

FPCO Resolution Team
December 16, 2011

Present: Frank Allen, Michael Foley, Sam Knight, Paige McRight, Dianna Morgan, and Tom Biery
Absent: Laurie Rodriguez

The meeting opened with a season of prayer. The minutes for the November 15, December 5th and December 8th meetings were approved with one addition.

The FPCO Resolution Team will petition the Committee on Ministry at its January 5th meeting for permission to hold a congregational meeting at FPCO on January 29. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether FPCO desires to petition Presbytery for dismissal to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC).

The committee agreed to a revised voting procedure. The statement, "During the congregational meeting, the Central Florida Presbytery leadership shall not make any statements for or against the adoption of the motions and only church members may be heard on the issue. " will be removed from the procedure. In its place will be this statement, "The leadership of Central Florida Presbytery will be available to answer any questions that may arise during the discussion."

A script will be developed for this meeting, and we will distribute a sheet with the ballot reminding members of the rules of decorum when it comes to debate. The Resolution Team will be involved in the counting of ballots and will be on hand at the 6 PM meeting at FPCO for the announcement of the results.

In January the resolution team will post questions and answers not previously addressed on the Presbytery website. In anticipation of the January 29th meeting we will seek advice and help with experts in the collection and counting of ballots.

The following communication will be sent to Presbytery's COM. Resolution team members should expect to appear before that committee on January 5 at 1:00 PM.

Report to Committee on Ministry
Presbytery Resolution Team for First, Orlando

"The Resolution Team requests of the Committee on Ministry permission to hold a congregational meeting at First Presbyterian Church of Orlando on January 29, 2012 following the 10 AM all church worship service. The purpose of this meeting is so that the congregation may respond to the session's recommendation that the church request Central Florida Presbytery to dismiss it to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Note: The dismissal requested will be for provisional status until ministers and elders can be examined for leadership in that denomination. The church's pastors and Denominational Relations Committee state that the Stated Clerk of the EPC has

cautioned the session not to request transfer for a temporary basis as there is no longer any provision within the EPC polity to allow churches temporary status.

Prior to any recommendation for dismissal to the presbytery and within a week following the congregational meeting the Resolution Team will begin a series of meetings with those members of First Presbyterian who desire to remain in the PCUSA to develop a plan for negotiating with the session to provide for their ongoing Spiritual needs following dismissal. Such plan may be dismissal to other PCUSA congregations or the provision for a continuing ministry of a smaller First Presbyterian Church of Orlando, PCUSA based on the desire of those continuing members.

Background:

Since its appointment, the Resolution Team has met with the session on two occasions and with the session's Denominational Relations Committee. It has met with seven groups at the church, with one group at Westminster Towers and with one group in a private home. Individual members of the Team have heard from individual church members. It has met as a team regularly since its appointment by the Presbytery.

The Team has posted minutes of its meetings on the Presbytery website. It has posted responses to questions raised at the meetings and intends to post additional answers. Due to the comments and questions raised at meetings, the Team has concluded that there is an overwhelming desire on the part of members for the church to be dismissed and further, the Team believes that the matter needs to be resolved.

Attachments:

Resolution Team's letter to members of First Presbyterian Church
Session's background piece

Please see the Presbytery's website for additional information referenced above. “

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Frank Allen
Stated Clerk