> </table> | Mrs. Jane Hansel (Swannanoa, First) | B | Class of 2014 | Ms. Bonnie Sanford (Shelby) | C | Class of 2013 | Mrs. Betty Davenport | D | Class of 2013 | Mr. Don Baucom (Spruce Pine, First) | F | Class of 2013 |
| Mrs. Jane Hansel (Swannanoa, First) | B | Class of 2014 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ms. Bonnie Sanford (Shelby) | C | Class of 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mrs. Betty Davenport | D | Class of 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mr. Don Baucom (Spruce Pine, First) | F | Class of 2013 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OM | 2. | <p>THAT the Presbytery grant permission for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to be celebrated at Presbytery sponsored events and mission trips during 2012.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OM | 3. | <p>THAT the Presbytery grant permission to the North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the Pilgrimage events during 2012. (This will be administered by Presbyterian ministers for the Presbytery of WNC and surrounding Presbyteries.)</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| OM | 4. | <p>THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina concur with an agreement between the Union Mills Presbyterian Church and the Bethel Rural Community Organization in the transfer of the baptismal font currently located at the historic Bethel Presbyterian Church.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"The Session and Congregation of the Union Mills Presbyterian Church in Union Mills, N.C. request that The Bethel Rural Community Organization, (which organization currently rents the former Bethel Presbyterian Church property, which is owned by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina) agree to transfer the baptismal font currently located in the historic Bethel church, to the Union Mills church, subject to the condition that, in the event that the Union Mills congregation is dissolved, ceases to be a PC(USA) church, or otherwise obtains another suitable baptismal font, the existing font shall be returned to the historic Bethel Church. "</i></p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |

5. **THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina approve the following recommendation regarding appraisal of property:**

Whereas the Presbytery, at its meeting on July 31, 2007, *approved that in the future, should there be any recommendation concerning the dismissal of a congregation with its property, an appraisal of the property in question be obtained prior to the Presbytery's consideration of that recommendation* but did not specify how the cost of the appraisal should be met, therefore, the Presbytery of WNC now agrees that the cost of such appraisal by a reputable realtor (selected by Presbytery in consultation with that congregation) should be divided evenly between that congregation and the Presbytery.

6. **THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina approve the following recommendation regarding changes to the "Guidelines For Congregations Considering A Request To Presbytery To Be Dismissed." (Administrative Board Attachment 5)**

7. **THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina approve the following recommendation regarding preaching by its own candidates for Ordination:**

PREACHING BY CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION

One of the many requirements for ordination as a teaching elder (minister of Word and Sacrament) is training in preaching. Generally, this has been left to the seminaries, though candidates may have been afforded opportunities to preach in their home church and elsewhere. Our Presbytery's current practice is to have all candidates preach a sermon before Presbytery, and then answer any questions from the floor before a vote is taken to approve ordination (and perhaps installation).

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry has recently agreed that, before it has "certified a candidate ready for examination for ordination, pending a call" (BO: G-6.2.0607), it will have heard that candidate preach a sermon before the committee and offer that person extensive, helpful advice on preaching.

It should be remembered that candidates under care of our Presbytery are very well known to all members of the CPM, one of whom is appointed a mentor to make frequent contact with each candidate. The CPM, on behalf of Presbytery, has the time, desire and ability to give all of its candidates considerable constructive evaluation of each person's preaching ability.

The Presbytery therefore agrees that:

1. Such candidates, certified by its CPM and receiving a call in our Presbytery, need not preach a sermon before Presbytery, though the text of the sermon preached before the CPM will be furnished to Presbytery;
2. Such candidates will instead come before Presbytery, and:

- a. state their reasons for seeking ordination
- b. speak briefly to some theological question posed by the CPM (such as, “Describe some Christian Doctrine that you have found particularly meaningful in your preparation for the ministry.”)
- c. Answer any questions from the floor (before disappearing while the Presbytery debates and votes).

It is understood that other candidates to be approved for ordination coming from another Presbytery will - following our Presbytery’s current procedure - preach a sermon before Presbytery, as well as answer any questions from the floor.

