



Greetings!

On Saturday, January 28, your Session members held its annual retreat. This was a full day of prayer, focus, bonding, fellowship, love and learning, including a beautiful study in God's Word led by Pastor Jon Lovelady and Chris Kellam. On the business side of things, your Session conducted a budget review and had several discussions about worship, attendance, giving, local and global ministries, staffing, annual planning, Easter events, and our upcoming Lent study series. Incoming elder and deacon candidates were introduced and examined. Their installation will be occurring in the coming weeks. The productive interaction, positive conversations, and Christ-centered fellowship left all of us grateful for God's blessings upon us and this church!

During and after the lunch period, the Session met with representatives of the presbytery concerning SJPC's dismissal from the denomination. The "CRT" (which is the name of the presbytery's response group) consists of Ed Kelly, Larry Green, Madeline Scales Taylor and Holly Inglis (who was unable to attend). The discussion was very friendly and productive. The CRT is considering alternative methods to interact directly with the congregation in various formats, and we will certainly let you know when and where those opportunities arise.

We have shared our congregational survey results with the CRT, and they have reviewed our prior correspondence and understand generally our reasons for seeking dismissal to another Presbyterian denomination. They want to be certain, however, that this is in fact the will of the congregation, and not merely the desire of a small faction of members. For that reason, every member is encouraged to speak openly, honestly, and directly with the CRT when the opportunity arises.

We will continue to update you on the dismissal process as we progress. If you have questions, please ask any Session member. We remain ever prayerful for God's divine guidance, faithful to Him in our efforts, hopeful for His continued blessings on this church congregation, committed to openness, kindness and honesty in this dismissal process, and expectant in the revelation of His plan for this body.

In Christ,  
The Session