
The Presbytery of Tres Rios

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Volume 36, Number 2

2015



**103rd Stated Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Alpine, Texas
June 12-13, 2015**

**Special Called Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Pecos, Texas
June 25, 2015**

**The Presbytery of Tres Rios
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Special Called Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Pecos, Texas**

June 25, 2015

Call to Order/Quorum/Call to Worship	38
Attendance	38
Docket	39
Omnibus Motion	39
Communications	39
Minutes Audit Task Force for February 21, 2015	40
Minutes Audit Task Force for June 12-13, 2015	40
Stated Clerk Report.....	40
Missional Nominating and Representation Team Report	42
Missional Ministries Team Report.....	43
Administrative Commission for Divine Savior/St Andrew Report	45
Task Force for Reconciliation and Gracious Dismissal Policy	45
Missional Networking Team Report.....	45
Administrative Commission for FPCSA Members Continuing as PC(USA)	46
Task Force for Trinity Legacy Team	48
Missional Nurturing Team Report.....	49
Missional Resource Team Report.....	50
Treasurer's Report	51
Missional Outreach Team Report	51
Next Meeting Site	52
Adjournment	52

EXHIBITS

Exhibit A – Docket	53
Exhibit B – Minutes of Commission to Install Cheryl Kincaid.....	54
Exhibit C – Policy for Election of General Assembly Commissioners	55
Exhibit D – Reconciliation and Gracious Dismissal Policy	59
Exhibit E – Position Description for the General Missioner	78
Exhibit F - Property Guidelines and Procedures Handbook	79
Exhibit G - Treasurer's Report Dated April 30, 2015	93

Minutes of Special Called Meeting held on June 25, 2015 First Presbyterian Church, Pecos Texas.....	100
--	-----

**The Presbytery of Tres Rios
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
First Presbyterian Church
Alpine, Texas
June 12-13, 2015**

The 103rd stated meeting of The Presbytery of Tres Rios, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was called to order by Moderator Bart Teeter at 1:35 p.m. on, Friday, June 12, 2015. A quorum was declared present by Stated Clerk Kay Long. The meeting was opened with hymns, meditation and prayer led by Rev. Toby Brown.

JoBeth McLeod welcomed the presbytery to First Presbyterian Church. Guests and first time commissioners were introduced. Special recognition was given to teaching elders and ruling elders for service in the presbytery. Ruling Elders honored for long time service were: Elder Bob Hamblen (FPC, San Angelo); Elder David Pointevint (FPC, Alpine) and Elder Denny Williams (FPC, Odessa). Teaching Elders honored for perfect attendance at presbytery meetings for the past three years were: Rev. Jose Luis Casal, Rev. Flynn Long, Rev. Tim Davenport-Herbst, Rev. Jobeth McLeod and Rev. Jim Miles.

It was MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED that Dan Saperstein (Palo Duro Presbytery/Synod of the Sun); Hunter Ferrell (Grace Presbytery) and Chris Roseland (Ohio Valley Presbytery) be seated as corresponding members. Dan Saperstein brought greetings from the Synod of the Sun. Chris Roseland brought greetings from the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Those in attendance were:

Teaching Elders: Mary Beth Anton, Tracy Spencer-Brown, Toby Brown, Jose Luis Casal, Tim Davenport-Herbst, Gary Dill, Cheryl Homsher, Cheryl Kincaid, Neal Locke, Fynn Long, Dick McFarlin, Jobeth McLeod, Craig Meyers, Joel Moore, Jayne Ruiz, Steve Schorr, Walter Thompson

Commissioned Ruling Elder: Bea Torres

Ruling Elders: David Poitevint (First, Alpine); Frank Mayne (First, El Paso); Bill Rose (Grace, El Paso); Ted Wehmeyer (University, El Paso); John Meli (First, Fort Stockton); Judia Foreman, Dan Foreman, Bruce Gilmour, Pat Hunter (First, Midland); Jeff Laufer (Grace, Midland); Denny Williams (First, Odessa); Annette McDermott (Westminster, Odessa); Cindy Duke (First, Pecos); Bob Hamblen (First, San Angelo); Molly Owen (Nazareth, San Angelo); Bernadette Coffee (St Paul, San Angelo).

Ex Officio members present: Linda Allen (Presbyterian Women Moderator), Don Carlton (Missional Resource Team Moderator), Dennis Haralson (Missional Networking Team Moderator), Kay Long (Stated Clerk), Jimmy Stevens (Treasurer).

Visitors: Madelyn Farmer (First, Alpine); Hunter Farrell (PCUSA); Tim Gray (University, El Paso); David McDermott (Westminster, Odessa); Bill McManus III (San Angelo Fellowship); Chris Roseland (PCUSA); Dan Saperstein (Synod of the Sun); Theresa Wright (Presbytery Staff).

Excused Teaching Elders: Wilma Harris, John Nelsen, Carol Schlesinger, Bill Schlesinger, Jessica Vaughan Lower, Shannon Weisenfels, Katherine Norvell, Craig Holstdt, Lewis Allen, Cynthia Davenport-Herbst, Jim Miles.

Excused Commissioned Ruling Elders: Ann Hurt

Excused Ruling Elders: Monahans; Ballinger; Second Elder from St Paul; Divine Savior; St Mark; Big Spring

Unexcused Teaching Elders: Bill Proctor, Amy Robinson, Eric Thompson, Matt Miles

Unexcused Commissioned Ruling Elders: None

Unexcused Ruling Elders: Andrews, Coahoma, Faith, St Andrew, Fort Davis, Sanderson, Seminole, Sonora

Guest and First Time Commissioners were introduced. Presbytery thanked those responsible for planning this presbytery meeting.

Docket

It was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the docket be adopted. (See Exhibit A)

Omnibus Motion

It was MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED that all matters of information and recommendations of a routine nature be adopted and entered into the record.

Communications

The report was presented by Stated Clerk, Kay Long.

Requests for excuse from the Revs. Wilma Harris, John Nelsen, Carol Schlesinger, Bill Schlesinger, Jessica Vaughan Lower, Shannon Weisenfels, Katherine Norvell, Craig Holstedt, Lewis Allen, Cynthia Davenport-Herbst, Jim Miles

Granted and that the clerk be authorized to add names as needed.

Requests for excuse from Commissioned Ruling Elder Ann Hurt

Granted and that the clerk be authorized to add names as needed.

Requests for excuse from elder commissioner from Monahans, Ballinger, Second Elder from St Paul, Divine Savior, St Mark, Big Spring

Granted and that the clerk be authorized to add names as needed.

Requests for excuse from Horace Griffin ex officio voting member

Granted and the clerk be authorized to add names as needed.

Minutes of the Commission to Install Cheryl Kincaid as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Odessa Texas. (See Exhibit B).

That they be admitted to record.

Report of the Minutes Audit Task Force for February 21, 2015

The minutes of the February 21, 2015 meeting were approved as printed and entered into record.

It was MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED that Cheryl Homsher, Jim Miles, Bernie Coffee be appointed to serve on the minutes audit task force for the June 12-13, 2015 meeting.

Report of the Stated Clerk

STATISTICAL REPORT

Membership 1/1/14	5561
Membership Gains	154
Membership Losses	<u>308</u>
Total Presbytery Membership 12/31/14	5407
Teaching elders on roll 1/1/14	55
Teaching elders received	0
Teaching elders ordained	0

Teaching elders dismissed	1
Teaching elders deaths	2
Removal from roll	0
Teaching elders dismissed to other denominations	<u>0</u>
Teaching elders on roll 12/31/14	52
Commissioned Ruling Elders 12/31/14	2
Churches on roll 1/1/14	27
Churches organized	0
Churches dissolved	0
Churches dismissed	<u>0</u>
Churches on roll 12/31/14	27

The following churches did not submit sessional statistical reports for 2014:
Big Spring; El Paso, Grace; St Paul; Sonora.

Stated Clerk's Parity Report

TOTAL Teaching Elders Members (active)	42
Total Ruling Elder Commissioner Members	32
Commissioned Ruling Elders	2
Ruling Elder Officers of Presbytery	3
Ruling Elder Team Moderators with Vote	5
TOTAL Ruling Elder Voting Members	42

The following congregations are to send total ruling elder commissioners based on size:

First, Midland	4 Ruling Elder Commissioners (1556 Members)
St. Paul, San Angelo	2 Ruling Elder Commissioners (515 Members)
First, San Angelo	2 Ruling Elder Commissioners (557 Members)

FORMER PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION MEMBERS ELIGIBLE TO SERVE IN ORDER TO MEET QUORUM

The stated clerk shall keep and annually report to presbytery an alphabetical roster of former members of the Permanent Judicial Commission by classes who may be called upon when necessary to constitute a quorum (D-5.0206b).

Class of 2012

Dick McFarlin (HR)

Bob Sams (HR)

Lucretia Chew (HR)

Albert Sherman, Ruling Elder – First Midland

Class of 2010

None available

Class of 2008

None available

221st GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS AND YAAD DELEGATE (2014)

Teaching Elder Commissioner – Rev. Dr. John Nelsen, University, El Paso

Ruling Elder Commissioner – Elder Dennis Haralson, First P.C., Seminole

Young Adult Advisory Delegate – Emily Gulick, First P.C., Midland

CERTIFICATIONS

As required by the Book of Order (G-3.0106), the Stated Clerk certifies that the Presbytery of Tres Rios adopted a Manual of Operations at its 98th Stated Meeting held October 18, 2013.

As required by the Book of Order (G-3.0106), the Stated Clerk certifies that the Presbytery of Tres Rios adopted and implemented a Sexual Misconduct Policy and Procedures Manual at its 98th Stated Meeting held October 18, 2013.

It was MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED that the report be approved.

Report of the Nominating and Representation Team

The report was presented by Judia Foreman

I. Matters of Information

- A. The Missional Nominations and Representation Team (MNRT) met May 29, 2015 at the presbytery office.
- A. Present: Jose Luis Casal, General Missioner; Judia Foreman, Moderator; Jim Longstreet and Roger Owen. Present by phone: Lucretia Chew, Vice-Moderator and Jane Sturgis, Secretary.

II. Matters of a Routine Nature

- B. Nominees for unexpired terms, 2018 term and Vice-Moderator were discussed.
- C. Policy of the MN&RT for selection of General Assembly Commissioners and Young Adult Delegates was reviewed and a new policy was drafted.
- D. Next meeting will be by email reporting responses from potential nominees.

III. Matters Requiring More Careful Consideration

- A. Motion to approve David McWilliams (RE/Grace, Midland) to the Missional Resource Team to fill the 2016 unexpired term of Caryn Thurman; Lucretia Chew (TE/HR, El Paso) to the Missional Ministries Team to fill the 2016 unexpired term of Mary Beth Anton; Patty Lane (TE/HR, El Paso) to the Missional Outreach Team to fill the 2016 unexpired term of Liz Sommers; Roger Owen (RE/Nazareth, San Angelo) to the Missional Outreach Team to fill the 2016 unexpired term of Cynthia Davenport-Herbst Jim Longstreet (TE/HR, Midland) to the Permanent Judicial Commission to fill the 2020 unexpired term of Eric Thompson.

Moderator requested any nominations from the floor. Hearing none it was MOVED AND CARRIED that Recommendation III.A be approved.

- B. Motion to approve the proposed Policy of the Missional Nominating and Representation Team for General Assembly Commissioners and Young Adult Delegates.

Rationale:

- 1. Current policy is unnecessarily complicated to understand
- 2. Proposed policy allows all teaching elders to be considered as commissioners
- 3. Proposed policy allows for personal reflection and evaluation of all nominees

It was MOVED AND CARRIED that Recommendation III.B be approved. (See Exhibit C).

Report of the Missional Ministries Team

The report was presented by Cheryl Homsher

I. Items of Information

- A. The MMT continues to work with these churches in transition:

Westminster, Odessa
First, Seminole
First, Coahoma
First, Marfa
University, El Paso

- B.** The following e-mail ballots were ratified May 12, 2015
1. Confirm members of the First, Midland Discernment Team, representing the presbytery: Craig Holstedt (TE, First, Big Spring); Tracy Spencer Brown (TE, Andrews); Jeanie Holbrook (RE, First, Odessa); Mark Morgan (RE, First, Big Spring)
 2. Appoint Mary Beth Anton as moderator, Westminster, Odessa
 3. Approve MIF for Westminster, Odessa
 4. Approve MIF for First, Marfa
 5. Approve Candidate Cindy Duke to take Ordination Exams
 6. Finalize names of possible facilitators for the First, Midland, discernment process
 7. Approve request to MRT for funds for First, Midland discernment process (\$10,000)
- C.** The MMT is working on revising the “The Annual Review of Compensation” form that churches are asked to submit
- D.** The MMT reviewed the process churches go through when calling a pastor, including the reference and background checks that are completed, and is in the process of up-dating policy documents
- E.** Approved MIF for Designated Associate Pastor for University, El Paso, and gave the APNC permission to move forward without doing a national search; shepherding committee for AP will stay in place for at least six months after AP is called, and MMT liaison to meet quarterly with the session concerning AP responsibilities
- F.** Exit interviews were completed with St. Paul, San Angelo, session and Glenda Harbert.
- G.** The following teams were assigned to complete annual consultations with Inquirers and Candidates:
1. Suzanne Gulick: Craig Holstedt, Susan Holstedt
 2. Cindy Duke: Cheryl Homsher, Jim Miles, Ann Hurt
 3. Lauren Heare Morris: Bernie Coffee, Tim Davenport-Herbst
 4. Donna Hedicke: Bill Rose, Katherine Norvell, John Nelsen
- H.** Pulpit Supply List is being reviewed and updated
- I.** Regarding training for Commissioned Ruling Elders, information was obtained about the Certificate of Ministry program offered by Austin Seminary and will be shared with the presbytery

- J. An MMT training retreat will be planned for the fall
- K. Teaching Elder Gary Dill was examined for membership in Tres Rios Presbytery

II. Recommendations of a Routine Nature

- A. Actions taken on behalf of presbytery
 - 1. That Teaching Elder Gary Dill be received as a Member-at-Large from Sierra Blanca Presbytery, and be appointed as moderator of First, Marfa
 - 2. That the following commission be elected to install Cheryl Kincaid as pastor of First, Odessa, Sunday, April 26, 3:00 p.m.
Teaching Elders: Jim Miles, Jose Luis Casal, Bob Hawkins, Cheryl Homsher
Ruling Elders: Bart Teeter (St. Paul, San Angelo); Joan McCown (Westminster, Odessa); Judia Foreman (First, Midland); Ernest Thomas (First, Odessa)

III. Recommendations Requiring More Careful Consideration

- A. That Josh Gahr be removed from rolls of presbytery as a candidate.

It was MOVED AND CARRIED that Recommendation III.A be approved.

- B. That the following be elected to read Ordination Exams:
Teaching Elders: Matt Miles and Katherine Norvell
Ruling Elders: Bernie Coffee and Bill Rose
Walter Thompson (Alternate)

It was MOVED AND CARRIED that Recommendation III.B be approved.

Report of the Administrative Commission for Divine Savior/St Andrew

The report was presented by Jimmy Stevens and was received as information

Commission has met with Pastor Jayne Ruiz and both Sessions. Both congregations have begun the "New Beginnings" program of the General Assembly. Entered lease agreement with TMobile to install a cell tower.

Task Force for Reconciliation and Gracious Dismissal Policy

The report was presented by Tim Davenport-Herbst. Following discussion it was MOVED AND CARRIED that the revised policy as amended be adopted (second reading). (See Exhibit D).

Report of the Missional Networking Team

The report was presented by Dennis Haralson and received as information. Team has met to review the current Manual of Operations for possible revisions. Members of the presbytery are encouraged to review the current manual and send suggestions to Kay Long or Jimmy Stevens before September 1st.

I. Matters of Information

- A. Accepted the invitation of Grace Presbyterian Church, Midland to host the October 16, 2015 meeting of presbytery.
- B. Appointed the following to serve on the planning task force for the October 16, 2015 meeting of presbytery: Cheryl Homsher (convener), Jose Luis Casal, Tracy Spencer Brown, Don Carlton, Judia Foreman, Kay Long
- C. Manual of Operations Review Task Force work will be extended to report at the October, 2015 meeting of presbytery.
- D. Appointed the following to serve on the Task Force for distribution of Trinity, Midland funds: Jimmy Stevens, Kay Long, Jana Lanier, Jose Luis Casal, Jim Miles, Barbara Chappell.

Report of the Administrative Commission for FPCSA Members Continuing as PC(USA) Congregation

The report was presented by Don Carlton

I. Matters of Information

Background information

At its 102nd Stated Meeting at First Presbyterian Church in El Paso on February 21, 2015, the presbytery acted to approve the following recommendation from the Missional Networking Team:

“That the presbytery appoint an Administrative Commission to work in partnership with the members of First Presbyterian Church who desire to remain in the P. C. (U.S.A.), and who have signed a letter of intent expressing their desire to unite together to form a continuing P.C. (U.S.A.) congregation. The AC will provide guidance and support to the members as it seeks to develop its identity, mission and ministry as a congregation. The AC will serve as liaisons for

the congregation to the Ministry Teams of the presbytery, and will assist in expediting the necessary resources and personnel of the presbytery. Members to be appointed to the AC are: Rev. Jose Luis Casal, General Missioner; Elders: Bart Teeter, Moderator; Jimmy Stevens, Treasurer; and Kay Long, Stated Clerk. That the Missional Resource Team, Missional Ministries Team and Missional Outreach Team appoint someone to serve on the commission. Those appointed do not have to be current members of the Team.

The duties of the commission will be as follows:

- 1. Work with the congregation to elect a steering committee, treasurer and clerk.*
- 2. Explore with the congregation possible models for temporary or interim pastoral care and suggest names.*
- 3. Request funds from presbytery as needed that have been set aside for this purpose. Resourcing up to \$25,000 from the Second Harvest Fund.*
- 4. Establish a bank account at a local San Angelo bank in presbytery's name, with presbytery's tax ID number to be used for member's contributions and other funds received for the benefit of this congregation. Signatories will be presbytery representative and two members of the congregation. (Member's contributions will be tracked and reported by the presbytery office until such time as the steering committee is able to undertake the task.)*
- 5. The AC will report to presbytery on a regular basis, and keep accurate minutes of all meetings."*

The Administrative Commission has been working with the members of First PC, San Angelo who have expressed their desire to remain loyal to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and have signed a "Letter of Intent" to form a continuing PCUSA congregation. The loyal members have made arrangements with First Christian Church in San Angelo to use their Chapel for worship services, and have been worshipping together each Sunday since January 25th with approved pulpit supply. Members have been faithful in attendance often averaging around 38 to 40 persons, and on several occasions as many as 50 have been in attendance.

A steering committee has been elected and the following accomplished:

- A bank account in the presbytery's name has been established for use of the group.
- A budget for the year has been developed, contributions are being tracked, and financial reports are regularly submitted.
- Designated 15% of weekly contributions to Presbyterian Children's Home, House of Faith in San Angelo, and Tres Rios Presbytery for mission benevolence giving. They plan to work with other local Presbyterian churches in hands-on projects.

