

The Rev. Stephen Smith  
Interim Stated Clerk  
Presbytery of the Pacific  
6323 West 80<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA. 90045

March 25, 2006

Dear Sir,

I am writing in accordance with the Book of Order (G-6.0501) to renounce the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and request to be removed from membership and ordained office of the church. I understand such renunciation will become effective immediately upon receipt of this communication. While it grieves me to leave a church and a denomination that has literally been my life for over three decades (from the time shortly after arriving in the United States from my homeland in Ireland), I can no longer continue to serve a church where I have been subject to grave injustices and offense. And, since through the action of the Presbytery's Investigating Committee (PIC), I am being further deprived of the opportunity to minister in the name of Christ within the Presbyterian Church (USA), I have been given little choice but to explore other ways to continue my proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.

I am greatly saddened that I have been forced to resort to this unhappy action. I have been a devoted PCUSA minister and a loyal presbyter for the past thirty-three years and have always endeavored to be true to my calling and to the Christ whom I adore. This makes my renunciation all the more difficult. For, despite the fact that I have gone the extra mile during the past year to be compliant and reasonable with the requests of the Committee on Ministry, the Administrative Commission and the PIC, my treatment at their hands makes it impossible for me to continue. I recognize that being the minister of the Presbytery's largest church and theologically conservative and evangelical there are many who would oppose me in an increasingly pervasive liberal Presbytery. But I nevertheless hoped that the church which I have served so faithfully could find a way to take the high road of justice and grace. How tragic for me to conclude that the spirit of the Christ we seek to serve has been singularly absent in the Presbytery's dealings with me and those congregants who have attempted to voice their concern at the most outrageous injustices and insensibilities.

Neither the leaders of the Presbytery of the Pacific nor any of its committees ever made any attempt to affect genuine reconciliation. Appointees to review the issues most commonly reflected a theological orientation at odds with mine and a willful animus in their approach to me personally or professionally. It appears that among some there is a determination to get rid of me because of theological or political motives and to stop me from preaching a gospel which reflects absolute adherence to the plain sense of biblical teaching and the historic principles of the Christian faith. What a sad day it is when the PCUSA can no longer find room for evangelical ministers such as me.

My heart also grieves for the church that I served in Hollywood whose members have been rendered a heavy blow. While real financial issues existed - which issues we were addressing - I am persuaded that the crisis that presently exists there is directly attributable to the heavy-handed inappropriateness of the Presbytery's actions. The drastic and precipitous decline of that congregation is a matter the Presbytery though its COM and AC has brought upon itself when it chose not to listen to the vast majority of its parishioners! In all, the debacle affected by the Presbytery has caused irreparable damage to many souls in Christ's Kingdom and, one day, there will be those who will have to give an account of their actions.

Finally, I want to affirm that though there are times when one perceives hostile intent, God can use such misfortune for His own glory and design. That was particularly true in the familiar biblical story of Joseph when, holding high office in the Egyptian government, he confronted his brothers who had sent him off to slavery. In a remarkable passage he declares to them, "You meant this for evil but God meant it for good." This unfortunate episode in the life of the church has had the effect of forcing me to be more aggressive in launching my dream of acquainting followers of Christ with the source documents of their faith through the international ministry of *The Word Is Out*. It would appear this matter is already turning out for God's good.

May you experience God's benediction,

Alan J. Meenan, BA., MDiv., ThM., PhD