



COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We exist to know, worship, and proclaim Jesus as Lord...

July 26, 2008

Dear Members and Friends of CPC,

Many of you were at the annual meeting of our congregation on July 1 and heard Pastor Mark share his grief over some of the recent actions of the 218th General Assembly (GA) of the PC(USA) at its bi-annual meeting in June. We, the members of your Session (the body of ruling elders and ordained pastors), were also distressed by these actions of the GA. At the congregational meeting, Mark announced that Session would meet on July 14 to discuss our response. The purpose of this letter is to communicate the action taken by the Session that evening and at a second called meeting on July 26.

Some of the most significant decisions of the recent General Assembly are contrary to the foundation of Christian faith and life, and our calling to witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in and for the world. Session was unanimous in sensing that we were compelled to respond. Many ideas were proposed and discussed at our meeting. At first, we were not in agreement regarding our course of action. However, by seeking to listen to God and to one another, we came to agreement on some initial motions. After further prayer and deliberation, at a second meeting we finalized four motions as the first steps our congregation will undertake to oppose and perhaps reverse the damage this GA has done. The complete text of these motions is on the back of this letter.

As members of Session, we take seriously our leadership responsibility. We are exploring a number of options and will seek to partner with other faithful Presbyterians both in our local presbytery and nationwide.

Our desire to fulfill the great commandment of Jesus is strong and we are committed to continuing CPC's various ministries here in Ventura and around the globe. We are convinced that pulling back from ministries which fulfill our call to Ventura and to the nations simply because of the GA actions would be an abdication of our responsibility. In fact, we are committed to pursuing ministries beyond those in which we are currently involved. We are looking forward to this fall's **[R]evolution** capital campaign as an opportunity to gather financial resources to move ahead in obedience to Jesus' command to serve in his name.

"This is not a day without hope. We join the hundreds of thousands of faithful Presbyterians in looking to the Church's Savior in this hour. We reaffirm our love for the Savior and his Church. We plan to invite Presbyterians to join us in seeking God's help to turn back this effort to lead the Church to a place where it is in danger of becoming no Church. None of the damage done by this Assembly is final or irreversible." (Presbyterians for Renewal)

Elders are available to talk with you about your concerns. We welcome your input and we will keep you informed. Find us on the patio, call us at home, write a note or email Debby Barker, who is the Clerk of Session, at clerkofsession@cpcventura.org. Debby will pass correspondence on to the elders and pastors.

Serving together in Christ,

Denny Armstrong (647.4966), Debby Barker (653.1983), Marcia Drescher (642.8330), Paul Dugan (648.2737), Joan Eigenhuis (647.0502), Randy Guzik (659.4761), Kirk Hamilton (983.0514), Dave Heiss (659.5619), Lisa Hermanson (658.7199), Keith Kropp (650.7489), Jim Lisi (642.1922), Susan Ludes (642.7627), Marsha Martin (648.2737), Dino Mensa (644.4670), Mark Patterson (648.2737), Diane Paulin (985.3707), Bob Pedroza (484.4871), Jim Peters (659.4410), Dan Tapia (644.8677), Ted Temple (643.1246), Eric Vielbig (650.9925), Jack Wallace (659.7186), Kevin White (659.9752), Norma Zuber (656.6220)

1555 Poli Street * Ventura, California * 93001 * Phone: (805)648-2737 * Fax: (805)648-3526