- Pulpit supply has been arranged for the summer months, and communion is being properly observed.
- Employed an organist for weekly services, and have guest musicians on occasion.
- Members are working together to carrying out the responsibilities for worship and music, stewardship and finances, congregational care and fellowship, Christian education, and mission outreach.

In looking ahead to the future, the Steering Committee and AC have discussed possible models for longer-term pastoral leadership, and further developing the identity and mission of the congregation.

- A. The following appointments to the AC were made by the Missional Teams: Rev. Craig Meyer, (Missional Outreach Team); Don Carlton (Missional Resource Team); Rev. Wilma Harris (Missional Ministries Team).
- B. AC met on March 10, 2015 and elected the following officers: Don Carlton, Moderator and Kay Long, Clerk.
- C. Joint Meetings of the AC with the Steering Committee were held on April 13th and May 29th.

II. Matters of a Routine Nature

That the following actions taken on behalf of presbytery be admitted to record:

- A. Approved that a Steering Committee be elected composed of the following members: Gerald Ratliff, David Byrd, Bitsy Stone, Victor Probandt, and Jane Gillis.
- B. Approved Craig Meyers, Wilma Harris and Kay Long to serve as the AC members of the Steering Committee.
- C. Approved a resolution that a banking account under the presbytery's name be established at First Financial Bank, San Angelo for the use of the loyal members in depositing contributions and paying expenses.

III. Matters For More Careful Consideration

None

Report from Task Force for Trinity Legacy Team

The report was presented by Jimmy Stevens and received as information.

In the April 14, 2015 meeting of the Missional Networking Team, a task force was appointed to review the funds received after the dissolution of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Midland. Members appointed to this task force are: Don Carlton (elder, Grace Midland), Barbara Chappell (elder, Westminster Odessa), Jana Lanier (elder, First Midland), Kay Long (stated clerk and member of the Administrative Commission for Trinity), Jim Miles (pastor, Fort Stockton), Jimmy Stevens (Treasurer) and Jose Luis Casal (General Missioner). The purpose of the task force is to review the Trinity funds and to make a recommendation for use of these funds to presbytery.

The task force held its first meeting on May 20, 2015 with all appointed members attending. Jimmy Stevens was elected Moderator of the task force and Kay Long was elected Clerk. The following items were discussed:

1. Review of purpose of task force
2. Review of the funds received to date and projections on future receipts.
 - (a) Legacy funds totaling approximately \$228,300 were received in May 2013 consisting of various sabbatical and scholarship funds. These are invested at Texas Presbyterian Foundation and there is a current balance of \$241,800.
 - (b) Proceeds from the sale of the Trinity building. The building was sold to a non-profit, Genesis with that sale closing July 2013. The property was sold for a total price of \$1,500,000 with the following terms: an initial down payment of \$120,000 and a five year balloon 4% note of \$1,380,000. There are 60 equal payments of principal and interest of \$6,588 with a balloon payment in June 2018 of \$1,250,595.
3. Discussion of the possible uses of these funds. The consensus of the group was that the majority of the funds should be in perpetuity with spending only from the corpus. Also, the group felt that a portion of the legacy funds should be used for purposes consistent with the original designation.

The next meeting on the task force will be August 17, 2015 in the presbytery office.

Report of the Missional Nurturing Team

The report was presented by Ted Wehmeyer and received as information.

- A. Team received thank you notes from participants at Prude Ranch for scholarship.
- B. Applications to serve on the Youth Task Force for the 2015-2016 school year will be received until September 1, 2015.

- C. Synod Youth Workshop will be held July 20-25, 2015. Chartered bus has been reserved for travel. Reservations need to be made with Theresa at the presbytery office as soon as possible.
- D. Presbyterian Youth Triennium will be held July 19-23, 2016 at Purdue University. Application forms will be sent to churches in the fall.
- E. Approved \$500 grant request from First, Fort Davis from the Chimney Spring Fund for scholarship to Buffalo Gap.

Report of the Missional Resource Team

The report was presented by Don Carlton

I. Matters of Information

- A. Presbytery insurance policy was reviewed by the team. Bids for coverage were reviewed by the team. The team accepted the proposal from The Insurance Man (Guide One) for insurance coverage for the presbytery.
- B. Financial review for the year 2013 has been completed by Randy Silhaun (CPA) with no exceptions noted. Copies of the review are available at the clerk's table.
- C. Builders Fellowship call issued to Grace, Midland earlier in the year generated \$5518.92.

II. Recommendations of a Routine Nature

None

III. Recommendations Requiring More Careful Consideration

- A. That the revised position description for the General Missioner be approved. (See Exhibit E).

It was MOVED AND CARRIED that Recommendation III.A be approved.

- B. That the Property Guidelines and Procedures Handbook be adopted as general guidelines.

It was MOVED AND CARRIED that Recommendation III.B be approved. (See Exhibit F).

- C. That \$10,000 be designated as a budget for the Tres Rios/FPC Midland Discernment Team be established to go through the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Process. Money will come from the Operating Reserve Fund.

It was MOVED AND CARRIED that Recommendation III.C be approved.

Treasurers Report

The report was presented by Jimmy Stevens. The report dated April 30, 2015 was received as information. (See Exhibit G).

Missional Outreach Team Report

The report was presented by Craig Meyers.

I. Matters of Information

- A. Big Tent Event is scheduled July 30-August 1, 2015.
- B. Appointed Craig Meyers to the Administrative Commission to work with those members of FPC San Angelo that want to remain in the PC(USA).
- C. Team reviewed New Beginnings Assessment for Divine Savior/St Andrew.
- D. Our presbytery is hosting a binational Mission Conference with representatives of the Costa Norte presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Colombia. We will be reciprocating as they hosted representatives of Tres Rios Presbytery last year. The conference will be held in El Paso on September 23-27 of this year.

Our Missional Outreach Team is asking sessions and individuals to consider sponsoring one or more Columbian ruling or teaching elders. Scholarships are to be \$1000 to cover the air ticket for one person. Send donations to the Presbytery Office. It is hoped that recipients would itinerate in the sponsoring congregation while here.

For more information please contact Rev. Craig Meyers, chair of the conference planning task force, Dr. Jim Miles, MOT chair, or Jose Luis Casal, our general missionary.

II. Recommendations of a Routine Nature

None

III. Recommendation Requiring More Careful Consideration

- A. That Craig Meyers present update on strategic plan for church revitalization. Presentation was made by Craig Meyers.

Presentation was made by Dan Saperstein "Living by our Confession".

The presbytery then gathered for worship and to celebrate communion. Rev Jobeth McLeod and Rev Steve Schorr led the worship service. Ruling Elders Nelson Sager, Cecilia Casal, Annette McDermott and Bill Rose serve communion. Rev Hunter Farrell preached the sermon.

The presbytery was recessed to gather the next day.

The meeting was opened with prayer on Saturday June 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. with the presentation by Hunter Farrell "One Body, Many Parts" followed by presentation by Omar Chan and Amanda Craft from the Presbyterian Border Ministry.

Next Meeting Site

The 104th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Tres Rios will be held on October 16, 2015 at Grace Presbyterian Church, Midland.

It was MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED that the presbytery express it's profound thanks to members of First Presbyterian Church, Alpine for their gracious hospitality.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at with mid-day prayer at 11:30 a.m. led by Rev Cheryl Kincaid followed by lunch provided by our gracious hosts of First, Alpine

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay Long, Stated Clerk
Theresa Wright, Recording Clerk

Exhibit A



Docket
103rd Stated Meeting
June 12-13, 2015
First Presbyterian Church
Alpine, Texas
“One Body, Many Parts”

June 19, 2015

11:30 a.m.	Registration and Buffet Lunch	
12:30 p.m.	New Commissioner Orientation led by Kay Long	
1:00 p.m.	Mid-Day Prayer and Hymn	
1:30 p.m.	Call the 103 rd Stated Meeting to Order	Bart Teeter
	Welcome from the host church	Jobeth McLeod
	Welcome to visitors, first time commissioners, and corresponding members	Bart Teeter
	Adoption of the Docket	Kay Long
	Omnibus Motion	Kay Long
	Communications	Kay Long
	Minutes Audit Task Force Report for February 21, 2015 meeting	
	Election of Minutes Audit Task Force for June 12, 2015 meeting	
	Stated Clerk Report	Kay Long
	Reports From:	
	Missional Nominating and Representation Team	Judia Foreman
	Missional Ministries Team	Cheryl Homsher
	Administrative Commission for Divine Savior/St Andrew	Jim Miles
	Task Force for Reconciliation and Gracious Dismissal Policy	Tim Davenport-Herbst
	Missional Networking Team	Dennis Haralson
	Administrative Commission for FPCSA Members Continuing as PC(USA) Congregation	Don Carlton
	Task Force for Trinity Legacy Team	Jimmy Stevens
	Missional Nurturing Team	Ted Wehmeyer
	Missional Resource Team	Don Carlton
	Treasurer's Report	Jimmy Stevens
	Missional Outreach Team	Jim Miles
3:00 p.m.	Presentation by Dan Saperstein	“Living by our Confession”
4:00 p.m.	Worship including Holy Communion	Preaching Hunter Farrell
6:30 p.m.	Dinner at Indian Lodge followed by Star Party at McDonald Observatory (on your own)	

Saturday, June 20, 2015

8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast at the Church	
9:00 a.m.	Presentation by Hunter Farrell	“One Body, Many Parts”
10:00 a.m.	Break	
10:15 a.m.	Presbytery Business not concluded on Friday	
11:45 a.m.	Mid Day Prayer and Adjournment	
12:00	Eat in or take out lunch available at the church	

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION TO INSTALL

The Commission appointed by presbytery to install Cheryl Kincaid as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Odessa, Texas, met at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 26, 2015, in the church office.

The following members were present, constituting a quorum:

Ministers:

The Rev. Jose Luis Casal

The Rev. Robert Hawkins

The Rev. Jim Miles

The Rev. Cheryl Homsher

Elders:

Moderator, Bart Teeter (St. Paul, San Angelo) Judia Foreman (First, Midland)

Joan McCown (Westminster, Odessa)

Ernest Thomas (First, Odessa)

Ann Hurt (First, Fort Stockton)

The meeting was opened with prayer. The order of business before the commission was adopted by consent.

The commission proceeded to the sanctuary and led the assembled congregation in worship. The Rev. Jim Miles preached the sermon using as his texts: Isaiah 61:1, Romans 1:16; I Corinthians 1:18-25 and John 3:11-21. The moderator reviewed the proceedings of presbytery preparatory to the call and emphasized the importance and solemnity of the proceedings. The constitutional questions were propounded to the minister and the congregation and were answered in the affirmative by both. The prayer of installation was offered by The Rev. Jim Miles. The commission members gave her the right hand of fellowship. The moderator declared that Teaching Elder Cheryl Kincaid was duly elected and installed as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Odessa, Texas. The charge to the minister was given by The Rev. Jim Miles. The charge to the congregation was given by The Rev. Bob Hawkins. After the celebration of the Lord's Supper and the singing of a hymn, the benediction was pronounced by the newly-installed minister. The congregation extended the right hand of fellowship to her at a reception following the service.

The commission was adjourned with the benediction at the close of worship.

Bart Teeter Moderator

Cheryl Homsher Clerk

COM revised
September 23, 2003

Exhibit C

**Policy of the Missional Nominating and Representation Team (MN&RT)
General Assembly (GA) Commissioner/Young Adult Delegates (YADs) Nominations
Tres Rios Presbytery
Drafted June 12, 2015**

**One Teaching Elder Commissioner
One Ruling Elder Commissioner
One Alternate Teaching Elder Commissioner
One Alternate Ruling Elder Commissioner
One Young Adult Delegate (18 – 23 years old)**

Presbytery responsibilities & nominating process for GA Teaching/Ruling Elders and YADs.

- Presbytery will encourage all teaching/ruling elder commissioners and YADs to participate in the work of GA.
- GA nominating materials will be readily available to teaching and ruling elders and YADs (18 -23 years old) and completion of application forms will be encouraged. Materials will be provided to each congregation, clerk of session, pastor and youth pastor or leader.
- Members of the MN&RT should personally contact churches and encourage their participation in the nomination process.
- Teaching/ruling elders and YADs will be urged to complete profile forms and submit the applications for service as GA commissioners or YADs to the MN&RT with endorsements of session.
- GA Commissioners and YADs will be encouraged to attend a presbytery meeting and address the body about their interest in serving.
- MN&RT will present nominees based on the established guidelines below.
- Nominees for GA will be elected to serve as alternate commissioner the first GA and will be the principal commissioner the next GA.
- Alternate Commissions are invited to attend GA (at their own expense) for all or several days to assist them when they serve as the principal commissioner at the next GA: local churches are invited to assist with the expenses.
- If a commissioner is unable to attend and the alternate becomes the principal commissioner, a new alternate commissioner will be elected at the next presbytery meeting.
- If all persons completing applications do not meet the guidelines, the MN&RT may encourage others to consider service as commissioners.
- Nomination of commissioners and delegates will demonstrate inclusiveness with respect to age, sex, ethnic origin, theological orientation and make every effort to rotate evenly through the clusters.

Guidelines for selection of General Assembly Commissioner and Young Adult Delegate

GA teaching/ruling elders and YADS should live a life of faith and commitment to Jesus Christ demonstrating personal integrity and spiritual maturity.

- Knowledge of and commitment to the structure and polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a connectional church.

- Active participation in the Presbytery of Tres Rios as well as in their particular church.
- Awareness of issues facing GA.
- Willingness to listen, read, study, and learn about issues to be considered at GA and to attend training, committee and assembly meetings.
- Proficiency using a laptop computer as GA is “electronic”
- Ability/willingness to report on the work of higher governing bodies and the issues facing those bodies.

The stated clerk will publish the following lists prior to the election of commissioners:

- Teaching/ruling elder and YADs who had been a commissioner/delegate to GA showing date of ordination and service as commissioner/delegate to GA.
- Previous teaching/ruling elder commissioners and YADs, with names of churches and dates of service, and number of years since the congregation was last represented by an teaching/ruling elder commissioner or YADs to GA.

Factors:

- Date of ordination
- Whether the teaching/ruling elder has served as a commissioner – if so, the number of times
- Time elapsed since last service as a commissioner
- Involvement in presbytery, synod and GA (including service in other presbyteries and synods)
- Last date the church of which the teaching/ruling elder is a pastor/member had a commissioner to GA

Further Requirements/Restrictions/Precedents

- Retired teaching elders cannot serve as commissioners
- A historical precedent exists in Tres Rios Presbytery that the Presbytery Executive, or now, General Missioner, may serve as our voting delegate.
eg One year when our clergy delegate was unable to attend, Charlie Hollingsworth voted.
- All Commissioners and YADs are nominated by the MN&RT and confirmed by a vote of Presbytery.
- In the event that a delegate or alternate must be replaced at the last minute and when the next meeting of Presbytery is too late to confirm a nominee, the name of the nominee shall be appointed by the Moderator of the Presbytery.

Method of Amendment

Amendments to the policy will be reviewed by the Missional Nominations and Representation Team and forwarded to Presbytery with recommendation. Presbytery may approve amendments by a simple majority vote.

General Assembly Commissioner
Application Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Church _____

Teaching Elder: Member of Tres Rios Presbytery since _____

Ruling Elder: Member of present church since _____

Ruling Elder: List service in your congregation _____

List service in Tres Rios Presbytery and/or previous presbyteries _____

List service in synod and General Assembly _____

Have you been a commissioner to General Assembly? _____ If so, when _____

- Are you willing to become aware of the issues before the General Assembly? _____
- Are you willing to attend the presbytery General Assembly preparation class? _____
- Are you Willing to attend all meetings of the General Assembly and assigned committee? _____
- Are you willing to attend General Assembly as an observer if you are elected as an alternate commissioner? _____
- Will you be willing to attend a presbytery meeting and address the body? _____
- Will you be available to report on the General Assembly at an appropriate meeting of the presbytery; and will you speak to congregations/sessions upon request? _____

If elected to serve, what unique perspectives or concerns would you bring to the assembly? _____

Why would you like to be a teaching/ruling elder commissioner to the General Assembly? _____

What else would you like the MN&RT to know? _____

Endorsed by session of _____

Teacher Elder

Clerk of Session

Please return to the Missional Nomination & Representation Team
Tres Rios Presbytery, 1201 W. Wall Street, Midland, Texas 79701
FAX 432.687.6120 email: twright@tresrios.org

**General Assembly Young Adult Delegate
Application form**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ Date of Birth _____

Church _____ Member since _____

Please check if you are an elder or deacon. Elder _____ Deacon _____ Date ordained _____

List church activities in which you participate _____

List presbytery, synod or General Assembly activities in which you participate _____

- Briefly state what being a Christian means to you. (Use the back of this form or additional paper)
- Have application endorsed by your church session and signed by your teaching elder, clerk of session and youth minister/leader

The 222nd General Assembly (2016) will be in Portland, Oregon – June 18 – 25, 2016. Will you be able to attend the entire time that General Assembly and its committees are in session? Yes ___ No ___

- Are you willing to become aware of the issues before the General Assembly? _____
- Are you willing to attend the presbytery GA preparation class? _____
- Are you willing to read a large amount of material in preparation for your work as a YAD? _____
- Are you willing to attend all meetings of the Assembly and assigned committee? _____
- Will you be available to report on the General Assembly at an appropriate meeting of the presbytery, and will you speak to congregations/sessions upon request? _____

Why would you like to be a youth advisory delegate to the General Assembly? _____

If you would like to speak with a former Young Adult delegate, please call the presbytery office (432.682.5297).

Teaching Elder

Clerk of Session

Youth Minister/Leader

Please return to the Missional Nomination & Representation Team
Tres Rios Presbytery, 1201 W. Wall Street, Midland, Texas 79701
FAX 432.687.6129 – email twright@tresrios.org

Exhibit D



POLICY FOR RECONCILIATION AND GRACIOUS DISMISSAL OF CONGREGATIONS

POLICY ADOPTION AND AMENDMENT RULES

This policy shall be proposed to members for preliminary reading at a Presbytery meeting. It shall then be presented at a subsequent meeting of Presbytery for reading/discussion, and shall be effective upon ratification by a majority of those voting at that meeting. Amendments to the Policy are in order at the Presbytery meeting where the vote takes place. First Reading February 18, 2015 stated meeting. Second Reading June 12, 2015 stated meeting. Adopted June 12, 2015.

Changes suggested from First Reading are in bold blue italics.

Upon adoption of this Policy, it shall supersede and replace the Presbytery of Tres Rios' "Reconciliation and Dismissal Policy" adopted by the presbytery on December 1, 2012, and shall apply from the date of its adoption by the Presbytery of Tres Rios to dismissal processes.

Subsequent to the adoption of this Policy, it may only be amended or rescinded by the same procedure stated above; after a preliminary reading/discussion of the Policy at a Presbytery meeting and ratification by a majority of those voting at a subsequent Presbytery meeting.

PRESBYTERY OF TRES RIOS

POLICY FOR RECONCILIATION AND GRACIOUS DISMISSAL OF CONGREGATIONS

PROLOGUE

The Presbytery of Tres Rios believes that God calls us to work together in unity,

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes. It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.” (Psalm 133:1-3 NRSV)

with humility, gentleness, patience, and love to keep the Spirit through the bond of peace.

