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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Presbytery of San Francisco Approves MPPC Request for Change of Affiliation from PC(USA) to ECO *Church seeks greater flexibility, collaboration, and support in fulfilling its mission***

March 12, 2014, MENLO PARK, CA – On March 11, 2014, the Presbytery of San Francisco approved the congregation's request for dismissal by a voice vote. With that action, a 91-day period begins before the dismissal is effective, per the Presbytery's Policy for Reconciliation and Dismissal, to provide for completion of documentation and transfers. MPPC will now begin the formal transfer process into ECO for both the church and its pastors. The church is in ongoing communication with ECO leadership to ensure a seamless transition at the end of the 91-day period.

Earlier this month, on March 2, 2014, members of Menlo Park Presbyterian Church (MPPC) voted to request dismissal from PC(USA) to ECO, another Presbyterian denomination. About 64% of the church's members participated in the vote, with 93%, or 2,024 members, voting to approve the motion. There were 158 members who voted to oppose the motion. The PC(USA) Presbytery of San Francisco's requirement to call the meeting was 50% of all members attending, and the requirement for approval of the motion was 75%.

"This has been a spiritual journey of discernment for our church," said Senior Pastor John Ortberg. "I'm grateful for the learning, praying, and engagement of the whole congregation, including those who voted for a different outcome. We are committed to moving forward together in fulfilling our mission as we discern God calling us."

The church and Presbytery agreed upon dismissal terms of \$8.89 million, in order for the church to be dismissed with title to its property.

The church noted that the reasons for its Session's recommendation to change denomination fell under four key areas: identity, mission, governance and property. As a multisite church seeking to open five new campuses in the next five years, MPPC leaders felt that ECO's flexible, innovative denominational structure would best help the church achieve its mission.

MPPC is a 140-year old church committed to bringing a thoughtful approach to faith, nurturing authentic relationships and community, and to understanding and serving every community it touches.

ECO is a new Presbyterian denomination founded in 2012, and recently accepted as a member by the World Communion of Reformed Churches. ECO focuses on building flourishing churches through a mission focus and creating church partnerships for accountability and collaboration.

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