

Dear Members of the First Presbyterian Church,

This letter is in response to a letter sent to members of the Church on October 25, 2007 by the Heartland Presbytery. The Presbytery did not discuss this letter with the Session, nor inform the Session that they were mailing it to church members. In the letter, Heartland Presbytery requested members to notify the Church if they wished to disaffiliate from the PCUSA. **The Session recommends that members take no action with regards to the PCUSA's request.**

Despite the clear and overwhelming statement expressed by the vote of the Congregation to request dismissal from the PCUSA, the Presbytery decided against the request of the majority, and declared that the minority of members who voted to remain in the PCUSA represent the "True Church" and that they are entitled to the Church property and assets.

The Session met for nearly five hours last Friday night to discuss the Church's options with regard to the Presbytery's decision. In order to try and avoid legal proceedings, the Session is negotiating with the Presbytery pursuant to our request for dismissal with property while accommodating those members wishing to remain in the PCUSA. We expect to receive a reply within two weeks. We hope that the issue can be resolved.

If the Presbytery maintains its position in this matter, and succeeds in excluding the majority of the members who wish to leave the PCUSA, the result will not benefit anyone. The majority of members would be forced to relocate and start over.

While the Session desires greatly to continue our ministry in the current building, which is so rich in tradition and memories, we are not willing to ignore the theological and moral issues that continue to divide us from the PCUSA.