“I therefore..... beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.” (Ephesians 4:1-6 NRSV)

The Unity of the Church

The congregations and members of the Presbytery of Tres Rios seek to uphold one another and to respect each other's integrity, even as we acknowledge significant differences in our views of what the Bible teaches about a number of issues. We affirm the freedom of conscience of each member of the body of Christ. We desire to encourage peace and unity, while minimizing confrontation between our congregations and members, as we seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. In all that we do, it is our prayer to strive to be a church modeled on the body of Christ, a church made up of many different parts, all of which are necessary for its mission to the world (F-1.0301). Our spiritual unity is derived from the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

Dialogue and Reconciliation

The goal of the Presbytery will always be reconciliation and continued engagement in relationship for all congregations within the Presbytery, without the threat of isolation, estrangement, or blame. The Presbytery is to be a servant to the congregations God has entrusted to us, encouraging and supporting them toward becoming healthy, growing congregations. This is especially true for those congregations for whom the bonds of unity are stretched and ecclesiastical connections are frayed over issues of conscience to the point of considering seeking dismissal.

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.” (1 John 4:18 NRSV)

The Presbytery's commitment to this passage in how we dialogue with each other means that we are committed to engage the leaders of a congregation, or the congregation as a whole, without threat of punishment. It is likewise incumbent upon the leaders of congregations wrestling with issues of conscience to share their concerns with Presbytery leadership in a timely manner, being assured that the response will not

be hostile, but instead one of prayerful dialogue and a commitment to act in love and in the best interests of the congregation as well as the Presbytery's mission.

Dialogue recognizes that our Reformed tradition includes broad historical differences between the great doctrines and themes of the church, and the specific theories and models which different communities have found useful in seeking to understand those doctrines in the practice of their faith. A Reformed stance allows room for a variety of legitimate perspectives and valid models of "essentials" that allow an understanding of underlying mysteries. Graciousness on both sides acknowledges this validity and seeks to honor rather than to demonize one another.

Freedom of Conscience and Mutual Forbearance

Presbyterians have always celebrated and recognized significant differences of opinion on issues that matter. This ethos is noted in the historic language found at F-3.0105: *"We also believe that there are truths and forms with respect to which men of good characters and principles may differ. And in all these we think it the duty both of private Christians and societies to exercise mutual forbearance toward each other."* The duty is always to work for reconciliation, and we promise to carry out that duty in our ordination vows.

Through our theology we understand that *"Presbyters are not simply to reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ. Decisions shall be reached in councils by vote, following opportunity for discussion and discernment, and a majority shall govern"* (F-3.0204 and F-3.0205). At the same time, the church is committed to being open to voices sharing minority opinions. At some points in our history, minority views have eventually become those of the majority. Thus, the Constitution of the P.C. (U.S.A.) recognizes *"The church reformed, always to be reformed according to the Word of God' in the power of the Spirit"* (F-2.02).

There are times when members find it impossible to go along with the majority. The Presbytery encourages all presbyters and congregations to *"concur with or passively submit"* to the vote and wisdom of the majority (footnote to G-2.0105). If their consciences will permit neither, the Presbytery will be gracious in their consideration of allowing congregations and presbyters with strong issues of conscience to pursue peaceable withdrawal through dismissal to another denomination that is doctrinally consistent with the essentials of Reformed theology as understood by the Presbytery and governed by polity that is consistent in form and structure with that of the PC (U.S.A.) (*Minutes*, 2008, pp. 15, 545).

I. 218th General Assembly Resolution:

The 218th General Assembly (2008) of the PC (U.S.A.) urged that the presbyteries, and synods develop and make available to lower governing bodies and local congregations a process that exercises the responsibility and power "to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches in consultation with their members" (*Book of Order*, G-11.0103i [now G-3.0303b]) with consistency, pastoral responsibility, accountability, gracious witness, openness, and transparency. Believing that trying to exercise this responsibility and power through litigation is deadly to the cause of Christ, impacting the local church, other parts of the Body of Christ and ecumenical relationships, and our witness to Christ in the world around us, it urges congregations considering leaving the denomination, presbyteries and synods to implement a process using the following principles:

- **Consistency:** The local authority delegated to presbyteries is guided and shaped by our shared faith, service, and witness to Jesus Christ.
- **Pastoral Responsibility:** The requirement in G-3.0303b to consult with the members of a church seeking dismissal highlights the presbytery's pastoral responsibility, which must not be submerged beneath other responsibilities.

- **Accountability:** For a governing body, accountability rightly dictates fiduciary and connectional concerns, raising general issues of property (G-4.02) and specific issues of schism within a congregation (G-4.0207). But, full accountability also requires preeminent concern with “caring for the flock.”
- **Gracious Witness:** It is our belief that Scripture and the Holy Spirit require a gracious witness from us rather than a harsh legalism.
- **Openness and Transparency:** Early, open communication and transparency about principles and process of dismissal necessarily serve truth, order, and goodness, and work against seeking civil litigation as a solution.”

II. Covenant Between the Presbytery and the Congregation

The Presbytery asks that any congregation considering dismissal from the denomination to covenant with the Presbytery to enter into this defined process of mutual discernment through the formation of a Discernment Team from the Presbytery and the local congregation (see “Discernment Process” below). As described below, this process shall take no less than six (6) months and no more than eighteen (18) months from the date of the congregational vote to enter the discernment process to completion. The following mutual commitment is essential to the process.

Working in good faith toward a mutually agreeable resolution means that the presbytery and the congregation’s clergy, officers and representatives:

- Will seek to honor and respect each other
- Are open and honest in all their dealings with each other;
- Provide all requested relevant information and documents to each other on a timely basis;
- Commit to protect the rights of the officers and members, if any, of the church who desire that the congregation remain loyal to the PCUSA, or who desire to remain congregants of another PC (USA) church;
- That the congregation’s clergy and officers refrain from any unauthorized unilateral changes in the way their assets are held or managed.
- Conduct the Business of the team in a timely fashion, neither acting in haste nor allowing unnecessary delays between meetings.

It is the Presbytery’s belief that in adopting this policy congregations who faithfully follow it as a way of discerning if God would have them affiliate with another Reformed denomination are not engaged in schism. If the Presbytery becomes aware during the discernment process that schism has developed among the members, the Presbytery will investigate and provisions in G-4.0207 (Property of a Church in Schism) shall apply.

If a session chooses not to follow this Policy or abandons these processes before completion, then the “Alternative Process for a Church Considering or Seeking Dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will apply. If a congregation or its leadership preemptively files suit in a civil court against the Presbytery, the Presbytery of Tres Rios will answer and defend the suit. If suit is filed, the Presbytery of Tres Rios also reserves the right to apply the Alternative Process for a Church Considering or Seeking Dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS

Congregations within the Presbytery share a covenant relationship that is not to be lightly regarded. The loss of any congregation diminishes the fellowship and mutual support of all. We therefore establish a procedure by which we seek to insure that dismissal of congregations will not be sought or allowed without a full understanding by all parties of what may be lost when a congregation is dismissed.

I. Notice of and Response to Concerns

Because reconciliation is the desired outcome of any disagreement between the congregation and the Presbytery, informal public conversations between the congregation and the Presbytery are encouraged prior to entering the Discernment Procedure to facilitate mutual understanding and reconciliation. The purpose of these conversations is to determine whether the dissatisfaction in the congregation is substantial enough to warrant the initiation of the formal engagement process or whether remedies for differences can be achieved through other means. These conversations are meant to insure that the session and the congregation are fully informed on the issues at hand, equipped with knowledge of the Presbytery's process, as well as the processes and values that have guided other congregations and presbyteries in their decision-making, and jointly, or subsequently, with the congregation as the congregation tries to discern God's will for denominational affiliation. Without dialogue there cannot be a mutual understanding of the will of the people. Without joint discernment councils can misunderstand the will of Christ.

However, after such conversation(s) a Session wishing to initiate this formal process shall put the matter to a vote. If at a meeting in which the session members have been advised in advance that this matter is to be acted upon and the appropriate quorum is present, the Session votes by two-thirds majority to initiate the discernment process, the Clerk of Session shall inform the Stated Clerk and General Missioner of the Presbytery of this desire.

The Session shall then call a meeting of the congregation for the purpose of approving participation in the formal discernment process. Notice of the meeting and the required quorum shall be as established by the congregation's own rules per the *Book of Order*. At that meeting, the congregation shall also vote to establish a quorum of 50% for any future meeting to vote on requesting dismissal from the PC (U.S.A.). Representatives of the presbytery shall be invited to attend to answer questions about the discernment process, etc. If the congregation approves initiating the discernment process, the Stated Clerk, the Moderator of Presbytery, the Pastor, and the Clerk of Session (or their designated representative) will then sign the Covenant Agreement (see page 19).

II. Appointment of Representatives for Discernment and a Facilitator/Mediator

The Discernment Team shall consist of four representatives from the church and four representatives from the Presbytery. The session shall select the representatives from the congregation and shall make every effort to represent the broader congregation and differing viewpoints. Representation shall include one from the church staff, one from the session and two at large active members of the congregation. The Missional Ministries Team (MMT) shall select two Ruling Elders and two Teaching Elders from the Presbytery (at least one of the four from the MMT).

The MMT shall propose names for a Facilitator/Mediator to the session's representatives. A majority of both the presbytery's and the congregation's representatives shall concur in the selection of a Facilitator/Mediator. *If it is in the best interest of the process to contract the services of an outside Facilitator/Mediator, all fees, honorariums, travel expenses related to mileage, air fare, car rental, hotel, and meals shall be equally shared by the congregation and the presbytery. The cost of any space rented for meetings shall also be equally shared by both parties.* The

Facilitator/Mediator shall not be one of the eight members of the Discernment Team and shall have voice but not vote during the discernment process.

III. Communications

The Discernment Team will have the authority to communicate directly with the session, congregation, leaders and elected officers of the Presbytery, Presbytery and anyone else as needed to accomplish its work. Copies of all communications to the congregation regarding the discernment process will be furnished to the presbytery and its members of the Discernment Team.

IV. Meetings

The Discernment Team and the Facilitator/Mediator shall covenant to meet together the number of times necessary to accomplish the goals in the suggested outline for meetings with each meeting lasting approximately two (2) hours. The content of meetings will follow the suggested outline, but may be tailored as circumstances dictate to allow for each unique situation. If additional meetings are deemed necessary, a longer period of time may be required. Meetings shall be scheduled in relatively steady succession, without unnecessary delay, to maintain continuity of the discernment process.

At each meeting, all participants covenant to strive earnestly, in a spirit of Christian love, to (1) pray and study together, (ii) search for avenues of mutual reconciliation, offer grace, and exercise mutual forbearance as led by the Holy Spirit, (iii) be open, honest, and transparent, (iv) speak the truth in love, and (v) genuinely seek to discern not human will, but God's will, for the congregation.

First Meeting

During the first meeting, the Discernment Team will engage in extended time of prayer for God's guidance and introductions. The process shall be reviewed and questions addressed. Team members will share a portion their faith stories, their understanding of the spiritual and theological issues at stake between the congregation and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The facilitator/mediator will guide the dialogue on foundational theological issues. The purpose of this discussion will be to (i) determine the degree of common theological ground that exists between the congregation and the denomination, and (ii) discern the nature and depth of any Christological, ecclesiological or other foundational theological disagreements that do exist. The first meeting will primarily be for listening, sharing and identifying areas to be addressed.

Second Meeting.

The second meeting will be primarily for continued dialogue and the planning of a process to engage all members of the congregation in prayer and discernment, to listen and respond to the concerns, sensitivities and question of congregation members. ~~The process may take the form of small group gatherings or town hall type meeting(s).~~ *Creative discernment processes for small or large group gatherings may be used,* but shall be designed to encourage the participation of all members and assure that there is equal opportunity for all viewpoints to be brought before the congregation and for all members to have opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns. Discernment Team members shall agree on what other resources should be provided to the members for their personal reading or viewing to aid in discernment and which present all viewpoints.

Third - Meeting(s) With the Congregation

For the third meeting(s), the Discernment Team will meet with members of the congregation for prayer and discernment, and to respond to their concerns, sensitivities and questions. It is especially important for the Discernment Team to model the gracious tone inherent in this Policy.

In its dialogue with the congregation, the Discernment Team will share the implications for a church considering leaving the denomination, and the options open to the members if dismissal occurs. They will offer possible proposals for healing the relationship between the congregation and the Presbytery. To facilitate the discussion, the Presbytery shall be deemed to have approved any Reformed body in good standing with the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) (formerly World Alliance of Reformed Churches) or any other Reformed body that may be approved by the Presbytery of Tres Rios.

Additional Meetings.

The Discernment Team will determine by mutual consent if additional meetings are needed to allow additional time for members of the congregation to participate, particularly if it is a large congregation. The team will consider feedback received from the members of the congregation to determine if the content of the discussion should be expanded to include other concerns.

Fourth Meeting

The fourth meeting will focus on the Discernment Team's recommendation. The team will review what it has learned through focused conversation, through receiving feedback from the congregation, and through prayer. Members of the Team will consider the various proposals discussed for healing the relationship between the congregation and the Presbytery. If the Discernment Team is convinced that a deep gulf still exists between the congregation and the PC (U.S.A.), and that they are not able to establish a process for continued relationship with the PC (U.S.A.), the Discernment Team will begin the process of determining whether the session and congregation desire to request dismissal as provided in the section below outlining the procedures for seeking dismissal.

Fifth Meeting

Upon completion of the discernment process and time committed to prayer, the Discernment Team will prepare a report with recommendations to the session and to the congregation, and the presbytery. This report shall be recorded in the presbytery's and session's minutes.

Decision of the Session

If after receiving the report of the Discernment Team, the Session determines the congregation is still called by God to remain in covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), both parties will work together to heal any broken relationships (see "Guidelines for Restoration of Fellowship and Recommitment to Presbytery-Congregational Relationship" below).

If the Session votes to call a congregational meeting to vote on a request for dismissal to another Reformed body, the Session shall follow the "Procedure for Seeking Dismissal". The Discernment Team shall meet with the Session to ensure proper, fair and balanced communications during the period between the call for a congregational vote and the vote. The representatives of Presbytery shall report to the Presbytery regarding the fairness of communications during this period.

GUIDELINES FOR RESTORATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND RECOMMITMENT TO PRESBYTERY CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONSHIP

If the session or congregation determines that it is called into a continued or transformed relationship with the Presbytery of Tres Rios, the Discernment Team will create and conduct a process for continuation/transformation of fellowship and reaffirmation to the Presbytery-congregational relationship. The following are presented as minimal guidelines for marking and sealing that reaffirmation:

- Consulting with the Session in writing a covenant of reaffirmation with the Presbytery,
- Consulting with the Session in reconciling leadership and members.
- Conducting a public service of worship and reaffirmation to shared fellowship and ministry, with participation from Presbytery and congregation.
- Sharing of story and testimony from members of the Reconciliation Team and congregation at the congregational and Presbytery level.
- Blessing and commissioning of any congregants who leave the local congregation (to the extent possible), in the hope of maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace. (*Ephesians 4:3*)

PROCEDURE FOR SEEKING DISMISSAL, THE CARE OF PEOPLE AND DETERMINING TERMS OF DISMISSAL

I. Dismissal to Another Reformed Body

Consistent with Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) polity and General Assembly actions taken in *Anderson v. Synod of Florida*, a congregation can be dismissed with property only to another Reformed body recognized by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It cannot be dismissed to "independency." Consistent with *Strong & Bagby v. Synod of Mid South*, congregations can only be dismissed by the formal action of the Presbytery. During its conversations, the Discernment Team should discuss and confirm that the congregation desires to be dismissed to another Reformed body, and intends to remain in that Reformed body.

II. Procedure for Seeking Dismissal

Upon completion of the discernment process, if a session calls a meeting of the congregation to vote on a motion to request dismissal to a particular Reformed body, the Discernment Team will work with the Session to ensure the proper and fair implementation of the procedure outlined below:

- A. The session shall call for a meeting of the congregation. Advance notice for the meeting shall be by written letter to each member on the active roll of the congregation who is eligible to vote at the meeting, as well as through three Sunday worship announcements. The letter shall be mailed at least thirty (30) days in advance of the meeting date and shall include:
 1. The question to be discussed and voted upon is: "Shall the _____ Presbyterian Church request the Presbytery of Tres Rios dismiss it to the Reformed body of _____?"
 2. A written statement from the Discernment Team majority and minority (if applicable). Public announcements of the congregational meeting shall be made at all worship services between the date of the call and the actual congregational meeting. Representatives of the Presbytery (which may include presbytery's members of the Discernment Team), Presbytery Moderator, General Missioner, Stated Clerk, or other representatives shall also be invited to the meeting, with the right to address the body-gathered.

- B. Steps will be taken to ensure that only the active members of the congregation present are permitted to vote. (G-1.0501). The quorum for the congregational meeting shall be the designated quorum of the congregation or 50% whichever is higher, The number for the required quorum shall be based on the number of active members as recorded in the Annual Statistical Report for the immediate preceding year.
- C. All active members present, as well as the representatives of Presbytery, shall have the right to speak. After discussion and prayer, tellers will be elected and the vote shall be taken by written ballot with the only choices being "Yes (request dismissal) or "No (Do Not request dismissal). Presbytery representatives shall be permitted to observe the counting of ballots. At least two-thirds of those present and voting must vote in favor of requesting dismissal to another Reformed body in order for the proposal to pass.
- D. If at least two-thirds of the active members present and voting mark their ballots to "request dismissal," it shall be deemed that the congregation has elected to seek dismissal to another Reformed body, and shall then enter into the next phase of the process.
- E. If the result of the congregational vote is less than two-thirds, but more than 50%, the presbytery shall determine how to proceed from that point, considering the wishes of the members seeking dismissal, the wishes of the members who wish to remain in the PC (U.S.A.), and the mission strategy of the Presbytery in the affected geographical area. It may elect to proceed to negotiate financial terms under which the members seeking dismissal will be allowed to acquire the property of the congregation, or it may elect to allow the surviving PC (U.S.A.) congregation to retain the property, In that case, the members seeking dismissal may proceed to seek dismissal as a group, or as individuals.
- F. If the results of the congregation vote are less than 50%, the presbytery will work with the session to bring about reconciliation among the members.

III. Care for People

The Presbytery recognizes that "the church" in a particular area is not its buildings or financial assets, but the people of the congregation, and are of paramount importance in any considerations. All processes should be open and loving, designed to support and nurture relationships rather than divide. Yet, by the very nature of a dismissal, some relationships will be stressed or severed. As we proceed, we must make sure our processes will account for everyone and that all individuals and groups are supported.

Following a congregational meeting in which the vote is to request dismissal, the session will promptly provide to the presbytery a copy of the membership roll with addresses, phone numbers and email addresses. Within 30 days of the congregation's vote requesting dismissal to another Reformed body, the Presbytery will prepare a letter to members of the congregation informing them of their options to be dismissed with the congregation or to remain in the PC (U.S.A.). The letter will also inform members desiring to remain in the PC (U.S.A.) who serve on committees or as officers of the presbytery that their term of office shall continue, and are eligible to be elected to office in the future. For those desiring to be dismissed, their terms of office as officers or on presbytery committees will end. If a response is not received, it will be assumed the member wishes to be dismissed. The congregation will bear all costs associated with this mailing. The letter will direct that responses are to be returned to the Presbytery of Tres Rios. Rolls of those wishing to be dismissed and those wishing to remain in the P.C. (U.S.A.) will be prepared.