8. **THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina concur with the hiring of Elder Barbara Ross, as a volunteer presbytery staff member as a Presbytery Associate, with reimbursement for her travel, with an effective date of April 24, 2012 and that she be commissioned as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. (The second part of this recommendation was approved by the Committee on Ministry after they examined her.) (Administrative Board Attachment 1 and Personnel Committee Report FF-1)**
9. **THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina concur with the Administrative Board and the Personnel Committee to recommend that elder Bert Sigmon be re-elected for a second three-year term as part-time Stated Clerk, beginning July 1, 2012. (Administrative Board Attachment 2)**
- OM 10. **THAT the following persons have been selected to the Theological Education Fund Team for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.**

Rev. Bob Lowry
Rev. Jim Cockerham
Rev. Becky Stanley
11. **THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina send budgeted Institution Funds for Montreat, Lees-McRae, and Warren Wilson Colleges through NCPHEM (North Carolina Presbyterian Higher Education Ministries Board) to help with their matching grant fundraiser.**
12. **THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina recognize the following churches for their years of service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ:**

Conley Memorial Presbyterian Church - 125 years
Newland Presbyterian Church - 100 years
Grassy Creek Presbyterian Church - 100 years

- 13. THAT the Presbytery recognize that the Administrative Board, at its February 2012 meeting, appointed the following persons as Presbytery's Montreat Team for the Montreat Court Case:**

Don Scofield (Pastor, Rutherfordton; Presbytery Moderator-elect) **Chair**
 James Aydelotte (Chair, Administrative Board; Honorably Retired minister)
 Patricia Clark (Presbytery Moderator; elder, Morganton, First)
 John Frye (Pastor, Gastonia, First; past chair, COM)
 Melvin Meares (Board member; elder, Hickory, First)
 Mark Ramsey (Pastor, Grace Covenant; COM member)
 Bert Sigmon (Stated Clerk; elder, Waldensian)
 David Stover (Board member; Honorably Retired minister)
 Bobbi White (General Presbyter; minister)

The Presbytery's Montreat Team was appointed for these tasks:

- monitor events with Presbytery's lawsuit
- evaluate the findings/recommendations of the attorneys
- liaison with the representatives of the Montreat Presbyterian Church (USA)
- help prepare the Presbytery for possibly making some important decisions in this matter
- report to Presbytery, through the Board, at each Presbytery meeting

The Presbytery now agrees that the members of the Presbytery's Montreat Team, as composed and established by the Administrative Board at its February 2012 meeting, be authorized (1) to continue to negotiate with the dismissed Montreat EPC congregation in accord with the terms of the Board's decision, (2) to approve, on behalf of the Presbytery, any proposed settlement of the Montreat litigation which may be offered, and (3) to propose and prepare for the distribution and application of any funds which may be awarded to the Montreat PCUSA congregation and/or the Presbytery, at the conclusion of a jury trial."

FOR INFORMATION:

- 14. THAT the report from the Presbytery Montreat Court Case dated April 24, 2012 become a part of the permanent record of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. (Administrative Board Attachment 3)**
- 15. THAT the Administrative Board reviewed and approved the following grant applications and forwarded them the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic for consideration:**
- Visionary Grants**
 Such a Time As This
 Resource Center
 North Buncombe Samaritan Ministries (Reems Creek-Beech)
- Walton Grant**
 New Vision

Other Grants

Dulatown Presbyterian Church
 First Presbyterian Church, Swannanoa
 Pineola Presbyterian Church

