



October 25, 2016

Sandra Hedrick
Stated Clerk Presbytery of St. Augustine
1937 University Blvd. W
Jacksonville, FL 32217

RE: Request for gracious dismissal of SJPC

Dear Sandra:

We would like to follow-up on our letters of this spring concerning SJPC's request for gracious dismissal, your suggestion that we start a dialogue, and our Session's four invitations to the Presbytery representatives, or its CRT members, to visit our Session meetings. By this emailed letter, I introduce you to our Session's Denominational Issues Group (DIG), Kevin Hunger M.D., Becky Mentz, Jonathan Montgomery and Jim Nolan. They are the members of the Session the CRT will be working with, for the most part. The entire Session, as well as the congregation, will be as involved as is necessary. Our understanding is that you have one member on the CRT, Ed Kelly, who is to chair it. We hope that process progresses soon. Our DIG believes it wise to begin the process of bridge building through some form of nonadversarial meet and greet in the near future. Accordingly, please provide information for our DIG to contact the Presbytery's CRT members, and share our contact information with them.

Also, we noticed that the Presbytery's fall meeting minutes reflect that SJPC "has given written notice of its denominational discernment." We wish to be clear to the Presbytery that the SJPC Session and congregation underwent an extended process of discernment and concluded that St. Johns is called to seek dismissal from PC USA. Is there a difference between our understanding and yours and other members of the Presbytery? We do not want any confusion at this early stage. Rather, we seek active engagement and dialogue and progress.

Please advise us when we may expect further response from the Presbytery.

Sincerely,

Mary Bland Gobelman
Clerk of Session

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