A. Status of Members of the Congregation Who Wish to Remain Members of PC (U.S.A.)

If there are members within a congregation who choose to remain in the PC (U.S.A.), the Presbytery will work closely with the members to provide pastoral support, guidance and resources for processing the transitions, whether they choose to continue on as the faithful remnant, seek or develop a new PC (U.S.A.) congregation, and/or addressing other matters of concern and care.

The Presbytery shall ensure that contact is made with those members wishing to remain in the PC (U.S.A.). At the earliest possible date, the Presbytery shall determine a location and convene a meeting with these members to discern the interest in continuing or starting a PC (U.S.A.) congregation or fellowship. The Presbytery's committee responsible for evangelism and church growth shall determine if the leadership, mission, and resources exist to organize *the continuing or* a new church. If the Missional Outreach Team makes that determination, an amount of money shall be made available for the *continuing or* new church development before dismissal of the majority with property. It is the responsibility of the Presbytery of Tres Rios to determine whether a new church development will be organized within its geographic boundaries, and will support, encourage and provide resources for the establishment of a new or continuing congregation of a loyal minority.

If there is no interest in organizing a continuing or a new congregation/fellowship, the presbytery will provide pastoral care to members, assisting them in transitioning to another congregation. If requested, the presbytery will hold the membership of those who desire to remain in the PC (U.S.A.) for up to two years, allowing time to request the transfer of their membership to an existing or new PC (U.S.A.) congregation.

B. Status of Members of the Congregation Being Dismissed

Members indicating their desire to be dismissed with the congregation to another Reformed body will be dismissed upon the vote of presbytery with its blessing for their continued ministry to Christ's church.

C. Status of Teaching Elder Members of Presbytery

Teaching elders who are installed within the congregation at the time of dismissal may request transfer to the Reformed body to which the congregation is requesting dismissal, or they may remain as members of Presbytery. Transfers will normally be approved, unless the teaching elder is subject to pending investigative or Permanent Judicial Commission action as per the *Book of Order*. Transfer may be requested concurrently with the congregation's request or separately within thirty (30) days. If transfer is not requested concurrently or within thirty (30) days, the teaching elder will be placed on inactive status by Presbytery. The term of office for teaching elders serving as officers of the presbytery or on committees will end upon request for dismissal or if placed on inactive status. The call to the congregation of a teaching elder remaining in the PC (U.S.A.) will be dissolved upon dismissal of the congregation, and he/she will become a member-at-large, which will allow the teaching elder to continue to seek calls within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Missional Ministries Team will discuss with teaching elders the likely impact on their benefits and ordination status of the various options available to them, so that they fully understand the implications of their transfer to another Reformed body, or staying as a member of Presbytery.

D. Status of Members under Care of Presbytery

Special attention should be given to members of the congregation who are preparing for ministry and are under the care of Presbytery. Each member under care, together with his/her (CPM) liaison from the Missional Ministries Team, should be advised immediately of the congregation's desire to seek

dismissal. The member under care will be given the option of being dismissed with the congregation or transferring their membership to another congregation with Presbytery and/or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). If transfer to another congregation within Presbytery/the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is requested, the Missional Ministries Team will assist the member in seeking a waiver of the usual six-month requirement for church membership in order to maintain care status.

E. *Status of Commissioned Ruling Elders to a Particular Pastoral Service*

A Commissioned Ruling Elder's commission will end as of the date the presbytery votes to dismiss the particular congregation. If they are commissioned to the congregation in which they are also a member, they may choose to remain in the PC (U.S.A.), or be dismissed with the congregation to another Reformed body. If they are members of another PC (U.S.A.) congregation, or their choice is to remain in the PC (U.S.A.), they are eligible to be commissioned to pastoral service at a later date in another congregation as assigned by the presbytery.

IV. Care for Property

The Property Trust Clause

"All property held by or for a congregation, a presbytery, a synod, the General Assembly, or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), whether legal title is lodged in a corporation, a trustee or trustees, or an unincorporated association, and whether the property is used in programs of a congregation or of a higher council or retained for the production of income, is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)" (G-4.0203)."

The Presbytery of Tres Rios understands that the Trust Clause (G-4.0203) is a reflection of the church's organic unity as it fulfills "The Great Ends of the Church." Even as we profess that congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) do possess all the gifts necessary to be the church, we also profess in G-3.0101 of the *Book of Order* that there is "a mutual interconnection of the church through its councils" and that no congregation can claim to be "sufficient" in itself as the church. Under this provision, particular congregations "are called to share with others both within and beyond the congregation the task of bearing witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the world." It is the charge and duty of all councils of the church "to nurture, guide, and govern those who witness as part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to the end that such witness strengthens the whole church and gives glory to God." The Trust Clause is a specific manifestation of what the "mutual interconnection of the church through its councils" means for us with regard to our faithful stewardship of the property given to us by God for ministry.

The Trust Clause also reflects our understanding of the church as a communion of saints across time, with responsibilities both to those who came before and to those who will follow. When a congregation seeks to leave the Presbytery, it is breaking what is often a significant historic relationship; it is also departing from a fellowship in which its officers have participated, by whose polity they have pledged to be governed, and with which many members may feel bonds of affection. This policy therefore cautions any congregation seeking to separate from the Presbytery to consider its actions carefully.

Under the Trust Clause, all property, including land and buildings, used by a particular congregation in its ministry, is held in trust for the PC (U.S.A.). For that reason, the congregation cannot sell, lease, or encumber the property in question without the permission of Presbytery, nor can it take the property with it to another denomination unless Presbytery voluntarily releases its claim upon the property. The fact that a congregation may have exercised its limited right, created at the time of reunion, to be exempt from the requirement of Presbytery approval of certain property transactions (G-4.-0208) does

not affect or supersede the general, historic polity of the Church that all property of a congregation is held in trust, as set out above, and does not create the right for a congregation to be dismissed from the PC (U.S.A.) and retain its property. The constitution of the former Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) also provided that all property was held in trust for the use and benefit of the PCUS. See Chapter VI of the 1982-83 PCUS Book of Church Order.

For the reasons set forth above, the Trust Clause should be viewed as a defense of the ministry and mission of the church universal, not as an offensive weapon to be used against any council or other embodiment of the church. In considering enforcement of the provisions of the Trust Clause, all parties with an interest in the Trust Clause are called to act with grace rather than as adversaries. Scripture calls us to seek in all humility to resolve our disagreements graciously, with due consideration for the interests of others and a recognition that the way we handle disagreements can serve as a positive witness to the gospel in the world.

V. Procedures and Guidelines to Determine Terms of Dismissal

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission decisions make clear that a presbytery must exercise its fiduciary responsibility to the whole church under the Trust clause and to those members who wish to remain in the P.C. (U.S.A.). Each request for a congregation to be dismissed must be considered on a case by case basis. There must be an individual assessment and valuation of the church's unique situation, history, finances, property, spiritual needs and financial needs when considering dismissal, and such determination must be based on documented facts.

Preliminary Considerations Prior to Dismissal shall include:

- Congregation's history in the presbytery;
- Presbytery and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ministry and mission presence in the geographic area;
- The size of the minority wishing to stay in the PC (U.S.A.), and resources to fund the plan for continuing or starting a new PC (U.S.A.) congregation;
- Thorough analysis of the financial position of the congregation including the value of all the congregation's assets, including endowment funds, investments, personal property, and appraised value of real property; amount of liabilities; receipts and disbursements over the last five years;
- The terms of any endowment funds that require that the principal be transferred to the Presbytery or any other entity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- Congregation's debt service and any existing liens on the property;
- The congregation's ability to pay a contemplated amount; and
- Other relevant considerations.

Appointment of Representatives for Negotiating Terms of Dismissal

Upon the congregation's vote to seek dismissal, the session and the presbytery's Missional Networking Team will each appoint representative in equal numbers to form the Negotiating Team within thirty (30) days, which will include at least four people, and will set the Team's first meeting date. The Negotiating Team will commit to work as expeditiously as it can, bearing in mind that the complexity of issues facing the Team will determine its pace.

During the negotiating process, the Negotiating Team will exercise wise discretion and the degree of confidentiality necessary for their work. They will have the authority to communicate directly with the session, leaders and elected officers of the Presbytery as needed in order to accomplish their work.

Determining Terms of Dismissal

- A. The Negotiating Team shall then engage in discussions to determine what would be gracious, fair and reasonable terms under the circumstances for the particular congregation to be dismissed. ~~and enter into a legally binding agreement.~~ *The presbytery shall prepare a legally binding agreement based on the negotiated terms of dismissal for approval by the congregation and the presbytery.* All necessary documents to support the above determination will be provided by the session to the Negotiating Team, including the current year's operating budget, financial statements (audited or reviewed income statement and balance sheet), the insured value of the property, property evaluation, existing liens on property, insofar as practical, history of property acquisition and values, endowment or trust agreements.
- B. Additional matters to be addressed:
 1. The following is a list of some of the other practical considerations to be addressed, should a congregation be approved for dismissal, but are not necessarily all-inclusive.
 - a. The proposed effective date of dismissal should be determined.
 - b. A congregation that is approved for dismissal may take its name with it, but must remove the PC (U.S.A.) seal from all property and documents.
 - c. A congregation being dismissed shall be required to remove the Presbytery of Tres Rios from any outstanding loan guarantees and to pay off any loans outstanding to any entity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
 - d. A congregation *being dismissed* shall *may* be required to close out its financial and membership books as of the official date of dismissal, and to file all reports required by the presbytery for statistical record-keeping. *If there is a continuing congregation, they will be responsible for the Annual Statistical Report to the Office of the General Assembly.*
 - e. Any insurance policies held by the congregation with instrumentalities of the PC (U.S.A.) may need to be changed.
 - f. A congregation *that is dismissed* will no longer be *covered under* ~~included in~~ the PC (U.S.A.)'s *Internal Revenue Service "Group Exemption Number" and shall report the change in denominational affiliation to the IRS.*
 - g. A congregation will need to revise its corporate status *to reflect dismissal.* ~~(which may require filing of new articles of incorporation and bylaws).~~
 - h. Severance payment to any teaching elder(s) installed as pastor at the time of dismissal who wishes to remain with PC (U.S.A.) of twelve (12) months' salary, housing and benefits, less any compensation received by the teaching elder from other sources of employment during said twelve months' term.
 - i. A congregation must remit any outstanding dues to the Presbyterian Board of Pensions and clarify with the Board the status of any staff participating in the Board of Pensions whether participation will continue, or the effective date participation ends, etc.

- j. All original records, minutes, rolls or church legal documents are the property of the Presbytery of Tres Rios. Prior to dismissal a method shall be agreed upon to copy the originals, either through the Presbyterian Historical Society or by other qualified company, and the congregation may receive the originals back. The congregation shall bear the cost of copying, and the presbytery will verify that all documents have been copied. The presbytery may choose to retain a copy of some of the records in the presbytery office, i.e. baptismal records, etc.
 - k. Title to the property will not be released by the presbytery until all compensation for the property has been received. If the terms for payment require installments then the withdrawing congregation shall execute a promissory note secured by a deed of trust on the real property of the withdrawing congregation.
 - l. As a condition of release of title to the property, the session and congregation of the particular church requesting dismissal shall represent and warrant to the presbytery and the PC (U.S.A.) that the particular church is in good standing with respect to any federal state and local tax matters, all other regulatory licensing issues, and is not aware of any outstanding claims or other potential liabilities related in any way to the congregation's ministry or operation. The particular church shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless the presbytery and the PC (U.S.A.) from all such claims or liabilities whether arising before or after the dismissal date.
 - m. Prior to finalization of the dismissal process, *the session shall be responsible for consulting with their* legal counsel ~~will be retained to review the settlement agreement, in preparing a "Deed Without Warranty" (or Quit Claim Deed) by Presbytery to the congregation for any real property being that is to be released by presbytery.~~ All legal costs associated with this and any other corrective action noted above shall be borne by the congregation. *When all matters of dismissal have been completed as required by the dismissal agreement, the trustees of presbytery shall be authorized to deliver the signed "Deed Without Warranty" (Quit Claim Deed) to the session.*
 - n. ~~It is required that all legally binding agreements and documents be recorded with the County Clerk's office in which the property is located. The "Deed Without Warranty" (or Quit Claim Deed) shall be recorded with the County Clerk's office in which the property is located. In some situations, the "Agreement" or related documents may also need to be filed with the County Clerk.~~ The congregation shall be responsible for payment of the recording fees.
2. In the event that an agreement regarding terms of dismissal cannot be reached, or if a dispute arises that cannot be resolved through negotiation, the Negotiating Team shall agree to submit to mediation before a mutually agreed-upon mediator, and if still unable to resolve, submit to binding arbitration before a mutually agreed-upon arbitrator.
 3. When the Presbytery has approved the request for dismissal, all legal documents have been signed and payment(s) made as required by the agreement, the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Tres Rios shall issue a letter of dismissal to the Reformed Body which is prepared to receive the congregation, and will notify the Office of the General Assembly PC (U.S.A.) that the dismissal has occurred.
 4. In some circumstances, the value of the property in relation to the size of the departing congregation may dictate consideration of other terms for compensation. These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. A long-term lease of the property, under which the departing congregation retains full use of the buildings but title remains with the Presbytery.
- b. Sale of the property to a third party and allocation of the proceeds between the departing congregation and the Presbytery.
- c. Dissolution of the congregation and retention of the property by Presbytery for new church development or utilization for another mission of the Presbytery.

VI. Meeting of the congregation to validate the terms of dismissal

As soon as the representatives of the Presbytery and the session arrive at terms acceptable to the two committees, the session shall call for a final congregational meeting to validate the terms negotiated.

- A. The call for the congregational meeting shall be in accordance with the notice and quorum requirements of that congregation's by laws.
- B. All members of the congregation shall have an opportunity to speak, as well as representatives of the presbytery.
- C. The motion to approve the agreement shall be presented for an up or down vote as amendments to the agreements would invalidate months of work between the representatives of the presbytery and the congregation.
- D. At the conclusion of all discussion and prayer, members shall vote up or down on the terms. All active members of the congregation present shall vote by paper ballots that provide a vote for "Accept terms" or "Reject terms".
- E. If two-thirds of those present and voting elect to "Accept terms," the agreement between the presbytery and the session is validated and shall be deemed to represent the wishes of the congregation.

VII. Process for Presbytery to Vote to Dismiss a Congregation

- A. Once the session and congregation have formally voted to request dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and have accepted the terms of the negotiated agreement for dismissal, Presbytery will call a vote at the first regularly scheduled stated meeting, or it may elect to call a Pro Re Nata (Special Called) meeting on accepting the terms of the agreement and dismissing the congregation to another Reformed body, by a simple majority vote. The written reports of the members of the presbytery's Discernment Team will be presented, as well as the report of the members of the presbytery's Negotiating Team that worked with the session representatives to negotiate a settlement agreement. The reports, written settlement agreement and roll of members to be dismissed will be made available to all members of Presbytery for their review no later than two weeks prior to the meeting at which the Presbytery vote will be taken.
- B. It should be noted that renegotiation of the terms for dismissal through use of amendments from the floor of Presbytery would invalidate months of work between the representatives of the presbytery and the congregation. Therefore, the Presbytery of Tres Rios, by the adoption of this policy, affirms that the proposal shall be presented as a whole, with the understanding that the final agreement has been reached by good faith negotiations between the presbytery and the session/congregation. The motion to accept the terms of the settlement and dismiss the congregation should be preceded by a two-thirds vote required to limit amendments. The motion to dismiss the congregation shall include the name of the Reformed body the congregation is being dismissed to and the effective date. Presbytery must receive confirmation the congregation will be received by the Reformed body prior to dismissing.

- C. Separate motions for any teaching elder that wishes to be dismissed to another Reformed body shall be made and the effective date stated. Presbytery must receive confirmation the teaching elder will be received by the Reformed body prior to dismissing.

VIII. Post-Dismissal Service

An appropriate final service of prayer or worship will be offered to acknowledge the termination of the existing denominational relationship, to acknowledge the bonds of Christian love and duty that still bind us together, and to affirm the Presbytery's continuing care for the congregation. This may be a prayer service following the presbytery's vote to dismiss the congregation, or a separate worship service jointly planned by the Presbytery and the session with the Lord's Supper observed, and commissioning those departing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to further their work for the kingdom as they go forward in ministry, and all congregations of the Presbytery of Tres Rios shall be invited.

ALTERNATIVE PROCESS FOR SEEKING DISMISSAL FOR A CHURCH CONSIDERING OR SEEKING DISMISSAL FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

The Presbytery of Tres Rios has established a Reconciliation and Dismissal Process for member churches considering dismissal from the denomination and strongly encourages pastors, sessions and congregations to engage in the process outlined.

Recognizing that there may be congregations that either choose to seek dismissal from the without covenanting to abide by the Reconciliation and Dismissal Process or that may choose to abandon that process before completing it while continuing to seek dismissal from the denomination, the Presbytery establishes this Alternative Process for Churches Seeking Dismissal from the .

The intent of this Alternative Process is to provide guidelines for a gracious, decent, and orderly interaction between the Presbytery and churches seeking dismissal outside of the guidelines defined in the Reconciliation and Dismissal Process.

ALTERNATIVE PROCESS

When the Presbytery is notified that a church has taken steps to request dismissal from the without complying with the Reconciliation and Dismissal Process or that a church that was proceeding under the Reconciliation and Dismissal Process fails to complete it but is requesting dismissal, then the Presbytery will respond by following these guidelines.

A. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

1. Pursuant to G-3.0109b (5), the Moderator of Presbytery shall nominate and the Presbytery shall elect, an Administrative Commission ("AC"). The primary task of the AC is to "attempt to inquire into and settle the difficulties" of the church in question. The authority of the AC will be specifically defined for the situation. Powers of the AC may include authorization for the AC to assume jurisdiction in whole or in part over the affairs of the church with the power to act in place of the session.
2. The Stated Clerk of Presbytery will conduct a training session for members of the AC to apprise them of the powers that are delegated to the AC, and the facts and circumstances that prompted the formation of the AC.