16. **THAT the Administrative Board approved the schedule for a process of when committees of Presbytery shall report. (Administrative Board Attachment 4)**
17. **THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.**
18. **THAT as part of the "Year of Evangelism," and to encourage churches to preach and read through Acts this summer, the Administrative Board approved a pre-presbytery offering "Preaching and Teaching the Book of Acts," with Lamar Williamson. The event will be held at the William Black Lodge, the day before Presbytery.**
19. **THAT a training event for Adults and Youth, "Let's Celebrate," will be held on Saturday, August 18, 2012, at the First Presbyterian Church, Morganton. The emphasis of this event will be: Evangelism, Revitalization and Transformation. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Kenneth Gergen.**
20. **THAT the following dates have been set for Youth Events in 2012:**
 - July 8-13, 2012 - W.O.W. Week of Work - Charlotte
(Week of Work will take place at CROSS, a ministry of Myers Park Presbyterian Church.)
 - August 17-18, 2012 - PYC Orientation & Let's Celebrate
 - September 23, 2012 - High School Event at Montreat
 - November 9-11, 2012 - Middle School Retreat at Camp Grier
21. **THAT the following dates have been set for 2012 and 2013 Presbytery Meetings:**
 - 2012**
 - April 24, 2012 ~ Montreat Conference Center
 - July 31, 2012 ~ Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth & Families
 - October 26-27, 2012 ~ Lake Junaluska Conference Center
 - 2013**
 - January 26, 2013 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Hickory
 - April 30, 2013 ~ Montreat Conference Center
 - July 30, 2013 ~ Grandfather Home for Children
 - October 25-26, 2013 ~ Lake Junaluska Conference Center
22. **THAT the following dates have been set for General Assembly Commissioner and Alternate Commissioner Training:**
 - May 3, 2012 - 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ~ Morganton, First
 - June 7, 2012 - 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. ~ Morganton, First
23. **Committee Chair training was held February 8, 2012.**

- 24. SMRT held a six-hour sexual misconduct prevention training on Marcy 3, 2012 at Morganton, First. As of this date,**
202 ministers and elders have taken the six-hour training,
32 ministers and elders have taken the three-hour training.
There are still approximately 70 ministers and elders who still need the six-hour training and approximately 100 who still need to complete the three-hour training.
The next three-hour training will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2012 at Upper Anderson Auditorium in Montreat and the next six-hour training will be held on Thursday, October 4, 2012 in Cullowhee.
- 25. THAT the sale of the Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel Presbyterian Fellowship Church building has been sold to Sovereign Grace Orthodox Church with the total proceeds to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina being \$110,000. Per the Administrative Board policy, monies from the sale have been placed in a designated fund to support New Church Development/Transformation.**

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ATTACHMENT 1

ANNOUNCEMENT TO PRESBYTERY OF BARBARA ROSS AS A PRESBYTERY ASSOCIATE

Barbara Ross has accepted a position of part-time Presbytery Associate supporting and working primarily with the churches in Mitchell, Avery, Yancey and McDowell counties. In addition, Barbara will continue to work with officer training and with Pastor Nominating Committees. Barbara has agreed to do this on a *volunteer basis* and the Presbytery is most grateful. The Committee on Ministry recommends that Barbara be Commissioned as a Commissioned Lay Pastor (Commissioned Ruling Elder) at the April Presbytery meeting.

Barbara brings to this position extensive experience in business management and in human resources. She has completed the two year School for the Laity Program. In addition, Barbara has been doing most of this job unofficially on a volunteer basis for the last year. We have appreciated her work and want to recognize her as a staff member of the Presbytery.

The description of the job includes working in close relationship with the Committee on Ministry as together they work with a group of churches , building strong relationships, providing resources, support and encouragement, specifically to:

- Focus on renewal and transformation, as congregations seek to grow in new ways responding to God's call in Jesus Christ;
- Provide care (pastoral and other) to pastors, educators and other church professionals;
- Assist churches and pastors as they look together for mutual mission and support;
- Support the vacant churches in the call process, especially in discovering their mission and ministry focus for the future;
- Work with churches struggling or in conflict about their mission in conjunction with the COM;
- Encourage pastor cohort groups for support, prayer and encouragement.
- Counsel with churches that express concern about denominational issues and what their relationship to the Presbytery and the PCUSA will be like - in conjunction with the COM.

