

Nov. 9, 2009

Dear SPC Member,

The Session of SPC has been very busy throughout 2009 working through the discernment process with the Whitewater Valley Presbytery. You have graciously participated in listening sessions, presbytery forums and in many discussions with other Elders and Session members. The time is coming when we will ask the entire membership to state its agreement (or disagreement) with the Session's recommendation to leave the PC(USA).

The Whitewater Valley Presbytery has approved the Session's request to take a vote of the membership on Saturday and Sunday, November 14th & 15th.

There are moments in the life of a church that will be recorded in history: times when critical decisions were made, times of taking a stand against unpopular or wrong decisions, or times of providing the truth against cultural or worldly trends. At these times, we declare again that there is but one true path, that of Jesus Christ. This is one of those moments in the 176 year history of SPC. If at all possible, I encourage you to attend one of the services this coming weekend to cast your vote.

IMPORTANT DATE

SATURDAY and SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 14-15, CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

You must be present to cast your official ballot

The Session recommends approval of the Session's recommendation that SPC be dismissed from PC(USA)

The Session has called for a congregational meeting on Saturday and Sunday, November 14-15 for the purpose of voting on this recommendation. According to the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church, there is no provision for casting an absentee ballot. As a member of SPC, you have pledged to uphold this church with your gifts and your talents to the best of your abilities. You also pledged to participate in the governance of the church and this is one of those times when your participation may be critical to our future.

The Presbytery, by the authority of the Book of Order, has the ultimate authority to determine what this balloting means, but we are confident that a high turnout and a very unified congregational stance will do much to move us toward a final resolution for this congregation.

If you are a college student, have moved south for the winter, or cannot attend any of the services this weekend, you can submit your wishes either for or against the recommendation. These votes CANNOT be included in the official total of a congregational vote, but the Presbytery has agreed that we can submit these commentaries as additional information to the Presbytery.

If you absolutely cannot be at SPC the weekend of November 14 -15, please send an e-mail or a letter (which must be received by midnight, Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009) with the following:

I support (or disagree with) the Session's recommendation that SPC seek dismissal from the Presbyterian Church USA.

Please print and sign your name if this is a written letter and mail to the church office at:
1427 Southview Dr.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
Attn: Todd Hoopingarner

-OR-

e-mail the above statement to thoopingarner@solutionshealthcare.com

You, as a member, not only represent the other 1,300 members of this church, but also the thousands of people that are ministered to by SPC. The following is just a small sample of these ministries—ministries in which many people do not have a voice in this vote, but they wait with us for a final resolution to this season of transition:

Over 50 missionaries and mission organizations around the world
The Chin ministry that worships every Sunday at the Southview Campus
The Adult Day Center
Welcome Place Child Care
Southport Presbyterian Christian School
Great Banquet Community
Sports Ministry
Food Service
Roberts Park Homeless Meals
Vacation Bible School
Kids and Youth Camps
Center Stage Productions
Fine Arts

As you can see, and this is only a sampling of the life of this church, many people depend on us for services, care and as a Christian community. This commitment extends far beyond the bounds of church membership. Please come the weekend of November 14-15 and exercise your right to cast a ballot. As you do, you not only exercise your right and duty as a member, you also stand in the gap for one of these individuals.

Please contact me or any member of Session with any questions about this process.

In His Service,

H. Todd Hoopingarner
Chairman-Denominational Response

Session of Southport Presbyterian Church

Mark Myers

Scott Miles

David Mills

Marcy Snow

Jim Taylor

David Lantz

Beth Davis

John Testa

Maureen Watson

Steve Philhower

David Steiner

Kris Hoopingarner

Dan Clevenger

Sara Lee

Ron Epple

Ron Davault

John Purdie

Steve McGee