3. Powers granted to the AC by the Presbytery may include the authority for the AC:

- a. to determine whether a schism exists within the congregation (G-4.0207,);
- b. If schism exists, to determine if one of the factions of the congregation represents *the true church within the PC (U.S.A.)* (G-4.0207);
- c. to make recommendations to the Presbytery to dissolve pastoral relationships or to place pastors on administrative leave. When requisite authority is given by the Presbytery, the AC may dissolve pastoral relationships (G-3.0109b);
- d. to request records of the session (G-3.0108b), *"If a higher governing body learns at any time of any irregularity or delinquency by a lower governing body, it may require the governing body to produce any records and take appropriate action"*;
- e. to examine and copy whatever records of the congregation that may be relevant (*e.g.*, how money is held, title to property, title policies, surveys, insurance documents, financial statements and records, budgets, tax returns, bank and account statements, mortgages or other loan documents, corporate articles, bylaws, and charters – especially changes in any of these).
- f. to assume original jurisdiction (in whole or in part) in any case in which it determines that the session is unable or unwilling to manage wisely the affairs of its church (G-3.0303e);
- g. to freeze the assets of the congregation and approve expenditures;
- h. to secure the building, grounds and other property of the congregation for the use and benefit of the ;
- i. to determine if and when a meeting of the congregation is appropriate for the purpose of voting to seek dismissal from the;
- j. to call that congregational meeting, and provide the moderator and clerk for that meeting and to report results of the congregational vote to the Presbytery;
- k. to authorize oversight of the church, its ministry and its property by a group within the congregation that has been identified as *"the true church within the "* (G-4.0207);
- l. to propose to the Presbytery any recommendation for the disposition of the property held by or for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the assumption of the liabilities of the church, if there is no group within the congregation that has been identified as *the true church within the PC (U.S.A.)*, or if such group cannot or does not assume responsibility for the church, or its property or liabilities;
- m. to consider the conformity with the PC (U.S.A.) (in matters of doctrines and order) of the proposed receiving body or denomination to which a congregation has, or may, request dismissal, and to propose to the Presbytery any recommendation regarding same for the Presbytery's consideration and action.

- n. to fulfill any other responsibilities as assigned by the Presbytery, or as may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith or in connection with those set forth above.

B. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

1. The AC shall keep the Presbytery informed of significant actions taken and shall make recommendations directly to the Presbytery for all actions that require the Presbytery's approval.
2. One of the powers of the AC is to determine when or if a meeting of the congregation is appropriate for the purpose of voting to seek dismissal from the to another Reformed denomination. Prior to any such vote, the leadership of the church shall furnish to the AC written verification that they will receive the church upon dismissal from the PC (U.S.A.). The Presbytery or AC may request any other written information about that denomination, such as doctrine, governance and permanence. The call for the congregational meeting shall be in accordance with the notice and quorum requirements of that congregation.
3. A request for withdrawal shall be by two-thirds vote of the active membership of the congregation as recorded in the Annual Statistical Report for the immediately preceding year. By such vote the congregation must adopt a resolution requesting that the Presbytery dismiss the church to a specified Reformed denomination that is in correspondence with the General Assembly of the PC (U.S.A.) and is a member of ecumenical bodies in which the is also a member. The resolution shall specify whether dismissal is sought with all or part the church's property or without the church's property. If dismissal is sought with part of the property then the resolution shall specify the property to be retained.

C. DISPOSITION OF CHURCH PROPERTY

1. Disposition of the property of the church shall be resolved in accordance with the provisions of G-4.0207, (Property of Congregation in Schism).
2. A minority of the church congregation may choose to elect new church leadership and assume responsibility of the property subject to the jurisdiction of the AC or sell the property to the majority with the approval of the Presbytery (if required).

If the minority does not or cannot assume responsibility for the property within a reasonable period of time (as determined by the AC), then the AC may recommend that the Presbytery dismiss or dissolve the congregation, or dispose of the property, or take other appropriate action.

3. The AC may consider the following options for the disposition of the church property if there is no faction of the congregation that can or does assume responsibility for the church property as a continuing congregation of the:
 - a. Sell, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of the property to a third party;
 - b. Retain the property for a new church development, or hold, use and apply the property for another mission of the Presbytery;
 - c. Sell, lease or transfer the property to the membership of the dismissed congregation upon terms acceptable to the Presbytery on condition that the church is dismissed to another Reformed denomination.

Covenant Agreement

In order to: promote the ongoing faithfulness of our members in the work of the Mission of God through Jesus Christ; exercise “mutual forbearance”; treat others with respect regardless of theological and ecclesiological differences; and work for fairness to all parties in our decisions, therefore, the Presbytery of Tres Rios and the congregation of the _____ Presbyterian Church of _____, Texas, covenant to follow the Reconciliation and Dismissal Process and abide by its terms as a way of discerning God’s will for the relationship between the congregation and the Presbytery of Tres Rios.

Date

Pastor

Moderator – Presbytery of Tres Rios

Clerk of Session

Stated Clerk – Presbytery of Tres Rios

Exhibit E

Position Description for the General Missioner:

The responsibilities of the general missioner shall be:

1. Be present in the congregations and mission fields of the presbytery to listen carefully, share the good news and help them understand and interpret their identity and ***carry out their*** mission.
2. Assist the presbytery in ***identifying challenges and*** creating new models of ministries in light of its current and emerging needs and issues, cultural spiritual and physical realities and initiating processes for meeting them.
3. Assist the presbytery in examining its structure ***and operating norms*** and ***implementing strategic (adaptive) planning, in order to strengthen both the life of congregations within the presbytery and the presbytery itself.***
4. Foster shared ministries with adjoining presbyteries.
5. Encourage communication and cooperation between and among congregations/pastors ***and serve as pastor to pastors.***
6. ***Serve as executive of the presbytery and head of staff, effectively managing time, building on personal strengths, developing human resources, focusing on results, helping presbytery make effective decisions.***
7. Resource the presbytery teams and committees as needed with special emphasis on working with the Missional Ministries Team when churches are seeking ministerial leadership.
8. Lead presbytery in developing new ways of ***communicating***, worship and fellowship, ***giving special attention to the use of current and emerging technologies.***
9. Attend General Assembly, Synod Executive Forums, and other approved denominational and ecumenical gatherings in order to help interpret the work of the wider church.
10. Assist the presbytery in ***developing a sense of community, resiliency, vision***, enthusiasm and zeal for the work of the church ***using scriptures, reformed theology, confessional statements, foundational principles of Presbyterian Polity and presbytery's own mission statement as reference points for change.***
11. Serve as a member of the Missional Networking Team, and an advisory member of the other teams, task forces, and commissions of the presbytery.

Exhibit F



**Proposed Property Guidelines and
Procedures Handbook**

**Adopted by the Presbytery of Tres Rios
June 12, 2015**

Where do I find ...?

General Information	3
Procedures.....	3, 5
Loans	
Guaranteeing and Approving Loans	4
Procedures to Obtain Loans	5-6
Forms	13
Existing Loans, Refinance.....	6, 14
Forms	14
General Assembly Loan Reviews.....	8
Sale of Property.....	6, 7
Forms	9, 10
Leasing	
More than Five Years	7
Form	12
Non-PC (USA) Groups.....	7, 11
Form	11
Oil and Gas Leases	7
Space for Weddings.....	8
Church Bonds	8
Forms	
Selling Property Never Used as Manse or for Church Activities	9
Selling Property Used as Manse or Church Activities.....	10
Leasing Worship Space to Non – P.C. (U.S.A.) Group	11
Leasing Property for More than Five Years	12
Encumbering Property with a Loan.....	13
Refinancing of an Existing Loan	14

Presbytery of Tres Rios Property Guidelines and Procedures Handbook

"The property of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), of its councils and entities, and of its congregations, is a tool for the accomplishment of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world." (Book of Order G-4.0201)

Often in discerning or redefining their mission, congregations are faced with matters involving real property; whether it is to expand facilities to accommodate growing ministries, or finding solutions to property and facilities that are no longer needed. The Presbytery of Tres Rios is committed to assisting congregations in developing their mission, and providing resources that will assist them in their decision process.

"A congregation shall not sell, mortgage, or otherwise encumber any of its real property and it shall not acquire real property subject to an encumbrance or condition without the written permission of the presbytery transmitted through the session of the congregation." (Book of Order G-4.0206).

This Handbook is intended as a guide to congregations seeking presbytery's approval in matters relating to property, the procedures to be used and the method by which churches may appeal the recommendations to the presbytery. The Presbytery of Tres Rios has assigned the task of reviewing requests regarding property to the Missional Resource Team (hereinafter referred to as MRT) and for making recommendations to the presbytery (*Manual of Administrative Operations Section 9.4.D*). The procedures set out herein are a statement of basic requirements and are not intended to be definitive or exhaustive.

The MRT acts to make recommendations to the Presbytery on requests for permission to sell, mortgage, lease, enter into oil and gas leases or otherwise encumber the real property of churches, in accordance with the *Book of Order* (G-3.0303.f, G-4.0206, and G-4.0208). The MRT also acts to make recommendations to Administrative Commissions appointed by the presbytery to work with churches and authorized to make decisions on behalf of presbytery regarding the church property.

The MRT may appoint members of its team to act as a Property Task Force in receiving requests from churches and collecting all pertinent documents to aid in the decision process prior to making recommendations regarding property matters.

The MRT may request further information or documentation with regard to any request submitted by a congregation to determine the impact that any considered transaction might have on the ministry or witness of the particular church. If the MRT feels that a transaction negatively impacts the ministry or witness of the particular church it may refuse to make a recommendation to the presbytery for approval, in which case the church may appeal directly to the Presbytery.

A. Procedures

The MRT shall make recommendations to the presbytery:

1. To approve requests to "sell, mortgage or otherwise encumber" or to lease the real property of churches.
2. To approve requests for refinancing existing indebtedness.
3. To approve requests to mortgage church property in order to remodel existing facilities or to build new facilities.
4. To approve requests to finance manses.
5. To approve guarantees of loans by the Presbytery of Tres Rios.

6. In any request the MRT considers questionable, they may refuse to make a recommendation for approval, in which case the church may appeal directly to Presbytery.

B. (1) Guaranteeing and Approving Loans

The MRT requires that the following guidelines be met before making a recommendation to the presbytery to approve a loan by a congregation encumbering its property or approve a guarantee of such loan by the Presbytery of Tres Rios. The congregation shall:

- Except in extraordinary circumstances, possess a cash reserve, or have already paid expenses that are a part of the project being considered, equal to 15% of the project cost,
- Either demonstrate that available funds are included in the regular budget to amortize Indebtedness, or plans for three, three-year (nine years total) building fund campaigns to amortize the debt. The MRT strongly recommends using the Church Financial Campaign Service of the General Assembly as fundraiser.
- Structure loan obligations so that the current percentage of the operating budget designated for unified giving to Tres Rios Presbytery, Synod of the Sun, and General Assembly will continue at least at the same level of giving. (Operating Budget equals all expenditure less benevolent spending and capital spending.)
- Provide for contingencies:
 - ✓ For new construction, the amount approved will include at least 10% of the contract price for contingencies, and the MRT suggests an additional 10% for furnishings.
 - ✓ For renovation/remodeling, the amount approved will include 15% of the contract price for contingencies.

A performance bond for the cost of the contract is required. Under special circumstances, (i.e., for small projects and for over 50% cash-funded projects), the MRT may drop this requirement.

If services of an architect are utilized, the MRT requires the contract for architectural services to include a statement to the effect that if the bid cost exceeds the architect's estimate by more than 10%, then the architect, at no additional cost, will revise the plans to bring the bid to no more than 10% cost overrun.

The session of _____ Church on _____
agreed to these Guidelines for Loan Approval.

Moderator

Clerk of Session

The session is required to submit a copy of this signed affirmation of approval.

C. (2) Procedures to Obtain Loans

The Presbytery of Tres Rios' concern with churches that are encumbering their property is due to the connective nature of our system. Loans often are guaranteed by the presbytery's assets; thus, Presbytery expects that a church be able to repay any loan assumed in a fashion that will enhance, rather than diminish, the congregation's resources for ministry. In the case of loans requiring an "enhanced" guaranty by Tres Rios Presbytery, that is a guaranty pursuant to which Presbytery would be obligated to make an installment loan payment upon any delinquency by the borrower, MRT may require reasonably demonstrable assurance of the church's ability to repay the loan when and as it becomes due without material detriment to its existing ministry.

Any loan that encumbers a congregation's real property in excess of **\$25,000** will follow this process for approval:

1. Begin with a consultation phone call with the Missional Resource Team Property Task Force chairperson. Material that presents the policies of the MRT, applications for Church Loan Program/Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP), etc., will be mailed or emailed to the church. The chairperson will report this potential loan application to the MRT.
2. A church representative will confer with the MRT to present the information listed below, and so that any questions or concerns expressed by the MRT may be addressed. The following information needs to be submitted two weeks prior to the regular MRT meeting at which approval can be granted, with or without conditions. The MRT may request an additional meeting to consider further information, or it may consider that action in a later telephone conference call.

Materials to be submitted include:

- a. Estimate of loan amount, interest rate and monthly payments for the loan
- b. Statement of church's operational cash flow for the last three years (Offerings minus expenses excluding restricted or designated offerings)
- c. Accounting as to source of funds to pay the monthly loan payments; such as: general operating budget, special accounts or other savings
- d. Statement of current resources to meet these loan payments
- e. Statement of current property value at the time of loan and estimated property value on completion of the building process
- f. Current simple operating budget with up to date balance sheet and income statement
- g. Commitment letter from a commercial lending institution, if applicable
- h. Report of :
 - Pledged amount for operating funds
 - Pledged amount for building
 - Pledged building fund received to date.
- i. Plan for retiring indebtedness
- j. Statement on how this building project will contribute to the mission plan of your congregation
- k. Architect's projection of cost for the whole project
- l. Minutes of the congregational meeting approving the project
- m. Projection for unified giving to Tres Rios Presbytery, Synod of the Sun and General Assembly for the next five years
- n. Certification of session record approval from the Presbytery's Stated Clerk (noted in Presbytery minutes)

(Continued on next page)

3. Submit follow-up information needed to complete the record, including:
 - a. Construction bid secured;
 - b. Copy of the Deed of Trust encumbering the church;
 - c. Final financial plan approval from the lender;
 - d. Conditions set at the previous meeting have been satisfied.

If the construction bid exceeds the loan amount approved by the MRT, then the church will need to apply for the approval of that increased loan level at a subsequent in-person meeting or conference call meeting.

4. With regard to any loan guaranteed by the Presbytery, the Church shall agree in writing that upon request by the MRT it will provide a statement certifying as to the status of the loan guaranteed, whether current or delinquent, and stating the current principal balance of the loan guaranteed and the date to which interest on the loan has been paid.

D. The Refinance of an Existing Loan

Materials to be submitted include:

1. What are the: loan amount, interest rate and monthly payment for the present loan?
2. What are the estimated: loan amount, interest rate and monthly payment for the new loan?
3. Submit a copy of the refinance agreement with all costs associated with the new loan
4. Submit a copy of the minutes where the session and the congregation approved the refinance agreement.
5. A statement as to the reasons for the refinancing, together with an explanation of any benefit, and/or detriment, to the church as a result of the refinancing.

E. The Sale of Real Property

1. Right-of-way or utility easements do convey real property and require the approval of the Presbytery. Requests shall be submitted to the presbytery through the MRT with the inclusion of:
 - a. Diagram of the planned easement
 - b. Statement of financial arrangements of such a contract
 - c. Legal description of the property
 - d. Copy of the congregational meeting minutes approving such a transaction
 - e. Statement concerning how the granting of this easement might impact the congregation's use of the property or ministry, or the value of the property.
2. Other property sales require consideration at an MRT meeting. Information to be supplied includes:
 - a. Sales price
 - b. Tax value
 - c. Legal description of the property
 - d. Any deed restrictions
 - e. Real estate appraisal
 - f. Signed copy of the contract
 - g. All financial arrangements with the buyer (if available at the time). Please provide to the presbytery after the sale in order to complete the record.
 - h. A statement about how the sale will affect the ministry and mission of the congregation.
 - i. If a manse, what the long-term housing arrangements will be for the present or future pastoral leadership
 - j. How the proceeds from the sale will be used in the congregation's ministry plan
 - k. Copy of the congregational meeting minutes approving the property sale.

F. On Leasing Worship Space

1. The MRT is inclined to make recommendation to approve requests from congregations pertaining to the leasing of their worship space when the lessee is affiliated with a denomination in correspondence with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). (If in doubt, check with the Stated Clerk.)
2. The MRT is not inclined to make recommendations to approve requests for leasing arrangements with churches which are affiliated with denominations that are not in correspondence with the PC (U.S.A.).
3. The MRT will consider making recommendations for approving lease arrangements with Christian congregations which are not affiliated with any denomination, provided that they sign a covenant recognizing the PC (U.S.A.) as one branch of the true church of Jesus Christ.
4. Because it is not appropriate to charge rent to other Presbytery entities (fellowships, new church developments, or congregations), the MRT encourages those congregations and fellowship to develop covenant relationships. Such partnership relationships pertaining to shared expenses for utilities and property upkeep are appropriate as long as they are directly related to the particular expense and are covenantal rather than contractual. If expense is a critical factor in a shared relationship, then we encourage the session to contact the Missional Outreach Team.
5. Prior to making a recommendation to approve any lease of worship space, MRT must be reasonably satisfied that the lease will not adversely affect the ministry or witness of the church seeking approval of the lease.

G. Leasing Church Property for More Than Five Years

"A particular church shall not lease its real property used for purposes of worship, or lease for more than five years any of its other real property, without the written permission of the presbytery transmitted through the session of the particular church." (Book of Order, G-4.0206-b.) Prior to approving any lease of church property for more than five (5) years, MRT must be reasonably satisfied that the lease will not adversely affect the ministry or witness, the long term use and value of the church seeking approval of the lease.

H. Oil and Gas Leases

Oil and Gas leases may become long-term lease obligations therefore they shall be approved by the MRT. The church will submit a copy of the lease agreement and the minutes of the congregational meeting that authorized entering into the lease to the MRT for lease approval. Churches that have existing signed lease agreements dated before June, 2015 are grandfathered for lease approval, but shall send a copy of the existing lease to the MRT. Prior to approving any oil and gas lease, MRT must be reasonably satisfied that the lease will not adversely affect the ministry or witness of the church seeking approval of the lease.

I. Church Bonds Policy

The MRT discourages churches from conducting their own bond program to finance a building campaign. It recommends the use of the General Assembly Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) for such purposes.

If a congregation proposes that bonds be sold, Presbytery requires that such a program be constructed with the aid of an attorney who specializes in this work. This attorney's credentials must satisfy Tres Rios Presbytery's legal counsel. The design of the bond program and of all legal documents drafted for its execution also requires the approval of Presbytery's legal counsel. The local church will pay all the expenses of the bond program, including the attorney's fees. The local church will reimburse the Presbytery for all legal expenses incurred by the presbytery.

J. Leasing Space for Weddings

Since the Book of Order defines a wedding as a service of worship, the churches of Tres Rios Presbytery are given permission to lease space for the celebration of a wedding or a service celebrating the renewal of marriage vows as approved by the respective session of a church. This paragraph constitutes the required written permission.

K. Other Policies

1. The procedure will be to ask persons answering questions from the requesting congregation to hang up the telephone or leave the meeting room previous to votes on the motion.
2. The MRT will be specific about the lender and the loan terms with each recommendation to the presbytery for approval and will not make recommendations without specific terms.
3. The MRT approves all General Assembly loan revisions and extensions for congregations in Tres Rios Presbytery whenever they come up for review if the loan payments are up to date; and the MRT authorizes the staff person responsible for the MRT to sign such documents required by the General Assembly Church Loan programs reflecting this approval.
4. MRT may request such other and further information on any request submitted to it as it may determine is necessary to enable it to fulfill its function under the Manual of Administrative Operations of the Presbytery of Tres Rios.