The work also includes working with Officer Training, training of Pastor Nominating Committees and training other persons to work with Pastor Nominating Committees.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD ATTACHMENT 2

Personnel Committee
Presbytery of Western North Carolina
March 22, 2012

Administrative Board
Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Faith:

On this date the Personnel Committee conducted a performance evaluation of Bert Sigmon, Stated Clerk. Bert presented written and verbal responses regarding how he has met the eleven responsibilities enumerated in his position description. Feedback regarding Bert's performance was also solicited from the General Presbyter, Presbytery staff, past Chair of COM, past Moderator and Cathy Campbell. All of the feedback was extremely positive and indicated that Bert has become a valued and trusted team member in a wide variety of situations. His knowledge and understanding of his role has increased tremendously over the last two and one-half years such that he is able to provide counsel quickly for the many callers that seek his advice. His demeanor and approach to seeking consensus between disparate interests reflects his deep faith and belief that differences of opinion can be resolved amicably.

Based on the Committee's discussion with Bert and other input we believe he has met or exceeded all requirements of the Stated Clerk position. We further strongly recommend that Bert be nominated for a second three year term beginning July 1, 2012. Bert has indicated he would gladly serve a second term if asked.

Respectfully,

Bill Martin, Chair
Personnel Committee

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Report from Presbytery's Montreat Team March 30, 2012

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina's Montreat Team has received the following report from Attorney Jackie Grant who is representing the Presbytery in our court case with the Montreat Evangelical Presbyterian Church. According to Ms. Grant, our attorneys are trying to get a court date in July or August to move for Summary Judgment (*A procedural device used during civil litigation to promptly and expeditiously dispose of a case without a trial. It is used when there is no dispute as to the material facts of the case and a party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law*). Currently, we are waiting for the attorneys representing the Montreat EPC church to agree to the proposed dates. We will continue to update the Presbytery as more information becomes available.

Don Scofield, Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD ATTACHMENT 4

PRESBYTERY REPORTING PROCESS

EVERY MEETING

Worship including Celebration of Lord's Supper
Administrative Board
Stated Clerk
 (January Necrology of Elders and Ministers)
 (July Summary Report of Church Membership
 and Attendance)
Committee on Ministry
 (July Reporting of Pastor Salaries)
Preparation for Ministry
Budget & Finance
 (January - Budget Approval)
 (April - Report of Annual Audit)
Nominating
Church Celebrations
General Presbyter
Educational Time or Presentation

JANUARY

Discipleship Division
 Christian Education
 (Day Retreat & Let's Celebrate)
 Youth
Division of Operation
 Personnel
Vote on Amendments to Constitution
 (odd years only)
Witness Division
 Hunger Committee (Souper Bowl & One
 Great Hour of Sharing)

APRIL

Witness Division
 Mission Teams
Operation Division
Discipleship Division
 Joint Outdoor Ministries Committee
 Youth
Support Division
 Small Membership Churches
Nominating Committee
Vote on Amendments to Constitution (if needed)
 (odd years only)
Leadership Division
 Stewardship
Presbyterian Women

JULY

Witness Division
 Self Development of People
Support Division
Discipleship Division
 Christian Education (Let's Celebrate)
 Youth
Election of Future Moderator
Reports from General Assembly Commissioners
 (even years only)
Reports from Synod Commissioners
Local church giving, previous years membership and
 worship attendance reported
Leadership Division
 SL/CLP Recognition
 Stewardship
Support Division
 CCP (Honorable Retirement, Years of
 Service)

OCTOBER

Operation Division
Discipleship Division
 Joint Outdoors Ministries Committee
 Youth
 Campus Ministry
Witness Division
 Evangelism & Church Development
Election of Synod Commissioners
Election of G.A. Commissioners (odd years only)
Institutions and Agencies
 Grandfather Home for Children
 Black Mtn Home for Children, Youth, and
 Families

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The Presbytery agrees that its January 2009 decision - - “Guidelines for Congregations Considering A Request to Presbytery for Dismissal” – be amended thus:

1. New item IV.D. be added (relisting IV.D. & E. as IV.E. & F.

“Prior to a Presbytery vote on dismissal, there shall be a legal agreement (reflecting item F.2 below) binding on all parties and addressing all forms of property, contingent only on Presbytery’s final approval as specified in item F below.

