

January 15, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of Central Presbyterian Church,

We are writing as the Administrative Commission (AC) of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery assigned to work with you at Central Presbyterian Church as the congregation explored the option of leaving the PCUSA and to be dismissed to “ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.” The AC has met with the session, with the congregation, and with former members of Central Presbyterian Church, prayed more, reviewed all the materials submitted to us and to the Presbytery office, and we have come to the conclusion and will report to the Presbytery that *Central Presbyterian Church will remain a congregation with the Presbyterian Church (USA).*

We also dissolved the existing session of Central on January 12, 2016 and our commission has assumed “original jurisdiction” until a new session can be elected by the congregation and trained by the Administrative Commission acting as session. We took this action with deep sadness but also with a clear sense of the necessity of doing so. We will function as session until new elders have been nominated, elected, trained, examined, installed or ordained.

We made these decisions with full awareness of the grief and pain many will feel over what we have done. We also acknowledge that there are many who will welcome this move to settle the future of Central Presbyterian Church’s affiliation with the PCUSA. We make no judgment against those who, for reasons of conscience, cannot remain at Central. The AC, acting as the session, will dismiss to another congregation anyone who seeks such a dismissal. We do hope, however, that many, if not most, will stay and continue to build this local congregation into a witness of the PCUSA denomination “to the sovereign activity of God in the world” to the end of becoming a stronger community “of faith, hope, love and witness.” We affirm what is stated in the Book of Order “JESUS CHRIST IS HEAD OF THE CHURCH: Almighty God, who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and set him above all rule and authority, has given to him all power in heaven and on earth, not only in this age but also in the age to come. God has put all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and has made Christ Head of the Church, which is his body. The Church’s life and mission are joyful participation in Christ’s ongoing life and work.” (F-1.0201).

There will be a season of grief and messiness within the programs of Central as this transition moves forward. Please keep your community of faith and the AC in your prayers. Meeting as the session today (Friday, January 15, 2016) the AC created an “Administrative Task Force” initially made up of Bill Anderson, Louie Boyd, Scott

Norris, and Don Sumner. These people will be the first to call if you have questions about the day-to-day operations of the church.

The AC acting as the session will conduct a congregational meeting on January 24, 2016 at 4pm in the Central Presbyterian Church sanctuary. The purpose is to consider dismissal of the congregation to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. Realizing there are discrepancies in membership lists, all persons who believe they have membership in Central Presbyterian Church are encouraged to attend and participate. Be assured, however, that the AC has already determined that Central Presbyterian Church will remain a congregation within the PCUSA. Note: All property of Central Presbyterian is held in trust for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (USA) G-4.0203.

Grace and Peace,

Bob Prim, Chair

Roe Callaway, Vice Chair

Cleda Locey, Secretary

Brock Burnett

Drew Marshall

Jan Wilbanks

Kathy Little

Rindy Troueaud