

# Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure

## PROLOGUE

The vision of the Presbytery of New Covenant is to Grow congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples. Our mission is to -

- Confess Jesus Christ as Lord
- Connect one another in ministry
- Challenge one another for mission.

The Presbytery of New Covenant seeks to facilitate worship, mission, and other shared ministries by engaging all churches in our bounds to be united in carrying out our vision and mission. We believe The Mission of God as expressed in the Great Ends of the Church is greater than the PC (U.S.A.).

Recognizing that polity changes have caused some congregations to reconsider their connection with the PC (U.S.A.), the Presbytery has adopted a Procedure for Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal. Nonetheless, a fundamental understanding from our Presbyterian heritage is one of connection rather than division. We believe that we discern the will of God more clearly in any particular time and place when we are in communion with each other than when we are separated. However, the Presbytery acknowledges that the particular forms of communion may shift over time, always reforming to better serve the mission of our Lord, Christ Jesus.

## Presbytery of New Covenant Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure

The Presbytery of New Covenant is committed to pursuing reconciliation with pastors, Sessions, and congregations who are considering dismissal from the denomination. Whether that reconciliation takes the form of dismissal, mutually accepted re-commitment to the Presbytery-congregational relationship, or something in-between, it is the will of this Presbytery to create a gracious context and process in which the will of God is sought for the life, ministry, and calling of the particular congregation. All congregations of this Presbytery are invited to commit to this broad understanding of reconciliation with a graciousness befitting those who claim Jesus as Lord.

The Presbytery and congregations will be continually guided by these three principles:

1. The Mission of God as expressed in the Great Ends of the Church extends beyond the mission of the PC (U.S.A.). Therefore, we affirm that a congregation seeking dismissal to another Reformed Body does not diminish the unity of the one Church of Jesus Christ (F-1.0302 and F-1.0304).
2. The exercise of "mutual forbearance" is of utmost importance in our process. Therefore, all will treat each other with respect regardless of theological and ecclesiological differences.
3. We will pray and work for fairness to all parties in our decisions.

It is the Presbytery's belief that in adopting this Procedure congregations who faithfully follow it as a way of discerning if God would have them affiliate with another Reformed denomination are not engaged in  
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schism and that therefore the Presbytery's understanding is that G-4.0207 (Property of a Church in Schism) does not apply to congregations faithfully following this process.

If a Session chooses not to follow this Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure, undertakes actions attempting to revoke adherence to G-4.0203 of the Book of Order, or files suit in civil court against the Presbytery of New Covenant or higher councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), then the "Alternative Process for a Church Seeking Dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)" will apply.

In all matters relating to this subject, discerning answers to the following three questions will be deemed paramount:

1. Is God leading this particular congregation to restore fellowship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or to seek dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?
2. If God is leading this congregation toward restoration of fellowship with the Presbyterian Church (USA), how can that be accomplished in a way that honors Jesus Christ and strengthens both the congregation and the Presbytery?
3. If God is leading this congregation to seek dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), how can that be accomplished in a way that honors Jesus Christ and strengthens both the congregation and the Presbytery?

The Presbytery asks that any Session seeking or considering dismissal from the denomination to covenant with the Presbytery to enter into this defined process of mutual discernment through the formation of a Discernment Team from the Presbytery and the local congregation (see "Discernment Procedure" below). As described below, this process shall take no less than six months and ordinarily will take no more than two years from the date of the congregational vote to enter the Discernment Procedure. The Discernment Team will report and make recommendations to both the church and the Presbytery.

## **DISCERNMENT PROCEDURE**

Because reconciliation is the desired outcome of any disagreement between the congregation and the Presbytery, informal public conversations between the congregation and the Presbytery are expected prior to entering the Discernment Procedure to facilitate mutual understanding and reconciliation. Such meetings might take the form of town hall presentations, Sunday School classes, meetings of Presbytery representatives with the Session and/or congregation, or other appropriate venues.