2. The preamble to item IV. New F now read:

“If the Congregation has petitioned Presbytery to dismiss it with all or some of its property, Presbytery shall vote on the agreement specified in item D above.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD ATTACHMENT 5

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

“Guidelines for Congregations Considering A Request to Presbytery to be Dismissed”

PREAMBLE

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina of the Presbyterian Church (USA) proclaims its enduring belief in the unity of the one Church of Jesus Christ, of which it is a grateful part. The members of the PCUSA are united by obedience to the Lord Jesus, who alone is head of the Church, by fidelity to the teachings of Scripture, and by adherence to the denomination’s Constitution, which enshrines such vital affirmations as:

- *“The unity of the Church is a gift of its Lord and finds expression in its faithfulness to the mission to which Christ calls it.” (BO: G-4.0201)*
- *“The particular churches of the Presbyterian Church (USA), wherever they are, taken collectively, constitute one church.” (BO: G-4.0301.a)*
- *“All property held by or for a particular church, a presbytery, a synod, the General Assembly ... is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (USA).” (BO:G-8.0201)*

When this unity that is our Lord’s gift appears to be in jeopardy within one of its Congregations, the Presbytery must determine, in the light of the wider mission of Christ’s Church, what is best and most faithful for all its members and resources.

The goal of this Presbytery will always be reconciliation and continued relationship with all its Congregations.

The following process outlines the steps this Presbytery will reluctantly use to respond to situations where a Congregation, or its leaders, contemplate no longer maintaining their ordination vow to *“be governed by our church’s polity, and ... abide by its discipline.” (BO: W-4.4003.e)*

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- I. The Congregation shall consider the Biblical imperatives in these passages:
Peace Romans 14:19; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 3:15
Unity John 17:21; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:1-3
Purity I Corinthians 5:9-13; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:8
- II. Individual members, including officers (deacons, elders and ministers) may, at any time, unite with other Reformed denominations following provisions in the *Book of Order* (BO: G-10.0102)
- III. Congregations may be dismissed by Presbytery only to a member of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches or to another Reformed denomination recognized by the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly (PCUSA).
- IV. Congregations considering a request to be so dismissed, shall follow these steps:
 - A. The Session shall meet with representatives from the Committee on Ministry. (BO: G-11.0500)
 1. At this meeting, the Session shall give the COM representatives a written statement of their reasons for considering leaving the PCUSA.
 2. The Session shall also deliver to the COM representatives a current membership directory (including addresses and telephone numbers) of the Congregation.
 3. The Session shall, at this meeting, recognize the right of the Presbytery to communicate directly, at any time by various means, with members of the Congregation.
 4. The Session shall agree to hold no meetings of the Congregation to consider leaving the PCUSA (other than those specified later in these Guidelines) without the permission and involvement of Presbytery.
 - B. If the Session determines to proceed, it shall request the Presbytery to call a hearing of the Congregation, and to establish the rules for that hearing. Due notice shall be given orally from the pulpit at regular church services on two successive Sundays, the first of which shall be at least ten days prior to the hearing. Prior notice shall also be given in the parish newsletter or bulletin.
 1. At least 33% of the active members of the Congregation shall be present.
 2. Representatives appointed by Presbytery (the Committee on Ministry (COM) and Presbytery staff acting on its behalf) shall be present throughout and shall have the right to speak.
 3. The question* to be discussed is “Shall the _____Presbyterian Church request dismissal to another Reformed body?”
 4. Ample time shall be provided for both speakers wanting dismissal and those wanting to stay with the PCUSA.
 5. No type of vote for any purpose shall be taken at this hearing.
 - C. If the Session is still determined to proceed, it shall --- no sooner than three months and no later than six months after the first hearing described above --- request the Presbytery to call a second hearing of the Congregation, and to establish the rules for that hearing.
 1. Due notice shall be mailed to all members of the Congregation at least thirty (30) days prior to the hearing, and shall be given orally from the pulpit at regular church services on two successive Sundays, the first of which shall be at least ten

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days prior to the hearing.

