

We want to hear from you and encourage questions you might have that are not listed below by emailing [questions@cpcdanville.org](mailto:questions@cpcdanville.org). This will allow us to respond to you and continue to build a thorough listing of FAQs for our members.

## **Reasons for Change in Denomination**

### **3-23-10**

#### **1. Is Scott Farmer staying with CPC? What are his long term plans?**

Scott Farmer has indicated his intent is to spend the rest of his career as CPC's senior pastor, if that is God's will and supported by the CPC congregation.

### **3-23-10**

#### **2. What are the main reasons, by importance, for CPC wanting to leave the PCUSA?**

Many people have asked for the "main" reason(s) why the Session has recommended CPC seek dismissal from the PCUSA and seek affiliation with the EPC. In response we can only say there is no single reason or incident that led to this recommendation. CPC fundamentals of belief are anchored in the authority of scripture and the uniqueness and Lordship of Christ. For over 20 years a growing minority within the PCUSA has sought to compromise the authority of scripture and the uniqueness and Lordship of Christ. The key reason as cited in the Session position statement is this **creeping tolerance of theological pluralism within the PCUSA**. Specific examples of this are outlined in the recent paper on Christology. Because the internal conflict in the PCUSA continues to grow it has become clear that our association with the PCUSA is no longer the most effective path to further CPC's mission and Four Fold Purpose. CPC's desire is to be associated with a denomination that supports our efforts to bring People to Christ, rather than to continue to expend energy in an attempt to course correct a denomination that continues to move away from Christ and the Authority of Scripture. *"I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them."* Romans 16:17

### **3-23-10**

#### **3. Is the primary reason to seek dismissal from the PCUSA due to the push in the PCUSA to ordain homosexuals?**

No, this is not the primary reason. There is no single reason or incident that led to the Session's recommendation to seek dismissal from the PCUSA and seek affiliation with the EPC. For over 20 a growing minority within the PCUSA has sought to compromise the authority of scripture and the uniqueness and Lordship of Christ. The departure of ordination standards from clear biblical principles and the Book of Order is just one of many examples of the trend in the PCUSA to compromise the authority of scripture and the uniqueness and Lordship of Christ.

### **3-23-10**

#### **4. Please explain what Creeping tolerance of theological pluralism means?**

Creeping tolerance of theological pluralism means that increasingly there is a wide range of unbiblical beliefs about Jesus held and affirmed within the PCUSA. Over time an increasing percent in the PCUSA are taking positions that are inconsistent with the historical tenants of our faith. With greater frequency, the moderates that make up the majority of the denomination are voting with the revisionists and are choosing to no longer guard orthodoxy. This is how Jesus becomes **a way** rather than **the way to God**, how compassion becomes unhinged from truth, how theological diversity becomes more important than discipleship and how social action more important than Christian spiritual formation. We believe:

- In the absolute Lordship of Jesus Christ
- In the unquestionable means of salvation for the whole world through Him
- In the infallible authority of God's Word in all matters of faith

**3-23-10**

**5. Are all of our pastors in agreement with this change?**

Yes! The Session which is comprised of 18 active elders and the ordained pastoral staff are unanimous in the recommendation that that Community Presbyterian Church seek dismissal from the PCUSA and seek affiliation with the EPC.

**3-23-10**

**6. Where do we go to do research? Do we have access to other churches FAQ's so we might see questions we might not be thinking of?**

You are encouraged to pursue independent research. There are a number of sources the task force used that are available to anyone and can be accessed from the following link [Additional Resources](#). We have attempted to distill the many sources of information and what we have learned and as a first step we recommend you read the [FAQ'S](#) posted on CPC's website along with [CPC's Position Statement Regarding PCUSA](#) and the Reason for Change papers: #1 [Christology](#) and # 2: ["Why Join the EPC"](#)

**3-23-10**

**7. Since we have the same ability to make local decisions about whom we choose to invite as pastors and about our theological stance, what is the value of changing?**

Both the PCUSA and the EPC provide freedom in the selection of pastors and the theological stance of the local church. However, over a 20 year period within the PCUSA a growing minority has sought to compromise the authority of scripture and the uniqueness and Lordship of Christ in such a way that it has created a **conflicted witness to the world**. Churches like CPC are continually called to explain that they are not like other parts of the denomination that embrace non-orthodox positions. This defensive posture reduces the impact of the ministries and mission of CPC. In addition, the internal conflict in the PCUSA has continued to grow to the point that CPC leadership has lost hope that we can affect change in the PCUSA. After much study and prayer the Session believes it would be better for CPC to join the EPC in their efforts to bring People to Christ, rather than to continue to expend energy in an attempt to course correct a denomination that continues to move away from historical beliefs regarding Christ and the Authority of Scripture.

**3-23-10**

**8. Have we talked with other churches that have made this change?**

Yes, the Denominational Task Force spoke to all of the larger churches that have been dismissed from the PCUSA and are now affiliated with the EPC. The common response was that their leadership was freed from the investment of time and energy spent on struggles within the PCUSA and has been able to create new alliances for discipleship and mission. They cite an environment of trust, fellowship, peace, unity and mutual support within the EPC based on common goals, beliefs and governance. Their congregations have experienced a renewed interest in evangelism and outreach.

**3-23-10**

**9. What are the potential benefits to staying with the PCUSA?**

Three major reasons for staying in the PCUSA were identified:

1. To avoid the cost of leaving in terms of money and turmoil within CPC
2. To avoid a legal dispute over ownership of CPC property
3. To maintain a presence and voice in the SF Presbytery.

The concerns outlined in reasons #1 and # 2 were resolved by the Gracious Dismissal Policy. With respect to # 3, the internal conflict in the PCUSA has continued to grow to the point that CPC leadership has lost hope that it can affect change in the PCUSA.,

**3-23-10**

**10. Are we concerned about negative publicity?**

We believe that standing firm for the authority of scripture and the uniqueness and Lordship of Jesus Christ is not a reason for negative publicity. We intend to proceed with prayer, care and visible respect for our Christian brothers and sisters in the SF Presbytery and the PCUSA. We expect that the way we seek dismissal from the PCUSA and affiliation with the EPC will bring Jesus joy and those watching will be drawn to Him and CPC.