



Greetings in the name of our peaceful redeemer!

It has been about a year since we conducted a congregational survey, reviewed the results with the congregation, and heard through numerous discussions with you, very loudly and clearly, the message that the congregation wanted to do exactly what the Session was feeling led to do: seek dismissal from the denomination.

We wanted to provide an update on the progress to date. A change of direction such as this should not be taken lightly, nor entered into without careful study, prayer, investigation and discernment. The Session has been very careful, measured and prayerful in its actions. It performed due diligence during the spring to ascertain the best options for the church. This process included speaking with representatives of churches that had recently travelled the same path.

As we have previously shared with members, we sent a letter to the presbytery in May informing them of our decision to seek dismissal. We received a short response. We have communicated several invitations for presbytery representatives to meet with our Session. To date, the presbytery has not yet accepted our invitation.

The presbytery has named a person to chair its response team, but we have not had any formal communications yet. The presbytery announced at its recent fall meeting that St. Johns had begun the denominational discernment and dismissal process.

Jon mentioned in his quarterly giving letter that a few people had left the church over the question of dismissal. Some of those people thought we were moving too quickly, and some thought we were not moving quickly enough. We want to assure you that while we miss departed friends, and hope for their return, we do not and cannot make decisions of this magnitude based on the desires of a few members. In the end, the overwhelming majority of our members seems to be aligned with our careful and sincerely prayerful approach to this matter. We trust, as we hope you do, in the direction of the Holy Spirit, and desire first and foremost to engender strong relationships with Jesus Christ.

While the response from the presbytery could be described as less than urgent, the presbytery has been beset by other more pressing issues over the past several months. We remain ever confident that God's chosen path for this congregation lays directly before us, yet we have not lost patience, nor have we become frustrated, and we are truly thankful for His divine guidance in this effort.

We will send another update when new information arises.

In Christ,

The Session