2. The Clerk of Session and the Stated Clerk of Presbytery shall agree on the roster of active members, and the procedure for their registration at this hearing. Due diligence shall be exercised to ensure that only those eligible to vote do so.
 3. At least 50% of the active members shall be present.
 4. Representatives appointed by Presbytery (COM and staff acting on its behalf) shall be present throughout and shall have the right to speak.
 5. The question* to be discussed is “Shall the _____ Presbyterian Church request Presbytery to dismiss it to this Reformed body: _____?”
 6. Ample time shall be provided for both speakers wanting dismissal and those wanting to stay with the PCUSA.
 7. After discussion and prayer, a secret written ballot shall be taken on this question, the only choices being “Request dismissal” or “Do Not request dismissal.”
 8. If 75% of those active members present and voting vote to request dismissal, the request shall go to Presbytery.
 9. If any five members, present and voting, contest the regularity (the call for, the conduct of or the vote taken) of the second Congregational hearing, they shall send the details of their allegation, postmarked within ten business days of that meeting, to the Stated Clerk of Presbytery, who shall convene the Permanent Judicial Commission to render a decision.
- D. Prior to a Presbytery vote on dismissal, there shall be a legal agreement (reflecting Item F.2 below) binding on all parties and addressing all forms of the property, contingent only on Presbytery’s final approval as specified in item F below.
- E. At the meeting of Presbytery to consider a request for dismissal, the Presbytery shall:
1. Hear from representatives from the Congregation in favor of dismissal;
 2. Hear from representatives of those wishing to remain in the PCUSA, reserving to Presbytery the right to determine “the true church” (BO: G-8.0600)
 3. Hear from the representatives appointed by Presbytery (COM and staff) who were present at the second Congregational hearing, and who may also recommend a decision to Presbytery;
 4. Be informed of any financial contributions from this Congregation to the Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly and to this Congregation by the Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly within at least the last ten years.
 5. Be informed what provisions will be made for those members who wish to remain in the PCUSA and for any Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Christian Educators or Commissioned Lay Pastors associated with the Congregation;
 6. Be informed how the Congregation’s dismissal would affect the mission and ministry of the Church in this Presbytery.
 7. After discussion and prayer, the Presbytery shall vote by written ballot on this question,* “Shall the _____ Presbyterian Church be dismissed to this Reformed body: _____?”, the only choices being “Yes” or “No.”
 8. If two-thirds of those commissioners present and voting vote in favor of dismissal, that shall be the action of Presbytery.
 9. If the Congregation (or any part of it) is dismissed, it may not use the prior name

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of the Congregation.

F. ~~If the Presbytery approved dismissing a Congregation to another Reformed body, that Congregation may also petition Presbytery to dismiss it with all or some of its property. If so requested, Presbytery shall (at the next Presbytery meeting):~~

If the Congregation has petitioned Presbytery to dismiss it with all or some of its property, Presbytery shall vote on the agreement specified in item D above.

1. Hear from representatives from the Congregation in favor of the petition;
2. Receive a recommended decision (which can be debated and amended) from a task force (that shall include some with financial expertise)-- appointed by the chairs of the Coordinating Council and the Committee on Ministry and the General Presbyter -- which has met with representatives of the Congregation, detailing appropriate financial terms in the light of the needs of the Congregation, those wishing to continue in the PCUSA, and the overall mission of Presbytery. The task force shall obtain a competent appraisal of the property, the cost of which shall be shared by the Presbytery and the Session. Sometime prior to this Presbytery meeting, a representative of the task force shall inform the Session of the Congregation in question of the terms of the recommendation.
3. After discussion and prayer, the Presbytery shall vote by written ballot on this question:* “Shall the _____ Presbyterian Church which has been dismissed to this Reformed body: _____, be granted these financial arrangements for its property: _____.” The only choices shall be “Yes” or “No.”
4. If a majority of those present and voting vote in favor, the Congregation shall be dismissed with the approved financial arrangements for its property, provided that if the Congregation is not still a member of the specified or another Reformed body at any time within ten years, the dismissed property shall revert back to Presbytery.

V. The intent in any dispute within the life of a Congregation is to achieve reconciliation in the Lord. It is therefore the clear intention of this Presbytery to continue to pursue that goal, and to assure any departing members of a Congregation of its continuing prayers for them and its willingness to welcome them back, at any time, to that part of God’s family known as the Presbyterian Church (USA).

*As circumstances warrant, the Presbytery, in consultation with the Session, may modify the exact wording of these questions.

Revised 3/30/2012
Administrative Board