**SELLING REAL PROPERTY NEVER USED AS A MANSE
OR FOR CHURCH PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

(This situation sometimes occurs when the church is given a gift of property, e.g., as a pledge payment or for an endowment.)

Name of Church _____ City _____

Date of Application _____

Clerk of Session _____

Moderator of Session _____

Contact Information _____

Date of Congregational Meeting to Approve Sale _____

See MRT Property Guidelines and Procedures Handbook

A. Procedures

1. The MRT acts to make recommendations to the Presbytery on requests for permission to sell, mortgage, lease, or otherwise encumber the real property of churches, in accordance with the Book of Order (G-3.0303.f, G-4.0206, and G-4.0208). The MRT shall also act to make recommendations to Administrative Commissions appointed by the presbytery to work with churches and authorized to make decisions on behalf of presbytery regarding the church property.

See also: "D. The Sale of Real Property"

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1) Legal description of the property:

2) Sales price or asking price _____

3) Tax Value _____

4) Has an appraisal been obtained? _____ Yes _____ No

a) If yes, appraised value is _____

b) If no, session's estimate of value _____

c) If the sales price is less than 80% of the estimated or appraised value, please explain:

5) For what purpose will the funds resulting from the sale be used?

6) Is the sale to a church member, a relative of a church member?

7) Is the sale to a person with any other relationship to the church? If so, please describe.

8) Copy of the congregational meeting minutes approving the property sale

Return to: Missional Resource Team: Attn: Property Task Force Chairperson
Presbytery of Tres Rios, 1201 W. Wall, Midland, TX 79701
twright@tresrios.org

**SELLING REAL PROPERTY THAT HAS BEEN USED AS A MANSE
OR FOR CHURCH PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

Name of Church _____ City _____

Date _____

Clerk of Session _____

Moderator of Session _____

Contact Information _____

Date of Congregational Meeting to approve sale _____

See MRT Property Guidelines and Procedures Handbook:

A. Procedures

1. The MRT acts to make recommendations to the Presbytery on requests for permission to sell, mortgage, lease, or otherwise encumber the real property of churches, in accordance with the Book of Order (G-3.0303.f, G-4.0206, and G-4.0208). The MRT shall also act to make recommendations to Administrative Commissions appointed by the presbytery to work with churches and authorized to make decisions on behalf of presbytery regarding the church property.

See also: "D. The Sale of Real Property"

Please provide copies of pertinent items listed under

For what purpose will the funds resulting from the sale be used?

Is the sale to a church member, a relative of a church member?

Is the sale to a person with any other relationship to the church? If so, please describe.

**Return to: Missional Resource Team: Attn: Property Task Force Chairperson
Presbytery of Tres Rios, 1201 W. Wall, Midland, TX 79701
twright@tresrios.org**

LEASING WORSHIP SPACE TO BE USED BY A NON-PCUSA RELIGIOUS GROUP OR DENOMINATION

Name of Church _____ City _____

Date _____

Clerk of Session _____

Moderator of Session _____

Contact Information _____

See the MRT Property Guidelines and Procedures Handbook:

A. Procedures:

A congregation shall not lease its real property used for purposes of worship, or lease for more than five years any of its other real property, without the written permission of the presbytery transmitted through the session of the particular church." (Book of Order, G-4.0206b)

Also see: "E. On Leasing Worship Space"

Submit attachments needed:

- Name and address of group wishing to use worship space
- Contact person's name, address, phone number, (email and fax, if applicable)
- Copy of session minutes authorizing the lease
- Pertinent information regarding the building use arrangements, including insurance
- Is the leasing church group "in correspondence" with the PCUSA)?
_____ yes _____ no
(If in doubt, ask the presbytery stated clerk.)
- For congregations neither in or out of correspondence with the PCUSA, submit a signed covenant indicating that the religious organization recognizes the PCUSA as one branch of the true church of Jesus Christ.
- Information relevant to the possible effect of the lease on the ministry or witness of the church requesting approval and indicating that the congregation has considered that question.

Return to: **Missional Resource Team: Attn: Property Task Force Chairperson**
Presbytery of Tres Rios, 1201 W. Wall, Midland, TX 79701
twright@tresrios.org

LEASING PROPERTY FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS

Name of Church _____ City _____

Date _____

Clerk of Session _____

Moderator of Session _____

Contact Information _____

See the MRT Property Guidelines and Procedures Handbook:

A. Procedures:

1. A congregation shall not lease its real property used for purposes of worship, or lease for more than five years any of its other real property, without the written permission of the presbytery transmitted through the session of the particular church." (Book of Order, G-4.0206b)

Please submit with the following attachments:

- Name and address of leasing group;
- Contact information for leasing group;
- Copy of lease agreement, including termination or renewal options;
- Copy of session minutes approving the lease;
- Pertinent information about building or property use agreement, including insurance.
- Information relevant to the possible effect of the lease on the ministry or witness of the church requesting approval and indicating that the congregation has considered that question.

Return to: **Missional Resource Team: Attn: Property Task Force Chairperson**
Presbytery of Tres Rios, 1201 W. Wall, Midland, TX 79701
twright@tresrios.org

**ENCUMBERING PROPERTY (EXISTING OR TO BE PURCHASED)
WITH A LOAN**

Name of Church _____ City _____

Date _____

Clerk of Session _____

Moderator of Session _____

Contact Information _____

Date of Congregational Meeting to approve loan _____

See MRT Property Guidelines and Procedures Handbook:

☐ **Section A. Procedures**

☐ **Section B. (1) Guaranteeing and Approving Loans**

1. Return a copy of B. (1) indicating session affirmation of approval.
2. Provide attachments indicating fulfillment of items in B. (1).

☐ **Section B. (2) Procedures to Obtain Loans**

Follow the procedures and submit the pertinent information.

Contact information on person(s) for information about loan and/or construction, if different from those named above:

Return to: Missional Resource Team: Attn: Property Task Force Chairperson
Presbytery of Tres Rios, 1201 W. Wall, Midland, TX 79701
twright@tresrios.org

REFINANCING OF AN EXISTING LOAN

Name of Church _____ City _____

Date _____

Clerk of Session _____

Moderator of Session _____

Contact Information _____

Date of Congregational Meeting to approve loan _____

See MRT Property Guidelines and Procedures Handbook:

☐ **Section A. Procedures**

☐ **Section C. The Refinance of An Existing Loan**

1. Return a copy of C. (1), (2) & (5).

2. Submit copies of items required in Section C. (3) & (4).

Contact information on person(s) for information about loan, if different from those named above:

Return to: **Missional Resource Team: Attn: Property Task Force Chairperson**
Presbytery of Tres Rios, 1201 W. Wall, Midland, TX 79701
twright@tresrios.org

Presbytery of Tres Rios
Receipts and Disbursements
Thru April 30, 2015

Receipts				
Contributions from Churches				Comments
Actual thru 4/30	Budget thru 4/30	2015 Budget		
For Presbytery	\$79,997	\$89,881	\$269,644	
For Synod	1,502	833	2,500	
For General Assembly	8,507	9,285	27,856	Based on per capita @\$7.07/member for 2015. Reflects actual payment for GA
Total church contributions				
90,006	100,000	300,000	Based on final budget	
Transfers from Restricted Funds				
Church Development	5,000	6,667	20,000	Salary support for Nazareth church
Second Harvest	9,471	11,394	51,782	Includes support for salary of minister at Divine Savior and St. Andrew, New Beginnings plus support for new San Angelo fellowship
Camp Chimney Spring Funds	9,250	7,000	24,000	2015 Includes annual accrual for triumph, youth task force, and Synod Youth Workshop.
Trinity PC Funds	0	1,500	1,500	Convocation event in El Paso
Small Church	0	0	0	
23,721	26,561	97,282	Transfers offset by expense for Church Support and youth activities.	
Income-Builders Fellowship				
(50)	0	0		
Interest Income	40	27	80	
Rent-Marannatha properties	2,000	2,000	6,000	
Rent-McCamney property	1,200	1,200	3,600	
Donations	1,800	0	0	Confidential, unsolicited donations from individuals
Other Income	4,382	1,500	4,500	oil and gas royalty income-Actual Includes Barstow lease bonus
123,099	131,287	411,462		
Total Receipts				
Expenditures				
Support for Upper Gov Bodies				
Synod	1,502	833	2,500	
General Assembly	8,507	9,285	27,856	
10,009	10,119	30,356		
Total Support for Upper Councils				

Presbytery of Tres Rios
Receipts and Disbursements
Thru April 30, 2015

	Actual	Budget	2015	
	thru 4/30	thru 4/30	Budget	Comments
Missional Ministries Team				
Administrative Personnel Support	323	333	1,000	
Training-Ruling Commissioned Elder	0	233	700	
Other Training/Workshop	0	200	600	
Meetings	407	1,333	4,000	
Candidate Eval/Travel	0	433	1,300	
Theological Convocation Event	1,254	1,500	1,500	funded from Trinity PC funds
Travel/Denomination/BOP Events	0	0	1,000	
Total Missional Ministries Team	1,984	4,033	10,100	
Missional Outreach Team				
Meetings	407	1,000	3,000	
Redevelopment costs	3,700	3,700	3,700	New Beginnings
Church Support:				
Nazareth Salary Support	6,672	6,667	20,000	Funded from Church Development funds
Church Fellowship Support	0	0	25,000	Funded from Second Harvest funds
Divine Savior/St. Andrew Support	7,694	7,694	23,082	Funded from Second Harvest funds
Total Church Support	14,366	14,361	68,082	
Mission Support:				
St Andrews Mission	1,670	2,333	7,000	
Project Vida	2,800	4,000	12,000	
Pasos de Fe	0	0	1,000	
Columbia Mission Conference	0	0	2,000	
Bob Lewis Mission	500	750	750	
Project Dignidad	500	750	750	
Total Mission Support	5,470	7,833	23,500	
Total Missional Outreach Team	23,943	26,894	98,282	Represents Church Development and Mission expenses based on 2013 budget

**Presbytery of Tres Rios
Receipts and Disbursements
Thru April 30, 2015**

	Actual thru 4/30	Budget thru 4/30	2015 Budget	Comments
Misional Nomin & Repre Team				
Meetings	25	150	450	
Total Misional Nom./Repre. Team	25	150	450	
Misional Nurturing Team				
Youth:				
Youth Task Force	6,991	8,250	11,000	
Triennium	2,000	1,500	6,000	
Synod Youth Workshop	1,270	0	7,000	
Other Youth Projects	0	0	0	
Total Youth	10,261	9,750	24,000	
Meetings	91	500	1,000	
Leadership Dev/Training	0	0	1,200	
Total Misional Nurturing Team	10,352	10,250	26,200	
Misional Resources Team				
Facilities:				
Building Janitorial	1,040	1,067	3,200	
Building Maintenance	1,107	1,167	3,500	Includes cost of replacing rear door of presbytery office
Building Utilities	1,757	2,083	6,250	
Insurance/Office & other facilities	2,111	2,000	8,000	
Maintenance of other facilities	0	50	150	
Total Facilities	6,015	6,367	21,100	

Presbytery of Tres Rios
Receipts and Disbursements
Thru April 30, 2015

	Actual <u>thru 4/30</u>	Budget <u>thru 4/30</u>	2015 <u>Budget</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Operating Expenses-Presbytery:				
GA Moderator Visit	3,153	2,500	2,500	
Communications/Publications	0	100	300	
Computer Operations	3,104	1,500	4,500	
Website	0	333	1,000	
Equipment Leases	3,155	3,067	9,200	
Equipment Maintenance	2,800	1,417	4,250	
Postage	1,225	833	2,500	
Supplies	1,740	2,133	6,400	
Telephone	2,679	2,433	7,300	
Total Operating Expenses-Presby.	17,856	14,317	37,950	
Financial Review	0	0	5,000	
Personnel Expenses	0	83	250	
Meetings of team & sub groups	304	267	800	
Total Mission Resources Team	24,175	21,033	65,100	
Missional Networking Team				
Presbytery Task Forces	998	833	2,500	
Meetings	1,123	1,000	3,000	
Ypys; Missional Networking Team	2,121	1,833	5,500	

Presbytery of Tres Rios
Receipts and Disbursements
Thru April 30, 2015

	Actual	Budget	2015	
	<u>thru 4/30</u>	<u>thru 4/30</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Staff Expense				
Admin. Assistant Salary	15,254	15,254	45,761	
Admin. Assistant Pens/Medical	5,339	5,339	16,016	Based on dues of 33% of salary for 2013 and 35% for 2014
Admin. Assistant /Cibt. Ed.	(49)	267	800	
General Missioner Salary	14,819	14,812	44,435	
General Missioner Housing	13,344	13,333	40,000	
General Missioner Pens/Medical	10,273	10,273	30,819	Based on dues of 33% of salary for 2013 and 35% for 2014
General Missioner Cont Educ	1,500	500	1,500	
General Missioner Travel	4,843	3,267	9,800	
Payroll Taxes	875	1,167	3,500	
Stated Clerk Expense	435	667	2,000	
Staff Meeting/Travel	1,001	1,067	3,200	
Total Staff Expense	67,634	65,944	197,831	
Presbyterian Women	1,000	1,000	3,000	
Total Expense	141,243	141,256	436,819	
Net Receipts over (under) Expenditures	<u>(\$18,144)</u>	<u>(\$9,969)</u>	<u>(\$25,357)</u>	
Beginning of year surplus (deficit)	\$2,151	\$2,151	\$2,151	
Transfer from Operating Reserve	\$0	\$0	\$23,206	Amount required if net loss is realized
End of year surplus (deficit)	(\$15,993)	(\$7,818)	\$0	
Trinity Property Sale and Expenses:				
Genisis note payments	26,353			
Storage expense	(1,050)			
Van expense	(69)			
Other expense	0			
Net	<u>\$25,234</u>			

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	Total
Pin #	Church	Accept- ance	Current Quarter	YTD	% to Date	Pby.	Synod	GA	Disaster Relief	Build Fellow	One Great Hl Sharing	Christmas Joy	Pentecost	Peace Making	Theological Education	Mission Worker	Other	Direct	Total
08723	Alpine	1800	150.00	600.00	33%	480.00	18.00	102.00											600.00
21997	Andrews	2400	200.00	800.00	33%	640.00	24.00	136.00											800.00
21998	Bairinger	1250	454.00	418.00	33%	334.40	12.54	71.06		200.00	350.00								968.00
22000	Big Spring	12900	2707.00	4300.00	33%	3440.00	129.00	731.00			1632.00	965.00							6897.00
22002	Coahoma	3000		0.00	0%														0.00
El Paso:																			
08726	Divine Savior	500		0.00	0%														0.00
22003	Fifth	4000	858.80	1333.33	33%	1066.65	40.00	226.68			182.13								0.00
08724	First	10500	776.04	3000.00	29%	2400.00	90.00	670.00			776.04								1525.46
15020	Grace	15000	1250.00	5000.00	33%	4000.00	150.00	850.00											3776.04
22005	St. Andrew	2000		0.00	0%														5000.00
22007	University	56000	6519.88	18666.66	33%	14933.33	560.00	3173.33			2853.21	2890.00							0.00
Fort Davis:																			
08727	Fort Davis	2500	416.74	833.48	33%	666.78	25.00	141.69											833.48
Fort Stockton:																			
08728	Fort Stockton	4250	350.00	1400.00	33%	1120.00	42.00	238.00											1400.00
Marfa:																			
	Marfa	1000		0.00	0%														0.00
Midland:																			
22011	First	111200	8333.33	37333.32	34%	37333.32													38083.32
10551	Grace	11000	6288.00	2750.00	25%	2200.00	82.50	467.50				2538.00					750.00		6288.00
Monahans:																			
08729	Monahans	3000	250.00	1000.00	33%	800.00	30.00	170.00											1000.00
Odessa:																			
22013	First	20000	7055.01	5000.01	25%	4000.02	150.00	849.99				1473.00	132.00		450				7055.01
22015	Westminster	12000		0.00	0%														

**The Presbytery of Tres Rios
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Special Called Meeting
First Presbyterian Church
Pecos, Texas**

June 25, 2015

Call to Order/Quorum/Reading of Call for Meeting.....	100
Attendance	100
Docket	100
Negotiating Task Force Report.....	100
Missional Ministries Team Report.....	103
Service of Prayer and Communion	103
Adjournment	103

EXHIBITS

Original Call for Meeting.....	104
Docket	106
Mutual Release and Agreement	110
Release of Trust and Quitclaim of Property	117

**Special Called Meeting of the Presbytery of Tres Rios
First Presbyterian Church, Pecos, Texas
June 25, 2015**

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator, Bart Teeter on Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 1:40 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Pecos Texas.

Stated Clerk Kay Long declared a quorum present and read the call for the meeting. It was MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED that the call for the meeting be approved. It was MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED that the docket be approved.

Commissioners present were:

Teaching Elders: Jose Luis Casal, Gary Dill, Tim Davenport-Herbst, Cheryl Homsher, Flynn Long, Jessica Vaughan Lower, Jobeth McLeod, Craig Meyers, Jim Miles, Bill Proctor, Steve Schorr, Shannon Weisenfels

Commissioned Ruling Elder: Ann Hurt

Ruling Elder Commissioners: David Poitevint, First, Alpine; Bill Rose, Grace, El Paso; Ted Wehmeyer, University, El Paso; John Meli, First, Fort Stockton; Bruce Gilmour and Dan Foreman, First, Midland; Kay Brockman, Grace, Midland; Cindy Duke, First, Pecos; Donna Crisp, First, San Angelo; Don Treadwell, St Paul, San Angelo

Presbytery Elder Commissioner Officers: Judia Foreman, Nominating Team Moderator; Kay Long, Stated Clerk; Don Carlton, Resource Team Moderator; Bart Teeter, Presbytery Moderator

Guests: Carolyn Bradley, Steve Boster, Troy Bradley, Randy Brooks, Ellen Brown, Stephen Brown, Frances Carlton, Richard Crisp, Richard Dorris, Suzanne Dorris, Susan Gober, Constance Hamblen, Carolyn Mason, Bill Morehead, Joy Morehead, Lee Puckitt, Penny Roberts, Lester Smith, Windy Smith, Gabriela Spraggins, Becky Swiderski, Theresa Wright

The report of the Presbytery Negotiating Task Force was presented by Bart Teeter

Upon the completion of the discernment process and the congregational vote of First Presbyterian Church in San Angelo to seek dismissal from PCUSA, both the Presbytery and FPC San Angelo appointed members to a negotiating team or task force to negotiate the terms of FPC's departure from the presbytery and denomination. Representatives from both the presbytery and FPC agreed to be guided by the dismissal policy previously adopted by the presbytery.

The group met for the first time on December 17th, 2014 and although much progress was made on a number of issues, it became evident that the two sides were far apart in regards to the question of property ownership. The presbytery entered the negotiation with full faith in the Trust Clause of the Book of Order. FPC believed that as a former P.C.U.S. church they had asserted their property rights at reunification and were

the sole owners of their property. In light of the distance between the two sides it was agreed that negotiations would focus on what support FPC could provide to the members of their congregation that wished to remain in PCUSA and had begun meeting together to worship. It was further agreed that litigation was not an attractive option to either party. All agreed that every effort should be made to settle our differences internally and not involve the court system.

