

GRACIOUS DISMISSAL TASK FORCE REPORT - 1

Policy and Procedure for the Dismissal of Churches in the Presbytery of San Francisco September 15, 2009

At the June 23, 2009 meeting of the Presbytery a draft of this proposed Policy and Procedure was presented for first reading. Comments were received and reviewed by the working group. A slightly revised version was presented to the Presbytery at its meeting on September 15, 2009 and was adopted by the Presbytery. Attached is the final version, adopted version of the policy.

Background

One of the business items approved by the 218th General Assembly (2008) was a commissioner's resolution (item 04-28), "On Urging a Gracious, Pastoral Response to Churches Requesting Dismissal for the PC(USA)." As part of that, presbyteries were asked to develop and make available a process in keeping with G-11.0103i, "to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches in consultation with their members" with consistency, pastoral responsibility, accountability, gracious witness, openness, and transparency.

On December 11, 2008, Presbytery Council acted to create a working group of council for the development of a Policy and Procedure for churches wishing to be dismissed from the Presbytery and the PC(USA). The task of the Working Group was to review the Book of Order, existing Policies and Procedures of other presbyteries within the PC(USA), and any other appropriate documentation dealing with the dismissal of churches, their assets, and properties from the Presbytery and the PC(USA), and to develop a Dismissal Policy and Procedure specifically for use of the Presbytery of San Francisco. The first draft of that document was presented at the June 23, 2009 meeting of the Presbytery.

Members of the Working Group:

Elder Linda Lee, SF, Chinatown, Chair
Rev. Scott Farmer, Danville, Community
Elder Milo Medin, Menlo Park, MPPC
Rev. John Anderson, SF, St. John's
Rev. Gail Doering, Clayton Valley
Craig Palmer as staff to the workgroup