Over the next several months the groups met individually to discuss the issues and communicated largely through appointed spokesmen. Both parties had widely different views on a number of issues relating to the group remaining in PCUSA and what would constitute appropriate support from the departing congregation. After numerous attempts to overcome the differences between the two sides it was decided that mediation was the last chance for the two sides to reach an agreement that would avoid litigation. It was agreed that the two sides would enter into mediation on May 2, 2015 with Harper Estes serving as the mediator. As a result of the mediation process, the terms of the agreement reflected in the mutual release were agreed upon.

It is fair to say that there are individuals on both sides of the issue that will be unhappy with the agreement. The presbytery members of the negotiation team certainly didn't anticipate the process going exactly as it did. During the period of time that the negotiations were in progress, several legal decisions were rendered that convinced the presbytery representatives that litigation was even more ill-advised than previously thought. Ultimately both sides agreed that the best course of action was to come to an agreement and move on so all those who have been hurt in the process could move on and begin to heal.

The following individuals served on the negotiation team:

<u>Presbytery</u>	<u>FPC San Angelo</u>
Bart Teeter	Steve Stephens
Tim Davenport-Herbst	Richard Crisp
Don Carlton	Stephen Brown
Gerry Weisenfels	Don Allison
Tom Brown	Cybee Hamblin
Jose Luis Casal	Bill Proctor
Kay Long	Joel Moore
Jimmy Stevens	Penny Roberts
	Lee Puckitt

Harper Estes served as advisor and mediator throughout the process.

Finally, it should be noted that renegotiation of the terms of the agreements and request for dismissal through use of amendments from the floor of presbytery would invalidate months of work between the representatives of the presbytery and members of the congregation. Therefore the following Matters "B thru F" shall be presented as a whole, with the understanding that the final agreement has been reached by good faith negotiations between the presbytery and the representatives of the session and members of the congregation requesting dismissal.

Discussion followed regarding the recommendations from the task force.

The Negotiating Task Force appointed by presbytery makes the following recommendations:

- A. That the following Matters “B thru F” regarding the dismissal of the members of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas shall be considered as a whole and that amendments to the motion to dismiss and the “Mutual Release and Agreement”, and “Release of Trust and Quitclaim of Property” documents from the floor of presbytery not be permitted. The vote will be yes or no on the request and terms for dismissal. (Note: Motion “A” requires two-thirds vote of presbytery. Motions “B thru F” require only simple majority to approve).

Following discussion it was MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED that Recommendation III.A be approved with 2/3 majority vote. 28 affirmative, 2 negative votes and 1 abstaining.

- B. That the members of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas requesting dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) be dismissed pending confirmation they will be received by the Presbytery of Texas and Louisiana, ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, a reformed body and member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) , together with the real and personal property of the church as stipulated in the “Mutual Release and Agreement” and “Release of Trust and Quitclaim to Property” documents. Members being dismissed will be permitted to retain the name and corporate entity, and will remove the P.C. (U.S.A.) seal from all property and documents. The presbytery has received a digitalized copy of all church records, rolls, certificates and documents. Effective date of dismissal shall be June 25, 2015.
- C. That presbytery authorize its Trustees to sign and deliver the “Mutual Release and Agreement”, and “Release of Trust and Quitclaim to Property” documents on behalf of the Presbytery of Tres Rios.
- D. That upon receiving the lump sum payment in the amount of \$125,000 presbytery authorizes its Trustees to sign and deliver on behalf of the Presbytery of Tres Rios the “Quitclaim Deed” releasing the real property of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas.
- E. That the members of First Presbyterian Church in San Angelo who have signed a “Letter of Intent” expressing their desire to remain in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and have united together to form a continuing P.C. (U.S.A.) congregation, shall become the roll of the continuing congregation.
- F. That the presbytery retain a roll of any members who have notified the Stated Clerk in writing of their wish to retain their membership in the P.C. (U.S.A.) until they decide upon a congregation to join and transfer their membership. The roll will be retained by presbytery until December 31, 2015. After that date, any members on the roll who have not requested a transfer of their membership to a congregation will be contacted by letter, and if no instructions are given, their membership will be transferred to the roll of the continuing congregation.

Hearing no discussion it was MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED that Recommendations B-F be approved. Motion carried with 28 approving, 2 negative and 1 abstaining

The report of the Missional Ministries Team was presented by Cheryl Homsher

MMT recommends:

- A. That the Presbytery of Tres Rios concurs with the request of teaching elder the Rev. Dr. William P. Proctor to be dismissed from the P.C. (U.S.A.) to the Presbytery of Texas and Louisiana, ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians effective June 25, 2015.

It was MOVED AND CARRIED that Recommendation III.A b approved.

- B. That the Presbytery of Tres Rios concurs with the request of teaching elder the Rev. Joel T. Moore to be dismissed from the P.C. (U.S.A.) to the Presbytery of Texas and Louisiana, ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians effective June 25, 2015.

The Presbytery of Tres Rios has received confirmation that the Presbytery of Texas and Louisiana, **ECO will assume ecclesiastical authority for** both of the above named teaching elders, as well as, members of the congregation expressing their desire to be dismissed pending dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

It was MOVED AND CARRIED that Recommendation III.B be approved.

It was MOVED, SECONDED AND CARRIED that a resolution of thanks be given to First Presbyterian Church, Pecos for their hospitality.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned with a service of prayer followed by communion at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kay Long, Stated Clerk

Theresa Wright, Recording Clerk



THE PRESBYTERY OF TRES RIOS

Presbyterian Church (USA)



432 682-5297

Fax 432 687-6120

1201 W. Wall

Midland, Texas 79701

Date: June 11, 2015

To: All Ministers and Clerks of Session

From: Elder Bart Teeter, Moderator Presbytery of Tres Rios

Subj: Notice of Special Called Meeting of Presbytery

The prior constitutional requirements having been met, I hereby call the Presbytery of Tres Rios to meet at 1:30 p.m., on June 25, 2015 to be held at First Presbyterian Church, in Pecos, Texas in accordance with the attached petition.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Attached is the Petition for a Special Called Meeting of the presbytery regarding the request of the First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas to be dismissed from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO). It is hoped that all teaching elder members and ruling elder commissioners will be able to attend.

In Christ's Service,

Elder Bart Teeter, Moderator
Presbytery of Tres Rios

Rev. Jose Luis Casal
General Missioner
jlcasal@tresrios.org

Website: www.tresrios.org

Theresa Wright
Administrative Assistant
twright@tresrios.org

PETITION FOR A PRO RE NATA (SPECIAL CALLED) MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF TRES RIOS

We the undersigned, request the Moderator to call a Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Tres Rios for Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, in Pecos, Texas.

The purpose is:

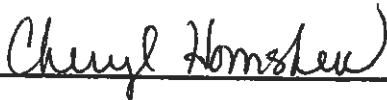
To hear the report and act upon the recommendations of the Negotiating Task Force appointed to work with representatives of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas regarding the request of First P.C., San Angelo members to be dismissed from the Presbytery of Tres Rios (PC U.S.A.) to the Presbytery of Texas and Louisiana, A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO); and to hear the report of the Missional Ministry Team and act upon any recommendations regarding the membership of the installed pastors.



Rev. Dr. James Miles – First P.C., Fort Stockton



Ruling Elder Barbara Chappell – Westminster P.C., Odessa



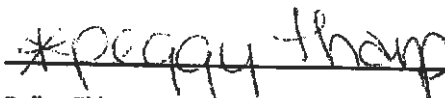
Rev. Cheryl Homsher – Grace P.C., Midland



Ruling Elder Judia Foreman – First P.C., Midland



Rev. Craig Meyer (HR)



Ruling Elder Peggy Tharp – St. Paul P.C. San Angelo

Docket
Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Tres Rios
First Presbyterian Church, Pecos, Texas
June 25, 2015
1:30 p.m.

Call to Order and Opening Prayer	Bart Teeter, Moderator
Declaration of Quorum	Kay Long, Stated Clerk
Reading and Approval of the Call for Meeting	Kay Long, Stated Clerk
Adoption of the Docket	
Report of the Presbytery Negotiating Task Force	Bart Teeter
Report of the Missional Ministries Team	Cheryl Homsher
Service of Prayer	
Adjournment and Closing Prayer	

Report of Presbytery/FPC Negotiating Team

Upon the completion of the discernment process and the congregational vote of First Presbyterian Church in San Angelo to seek dismissal from PCUSA, both the Presbytery and FPC San Angelo appointed members to a negotiating team or task force to negotiate the terms of FPC's departure from the presbytery and denomination. Representatives from both the presbytery and FPC agreed to be guided by the dismissal policy previously adopted by the presbytery.

The group met for the first time on December 17th, 2014 and although much progress was made on a number of issues, it became evident that the two sides were far apart in regards to the question of property ownership. The presbytery entered the negotiation with full faith in the Trust Clause of the Book of Order. FPC believed that as a former P.C.U.S. church they had asserted their property rights at reunification and were the sole owners of their property. In light of the distance between the two sides it was agreed that negotiations would focus on what support FPC could provide to the members of their congregation that wished to remain in PCUSA and had begun meeting together to worship. It was further agreed that litigation was not an attractive option to either party. All agreed that every effort should be made to settle our differences internally and not involve the court system.

Over the next several months the groups met individually to discuss the issues and communicated largely through appointed spokesmen. Both parties had widely different views on a number of issues relating to the group remaining in PCUSA and what would constitute appropriate support from the departing congregation. After numerous attempts to overcome the differences between the two sides it was decided that mediation was the last chance for the two sides to reach an agreement that would avoid litigation. It was agreed that the two sides would enter into mediation on May 2, 2015 with Harper Estes serving as the mediator. As a result of the mediation process, the terms of the agreement reflected in the mutual release were agreed upon.

It is fair to say that there are individuals on both sides of the issue that will be unhappy with the agreement. The presbytery members of the negotiation team certainly didn't anticipate the process going exactly as it did. During the period of time that the negotiations were in progress, several legal decisions were rendered that convinced the presbytery representatives that litigation was even more ill-advised than previously thought. Ultimately both sides agreed that the best course of action was to come to an agreement and move on so all those who have been hurt in the process could move on and begin to heal.

The following individuals served on the negotiation team:

Presbytery

Bart Teeter
Tim Davenport-Herbst
Don Carlton
Gerry Weisenfels
Tom Brown
Jose Luis Casal
Kay Long
Jimmy Stevens

FPC San Angelo

Steve Stephens
Richard Crisp
Stephen Brown
Don Allison
Cybee Hamblin
Bill Proctor
Joel Moore
Penny Roberts
Lee Puckitt

Harper Estes served as advisor and mediator throughout the process.

Finally, it should be noted that renegotiation of the terms of the agreements and request for dismissal through use of amendments from the floor of presbytery would invalidate months of work between the representatives of the presbytery and members of the congregation. Therefore the following Matters “B thru F” shall be presented as a whole, with the understanding that the final agreement has been reached by good faith negotiations between the presbytery and the representatives of the session and members of the congregation requesting dismissal.

The Negotiating Task Force appointed by presbytery makes the following recommendations:

- A. That the following Matters “B thru F” regarding the dismissal of the members of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas shall be considered as a whole and that amendments to the motion to dismiss and the “Mutual Release and Agreement”, and “Release of Trust and Quitclaim of Property” documents from the floor of presbytery not be permitted. The vote will be yes or no on the request and terms for dismissal. (Note: Motion “A” requires two-thirds vote of presbytery. Motions “B thru F” require only simple majority to approve).
- B. That the members of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas requesting dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) be dismissed pending confirmation they will be received by the Presbytery of Texas and Louisiana, ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, a reformed body and member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) , together with the real and personal property of the church as stipulated in the “Mutual Release and Agreement” and “Release of Trust and Quitclaim to Property” documents. Members being dismissed will be permitted to retain the name and corporate entity, and will remove the P.C. (U.S.A.) seal from all property and documents. The presbytery has received a digitalized copy of all church records, rolls, certificates and documents. Effective date of dismissal shall be June 25, 2015.
- C. That presbytery authorize its Trustees to sign and deliver the “Mutual Release and Agreement”, and “Release of Trust and Quitclaim to Property” documents on behalf of the Presbytery of Tres Rios.
- D. That upon receiving the lump sum payment in the amount of \$125,000 presbytery authorizes its Trustees to sign and deliver on behalf of the Presbytery of Tres Rios the “Quitclaim Deed” releasing the real property of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas.
- E. That the members of First Presbyterian Church in San Angelo who have signed a “Letter of Intent” expressing their desire to remain in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and have united together to form a continuing P.C. (U.S.A.) congregation, shall become the roll of the continuing congregation.
- F. That the presbytery retain a roll of any members who have notified the Stated Clerk in writing of their wish to retain their membership in the P.C. (U.S.A.) until they decide upon a congregation to join and transfer their membership. The roll will be retained by presbytery until December 31, 2015. After that date, any members on the roll who have not requested a transfer of their membership to a congregation will be contacted by letter, and if no instructions are given, their membership will be transferred to the roll of the continuing congregation.

Report of the Discernment Team

October 6, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo,

The Joint Discernment Team, comprised of members of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo ("FPCSA") and representatives of Presbytery of Tres Rios ("TRP"), along with moderator Harper Estes, have met 6 times in the past twelve months as a group and facilitated five congregational meetings (one is yet to come). During this process, the Discernment Team has shared, studied and prayerfully considered all issues related to the Reconciliation and Dismissal Process. A significant part of that process is this letter to you, as the process requires, "A written statement from the Discernment Team majority and minority (if applicable)."

The Discernment Team does not view its role as recommending to the congregation what the outcome should be; rather, the goal has been to ensure a thoughtful, deliberate process where all voices could be heard and to seek the will of God for this congregation. Although not part of our recommendation, it is safe to say, disagreement exists on the Discernment Team as to which is the better path-reconciliation or dismissal. However, it is not the Discernment Team's will, but God's will, discerned through the collective action of the congregation which must provide that answer.

It is the unanimous belief of the Discernment Team that the FPCSA has complied with the discernment process fully and faithfully. It is therefore the right and responsibility of the individual members of FPCSA to thoughtfully and prayerfully discern God's will for this portion of the Body of Christ. Accordingly, it is the unanimous recommendation of the Discernment Team that your Session, if it be their choice, set a time and place for a congregational meeting according to the guidelines set forth in the Reconciliation and Dismissal Process. It is the further recommendation of the Discernment Team that each member of FPCSA prayerfully consider the decision, seeking God's guidance, and to vote your individual conscience on this very important issue.

We are confident that God is at work in each of us and in you. Therefore, whatever the outcome, God will continue to have a witness in San Angelo and beyond through the love and work of FPCSA.

With Love, Hope and Belief in Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine,

The Discernment Team:

Harper Estes, Moderator
Bill Proctor, FPCSA
Tim Davenport-Herbst, TRP
Steve Stephens, FPCSA
Mary Beth Anton, TRP
Cybee Hamblen, FPCSA
Jeff Laufer, TRP
Lee Puckitt, FPCSA
Gerry Weisenfels, TRP

At a meeting of the congregation on November 16, 2014, members of First Presbyterian Church in San Angelo, Texas voted on the question of whether to request dismissal from the Presbytery of Tres Rios and Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. In accordance with the Reconciliation and Dismissal Policy previously approved by presbytery, the required quorum of active members were present. The result of the vote was 234 (83%) to request dismissal, 48 (17%) to remain in the denomination.

MUTUAL RELEASE AND AGREEMENT

(Dismissal by Presbytery)

This MUTUAL RELEASE AND AGREEMENT (this "Release" or this "Agreement") is made by and between TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation ("Presbytery"), and FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANGELO, TEXAS, a Texas non-profit corporation (the "Church"). Presbytery and the Church are sometimes referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties".

Recitals

A. The Church has been a member church and congregation of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ("PCUSA"), through Presbytery.

B. The Church has complied with Presbytery's Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure and has qualified for dismissal from membership in Presbytery and PCUSA (the "Dismissal").

C. For the church's dismissal from membership in Presbytery and PCUSA, Presbytery and the Church desire to set forth certain mutual release agreements and related agreements.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions of this Agreement and other good and valuable consideration, Presbytery and the Church agree as follows:

1. **Definition of Claims.** For this Release, the term, "Claims," will mean all existing claims, demands, and causes of action for all existing and future damages and remedies of any nature, WHETHER FORESEEN OR UNFORESEEN, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, DISCLOSED OR UNDISCLOSED, whether in contract or in tort, or arising under or by any statute, regulation, or ecclesiastical law, including claims in equity, negligence, gross negligence, breach of contract, and for all other losses and damages of any kind, including all actual damages, all consequential damages, all exemplary and punitive damages, all penalties of any kind, all physical or mental injury damages, and attorneys' fees and costs of court. This definition further includes all elements of damages, all remedies, all claims, demands, and causes of action now recognized by law or that may be created or recognized in the future in any manner, including by statute, regulation, or judicial decision. Notwithstanding the foregoing or anything else contained in this Release, the term, "Claims", shall not include any claims or obligations set forth in, arising under or resulting from this Agreement or in the Release of Trust and Quitclaim of Property executed by Presbytery, of even date herewith, in connection with this Agreement (such excluded claims being referred to herein as the "Excluded Claims"), all of which Excluded Claims under this Agreement and under such Release of Trust and Quitclaim of Property shall continue in full force and effect and survive the execution of this Release.

2. Digitization of Church Records. By the date thirty (30) days following the date of this Agreement, at the Church's expense, the Church will deliver to the Presbytery on an electronic flash-memory drive an archival-quality, digital copy of the minute books, membership registers, and other documents, certificates or instruments of the Church which may be of legal or historical interest, such as baptism and wedding certificates, current through the date of this Agreement (the "Church Records"; and such digital copy of the Church Records shall be referred to herein as the "Digitized Images"). The Church retains ownership of the original Church Records. The Church hereby grants to Presbytery the irrevocable, perpetual, non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free, assignable right and license to use, reproduce, and display the Digitized Images, to file the Digitized Images with the Presbyterian Historical Society, to prepare derivative or collective works based upon or containing the Digitized Images, to distribute the Digitized Images (including any derivative or collective works prepared pursuant to such authorization), and to authorize others to do any or all of the foregoing (such right and license being collectively called the "License"). The License, together with the Excluded Claims, are sometimes collectively referred to herein as the "Excluded Property."

3. Release of Trust and Quitclaim of Property. Before or simultaneously with Presbytery's delivery to the Church of Presbytery's executed counterpart of this Release, the Church commits and agrees to the terms of the following settlement:

- A. First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas shall pay to Tres Rios Presbytery, Inc. the lump sum of \$125,000.00, such funds to be held and distributed by Tres Rios Presbytery, Inc. as follows, but restricted for the following uses:
 - i. \$50,000.00 for use by former members of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas, currently worshipping together and intending to form a viable PC(USA) congregation in San Angelo, Texas, together with any new members who may join their worshipping community;
 - ii. Annual payments thereafter for the same purpose of \$37,500 each for two years;
 - iii. If such group discontinues and in the view of Tres Rios Presbytery does not represent a viable PC(USA) congregation, any remaining annual payments hereunder shall be made to Project Dignidad, currently housed at Nazareth Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas.
- B. The Presbytery shall call a special meeting on or before June 30, 2015, to vote on the terms hereof;
- C. The session of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo shall, as soon as practical, but in no event later than June 30, 2015, vote on the terms hereof;
- D. Upon approval of the Presbytery and session, First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas, shall be

dismissed immediately to another reformed denomination, namely ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians;

- E. Upon approval of the Presbytery and session, the payment referenced above shall be immediately made;
- F. The undersigned agree and recognize that this Release represents a compromise of positions; all duties, fiduciary or otherwise, having been considered for the peace and unity of the body of Christ.

This agreed amount is to mitigate the budgetary impact of the dismissal of the Church from PCUSA and Presbytery, and Presbytery has executed and delivered to the Church a Release of Trust and Quitclaim of Property, (i) releasing all Church property, real and personal, held by or for the Church except the Excluded Property ("Property") from any trust, coverage, and obligations, express or implied, including those claimed to arise under Section G-4.0203 of the Book of Order, Part II of THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) (i.e., the "trust clause"), and (ii) quitclaiming to the Church all of Presbytery's and PCUSA's right, title, and interest, if any, in and to the Property.

4. Indemnity by the Church regarding Property. The Church agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Presbytery and PCUSA, and all of its and their members, managers, officers, employees, agents, servants, representatives, affiliates, successors, assigns, and insurers, against all civil Claims in connection with or relating to the Property.

5. Release by Presbytery. Presbytery, on behalf of itself and PCUSA, releases and forever discharges the Church of and from all Claims. Presbytery, on behalf of itself and PCUSA, releases and forever discharges the Church's session, board of trustees, discernment team, members, managers, officers, and employees of and from all Claims arising from or relating to the Dismissal.

6. Release by the Church. The Church releases and forever discharges PCUSA, Presbytery, and all of its and their members, managers, officers, employees, agents, servants, representatives, affiliates, predecessors, successors, assigns, and insurers, of and from all Claims.

7. PC(USA) Affiliation. In connection with the Dismissal the Parties agree that the Church may retain its name, "First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas", but the Church shall amend, modify or revise all of its corporate documents, as applicable, to remove any reference to any affiliation with the PC(USA) subsequent to the effective date of its dismissal from the PC(USA), and it shall remove the PC(USA) seal and logo from all Church property, real and personal, and shall not use the PC(USA) seal or logo on any future documents or instruments executed or issued by the Church.

8. Validity. If any provisions of this Agreement are held to be invalid or against public policy, the remaining provisions will not be affected.

9. Governing Law. This Release will be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, without regard to its conflict of laws principles, and venue will lie in Tom Green County, Texas.

10. Attorneys' Fees. If any Party hereto brings any action at law or in equity, including an action for declaratory relief, to enforce or interpret this Release, the prevailing Party may recover reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs of court, which may be set by the court in the same action or in a separate action brought for that purpose, besides any other relief to which it may be entitled.

11. Construction of Release. This Release is a negotiated agreement and will be construed without regard to the identity of the persons who drafted the provisions thereof. Every provision of this Release will be construed as though all Parties participated equally in the drafting thereof. Any legal rule of construction that a document is to be construed against the drafting Party will not apply and is waived. No use of trade or other regular practice or method of dealing between the Parties will modify, interpret, supplement, or alter in any manner this Release. Terms used, whether defined or not, include the singular and the plural, and vice versa. Whenever the context may require, any pronoun will include the corresponding masculine, feminine, and neuter forms. The words, "includes" and "including," will be deemed followed by the phrase, "without limitation." The conjunctive will be deemed to include the disjunctive and vice versa where required to provide the broadest interpretation of the covenants contained in this Agreement.

12. Further Assurances. The Parties agree to take all further actions and execute, have acknowledged, and deliver all further documents that are necessary or useful in carrying out the purposes and intent of this Agreement.

13. Counterparts. This Release may be executed in two or more counterparts (whether a facsimile or otherwise), each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which together will constitute the same instrument.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank; signature pages follow.]

EXECUTED by the Parties effective as of the 25 day of June, 2015.

CHURCH:

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

By: Richard Crisp
Name: Richard Crisp
Title: President and Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERY:

TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC.

By: John Steinberger
John Steinberger
Trustee

By: Rev. Bill Schlesinger
Rev. Bill Schlesinger
Trustee

By: Kay Long
Kay Long
Trustee

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF TOM GREEN

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 25 day of June, 2015 by Richard Crisp, of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANGELO, TEXAS, a Texas non-profit corporation, on behalf of said non-profit corporation.



Th Haney Wright
Notary of the State of Texas
My commission expires: 9/19/18

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF El Paso

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 16th day of June, 2015 by JOHN STEINBERGER, Trustee of TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation, on behalf of said non-profit corporation in the capacity indicated.

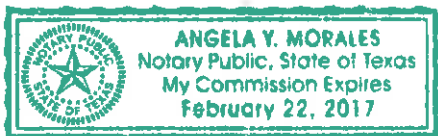


Angela Y. Morales
Notary of the State of Texas
My commission expires: 2-22-17

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF El Paso

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 15th day of June, 2015 by REV. BILL SCHLESINGER, Trustee of TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation, on behalf of said non-profit corporation in the capacity indicated.



Angela Y. Morales
Notary of the State of Texas
My commission expires: 2-22-17

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF Midland

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 25 day of June, 2015
by KAY LONG, Trustee of TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation,
on behalf of said non-profit corporation in the capacity indicated.



Theresa Haney Wright
Notary of the State of Texas
My commission expires: 9/19/18

RELEASE OF TRUST AND QUITCLAIM OF PROPERTY

(Dismissal by Presbytery)

This RELEASE OF TRUST AND QUITCLAIM OF PROPERTY ("Release") is made by TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation ("Presbytery"), whose address is 1201 W. Wall Street, Midland, Texas 79701, in favor of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANGELO, TEXAS, a Texas non-profit corporation (the "Church"), whose address is 32 N. Irving St, San Angelo, Texas 76903.

Recitals

A. The Church has been a member church and congregation of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ("PCUSA"), through Presbytery.

B. Section G-4.0203 ("Church Property Held in Trust") of the Book of Order, Part II of THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) (the "Trust Clause", formerly in Chapter 8 of the Book of Order), states that: "All property held by or for a congregation, a presbytery, a synod, the General Assembly, or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), whether legal title is lodged in a corporation, a trustee or trustees, or an unincorporated association, and whether the property is used in programs of a congregation or of a higher council or retained for the production of income, is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)."

C. The Church has complied with Presbytery's Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure and has qualified for dismissal from membership in Presbytery and PCUSA (the "Dismissal").

D. For the Church's Dismissal from Presbytery, Presbytery (on behalf of PCUSA) has agreed to (i) release all Church property, real and personal, held by or for the Church (collectively, the "Property"), including without limitation the property described on Exhibit A attached hereto, from any trust, coverage, and obligations, express or implied, including those claimed to arise under the Trust Clause, and (ii) quitclaim to the Church, Presbytery's and PCUSA's respective right, title, and interest, if any, in and to the Property. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the foregoing defined term, "Property," excludes the rights and license defined as the "Excluded Property" in that certain Mutual Release of even date herewith executed by Presbytery and the Church.

E. For the foregoing, Presbytery desires to evidence the above-described release and quitclaim by execution of this instrument.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the receipt of Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other good and valuable consideration, Presbytery agrees as follows:

Agreements

1. Release by Presbytery. Presbytery, for itself and as representative of and agent for PCUSA, releases and discharges the Property and the Church from any trust, coverage, and obligations, express or implied, including those claimed to arise under the Trust Clause.

2. Quitclaim. Presbytery, for itself and as representative of and agent for PCUSA, quitclaims to the Church all of Presbytery's and PCUSA's right, title, and interest, if any, in and to the Property, to have and to hold it to the Church and the Church's successors and assigns forever, on an AS-IS, WHERE-IS basis, with all faults. Neither Presbytery nor PCUSA will have, claim, or demand any right or title to the Property or any part of it. All warranties and representations that might arise by common law, and any warranties in section 5.023 of the Texas Property Code (or its successor), are excluded.

3. Further Assurances. Presbytery agrees to take all further actions and execute, have acknowledged, and deliver all further documents that are necessary or useful in carrying out the purposes and intent of this Release.

4. Counterparts. This Release may be executed in two or more counterparts (whether a facsimile or otherwise), each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which together will constitute the same instrument.

EXECUTED effective as of the 25 day of June, 2015.

TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC.

By: John Steinberger
John Steinberger
Trustee

By: Rev. Bill Schlesinger
Rev. Bill Schlesinger
Trustee

By: Kay Long
Kay Long
Trustee

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF El Paso

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 16th day of June, 2015 by JOHN STEINBERGER, Trustee of TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation, on behalf of said non-profit corporation in the capacity indicated.



Angela Y. Morales
Notary of the State of Texas
My commission expires: 2-22-17

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF El Paso

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 15th day of June, 2015 by REV. BILL SCHLESINGER, Trustee of TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation, on behalf of said non-profit corporation in the capacity indicated.



Angela Y. Morales
Notary of the State of Texas
My commission expires: 2-22-2017

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF Midland

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 25 day of June, 2015 by KAY LONG, Trustee of TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation, on behalf of said non-profit corporation in the capacity indicated.



Th Haney WpA
Notary of the State of Texas
My commission expires: 9/19/18

EXHIBIT A

CHURCH PROPERTIES

Unless otherwise indicated all of the following properties are located in Tom Green County, Texas:

First Three Lots Acquired by the church

April 20, 1886

Volume Q, Pages 572-573

Block 18, Lots 11, 12, 13, Main Part of Town of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Changed Ownership of Original Three Lots from Trustees to Board of Deacons

January 10, 1908

Volume 46, Pages 448-449

Block 18, Lots 11, 12, 13, Main Part of Town of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Additional Land Purchased East of Original Church Property

April 15, 1946

Volume 245, Pages 188

Tract #1: Block 18, Lots 14 and 15, Main Part of Town of San Angelo

Tract #2: Block 18 ½, Lots 6 and 7, Main Part of City of San Angelo

Tract #3: Narrow Strip between west lines of Lot 14 and a fence east of the church.

Dorsey Lot on Chadbourne Street

January 7, 1995

Volume 464, Pages 890

Block Z, South Part of Lot A and all of Lot B, F. E. Allen's SD, City of San Angelo

Spears Lot on Chadbourne Street

December 4, 1995

Volume 507, Pages 122

Tract #1: Block Z, Lot E, Main Town, replat of a portion of Block 18, Lots 18, 19 and 20, Main Part, City of San Angelo, along with a Party Wall Agreement.

Tract #2: Block 18, Lots 16 and 17, Main Part, and all of Block 18 ½, Lots 4 and 5, Main Part, City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Kleinman Lot on Chadbourne Street

March 25, 1997

Volume 576, Pages 554

Block Z, Lot D, replat of Block 18, Main Town Addition to the City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Gutierrez Lot on Chadbourne Street

December 23, 1997

Volume 615, Pages 141

Block Z, Lot C, Main Town Addition, City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Lake Lodge

December 13, 2004

Volume 1165, Pages 782-784

Lot 9, Block 1, Group 13, Lake Nasworthy Addition to the City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Oswald and Spoons Lot on Chadbourne Street

January 15, 2008

Volume _____, Pages _____

Block Z, Lot F, Main Town Addition, City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Quitclaim Deed of Alley

May 5, 2009

Volume _____, Pages _____

Alley described in deed by metes and bounds.

Oil and Gas Interests

All mineral, leasehold, royalty and other oil and gas interests owned of record in the name of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas in Tom Green County, Texas, or wherever else located in the State of Texas or the United States of America.

NOTICE OF CONFIDENTIALITY RIGHTS: IF YOU ARE A NATURAL PERSON, YOU MAY REMOVE OR STRIKE ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM ANY INSTRUMENT THAT TRANSFERS AN INTEREST IN REAL PROPERTY BEFORE IT IS FILED FOR RECORD IN THE PUBLIC RECORDS: YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER OR YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE NUMBER.

QUITCLAIM DEED

**STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF TOM GREEN §**

This Quitclaim Deed (this "Deed") is made and entered into effective as of the Effective Date (as defined below), by TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation ("Grantor"), whose address is 1201 W. Wall Street, Midland, Texas 79701, in favor of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANGELO, TEXAS, a Texas non-profit corporation ("Grantee"), whose address is 32 N. Irving St, San Angelo, Texas 76903.

NOTICE IS TAKEN OF THE FOLLOWING:

- A.** This Deed concerns all real property held by or for Grantee, including without limitation the lands located in Tom Green County, Texas described on Exhibit A attached hereto together with any and all other real property owned of record in the name of Grantee wherever else located in the State of Texas or the United States of America (collectively, the "Subject Property").
- B.** Grantor has agreed to execute this Deed in order to confirm that Grantor claims no interest in the Subject Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the premises and Ten Dollars (\$10.00) and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are specifically acknowledged by Grantor, Grantor does hereby GRANT, BARGAIN, SELL, ASSIGN AND QUITCLAIM to Grantee, its successors and assigns, all of Grantor's right, title and interest, in trust or otherwise, in and to the Subject Property, including, without limitation, in all immoveable property and all improvements located thereon, on an AS-IS AND WHERE-IS basis, with all faults. Any and all warranties and representations that might arise by common law, and any warranties in section 5.023 of the Texas Property Code (or its successor), are hereby specifically excluded.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD such interests unto Grantee, and unto its successors and assigns forever, with all the rights and appurtenances thereunto belonging.

This Deed may be executed in two or more counterparts, each of which will be deemed an original, but all of which together will constitute the same instrument.

EXECUTED effective as of the 25 day of June, 2015 (the "Effective Date").

TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC.

By: John Steinberger
John Steinberger
Trustee

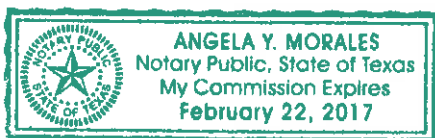
By: Rev. Bill Schlesinger
Rev. Bill Schlesinger
Trustee

By: Kay Long
Kay Long
Trustee

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF El Paso

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 16th day of June, 2015 by JOHN STEINBERGER, Trustee of TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation, on behalf of said non-profit corporation in the capacity indicated.



Angela Y. Morales
Notary of the State of Texas
My commission expires: 2-22-17

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF El Paso
Texas apm

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 15th day of June, 2015 by REV. BILL SCHLESINGER, Trustee of TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation, on behalf of said non-profit corporation in the capacity indicated.



Angela Y. Morales
Notary of the State of Texas
My commission expires: 2-22-2017

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF Midland

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 25 day of June, 2015 by KAY LONG, Trustee of TRES RIOS PRESBYTERY, INC., a Texas non-profit corporation, on behalf of said non-profit corporation in the capacity indicated.



Th Haney Wright
Notary of the State of Texas
My commission expires: 9/19/18

After Recording Return To:

First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas
Attn: Clerk of Session
32 N. Irving St.
San Angelo, Texas 76903

EXHIBIT A

CHURCH PROPERTIES

Unless otherwise indicated all of the following properties are located in Tom Green County, Texas:

First Three Lots Acquired by the church

April 20, 1886

Volume Q, Pages 572-573

Block 18, Lots 11, 12, 13, Main Part of Town of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Changed Ownership of Original Three Lots from Trustees to Board of Deacons

January 10, 1908

Volume 46, Pages 448-449

Block 18, Lots 11, 12, 13, Main Part of Town of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Additional Land Purchased East of Original Church Property

April 15, 1946

Volume 245, Pages 188

Tract #1: Block 18, Lots 14 and 15, Main Part of Town of San Angelo

Tract #2: Block 18 ½, Lots 6 and 7, Main Part of City of San Angelo

Tract #3: Narrow Strip between west lines of Lot 14 and a fence east of the church.

Dorsey Lot on Chadbourne Street

January 7, 1995

Volume 464, Pages 890

Block Z, South Part of Lot A and all of Lot B, F. E. Allen's SD, City of San Angelo

Spears Lot on Chadbourne Street

December 4, 1995

Volume 507, Pages 122

Tract #1: Block Z, Lot E, Main Town, replat of a portion of Block 18, Lots 18, 19 and 20, Main Part, City of San Angelo, along with a Party Wall Agreement.

Tract #2: Block 18, Lots 16 and 17, Main Part, and all of Block 18 ½, Lots 4 and 5, Main Part, City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Kleinman Lot on Chadbourne Street

March 25, 1997

Volume 576, Pages 554

Block Z, Lot D, replat of Block 18, Main Town Addition to the City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Gutierrez Lot on Chadbourne Street

December 23, 1997

Volume 615, Pages 141

Block Z, Lot C, Main Town Addition, City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Lake Lodge

December 13, 2004

Volume 1165, Pages 782-784

Lot 9, Block 1, Group 13, Lake Nasworthy Addition to the City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Oswald and Spoons Lot on Chadbourne Street

January 15, 2008

Volume _____, Pages _____

Block Z, Lot F, Main Town Addition, City of San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas

Quitclaim Deed of Alley

May 5, 2009

Volume _____, Pages _____

Alley described in deed by metes and bounds.

Oil and Gas Interests

All mineral, leasehold, royalty and other oil and gas interests owned of record in the name of First Presbyterian Church of San Angelo, Texas in Tom Green County, Texas, or wherever else located in the State of Texas or the United States of America.

Index

Adjournment	52
Administrative Commission Report	
Divine Savior/St Andrew	45
Administrative Commission Report	
FPC San Angelo Continuing as PC(USA) Congregation	46
Attendance	38
Call to Order	38
Communications	39
Corresponding Members.....	38
Dill, Gary	
Received as Member-at-Large.....	45
Docket.....	39
Farrell, Hunter	
Presentation “One Body, Many Parts”	52
Gahr, Josh	
Removed from rolls as candidate.....	45
Missional Nominating Team Report.....	42
Missional Networking Team Report.....	46
Missional Nurturing Team Report.....	49
Missional Outreach Team Report	51
Missional Resource Team Report.....	50
Missional Ministries Team Report.....	43
Minutes Audit Task Force for February 21, 2015	40
Minutes Audit Task Force for June 12-13, 2015	40
Next Meeting Site	52
Omnibus Motion	39
Ordination Exam Readers	45
Presbyterian Border Ministry Presentation	
Omar Chan and Amanda Craft	52
Reconciliation and Gracious Dismissal Policy Task Force	45
Roseland, Chris	
Greetings from Presbyterian Mission Agency.....	38
Ruling Elders Honored for Service to PC(USA)	38
Saperstein, Dan	
Greetings from Synod of the Sun.....	38
Presentation “Living by our Confession”	52
Stated Clerk Report.....	40
Treasurer’s Report	51
Trinity Legacy Team Report.....	48

Index
Special Called Meeting Minutes

Adjournment	103
Attendance	100
Call to Order/Quorum/Reading of Call.....	100
Docket.....	100
Dismissal of First Presbyterian Church, San Angelo to ECO	102
Missional Ministries Team Report.....	103
Moore, Joel	
Dismissal to ECO.....	103
Negotiating Task Force Report.....	100
Original Call for Meeting.....	104
Proctor, William	
Dismissal to ECO	103
Service of Prayer and Communion	103