After such conversations, a Session wishing to initiate a formal process shall put the matter to a vote. If at a duly noticed meeting with appropriate quorum, the Session votes by two-thirds majority to initiate the discernment process, the Clerk of Session shall contact the Presbytery office and inform the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of this desire. The Session shall then vote on whether to arrange for an assembly of the congregation moderated by the pastor or his/her designee for the purpose of advising the Session regarding participation in the discernment process. Notice for this assembly must be given on two Sundays prior to the assembly and at least 10% of the membership must be in attendance. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order will apply for the purpose of this assembly. An advisory vote shall be taken on the

motion to enter into the Discernment Procedure. If approved, any subsequent advisory vote regarding dismissal from the PC (U.S.A.) to another Reformed Body shall require attendance of at least 30% of the membership. After receiving advice from the congregation, the Session may vote to enter the procedure. If approved by the Session, the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, the Moderator of General Council, the Moderator of Session and the Clerk of Session will sign a Covenant Agreement (see page 12), and representatives for the Discernment Team may be selected.

The Discernment Team shall consist of four representatives from the church and four representatives from the Presbytery. The Session of the congregation shall select the representatives from the church, two of whom shall be from the Session, and two at large active members of the congregation. The General Council shall select two Ruling Elders and two Teaching Elders from the Presbytery. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery shall select a facilitator in consultation with the Discernment Team members. The facilitator shall not be one of the eight members of the Discernment Team and shall have voice but not vote during the discernment process. The Discernment Team shall covenant to meet together a minimum of five times.

In order to fulfill the constitutional responsibility of the Presbytery under the Book of Order, the Presbytery of New Covenant understands that church property is held in trust for the PC(U.S.A.) G-4.0203, and recognizes that the use of the property is for the benefit of PC(U.S.A.). Accordingly, the General Presbyter will arrange for a financial evaluation to provide an "individual assessment and valuation of the church's unique situation, finances, history, spiritual needs and financial needs." (*Reference Tom, et al., v. The Presbytery of San Francisco, Remedial Case 221-03, 2012*). Consideration shall include all current financial information, value of the property and future viability of the ministry. The General Presbyter shall appoint representatives recommended by Administrative Division Steering Committee and approved by General Council to form a Financial Analysis Consultation Team (FACT) to carry out a financial analysis. This process will include discussion with the Session and must conclude before the Discernment Team reports to the Session in order that the results may be included in the report of the Discernment Team.

The Session shall provide as soon as possible the following items to the General Presbyter:

- The Operating Budget as of the date of the assembly of the congregation on which the congregation voted to enter the Procedure and previous two year's operating budgets.
- The appraised value of the property, including land.
- The insured value of the property, including all assets.
- Existing liens on the property.
- Outstanding loans of the congregation.
- Current financial statements – audited income statements and balance sheet of the congregation, including all assets of any subsidiary or controlled entity.
- Insofar as practical, a history of property acquisition and values.
- The membership email and mail address list.

### **The Discernment Process**

After meeting at least twice, the Discernment Team will create or approve a process of prayer and discernment to listen and speak to the concerns, sensitivities and questions of congregation members. Throughout all the steps of this procedure, the Discernment Team is responsible for assuring equal opportunity for all viewpoints to be brought before the congregation and for all congregation members to have opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns. The Discernment Team will seek to assure that resource materials provided to the congregation fairly and accurately represent all viewpoints.

### First Meeting

The first meeting of the Discernment Team shall be convened by the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery (or the Clerk's designated representative) to review this Procedure. The Discernment Team will engage in extended time of prayer and introductions and share their faith stories, their understanding of the spiritual and theological issues at stake between the congregation and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and pray for God's guidance for reconciliation. Following the first meeting, the Discernment Team will meet at least four more times. The expected content of the meetings is outlined below.

### Second Meeting

The facilitator of the Discernment Team will guide a prayerful dialogue on foundational theological issues. The purpose of this discussion is to identify the extent of common theological and ecclesiastical ground between the congregation and the denomination as a basis for reconciliation. This meeting will be primarily for dialogue.

### Third Meeting

The Discernment Team, in consultation with the Session, will create or approve a process of prayer and discernment to listen and speak to the concerns, sensitivities and questions of congregation members.

### Fourth Meeting

The Discernment Team will meet to review the progress of the process of prayer and discernment being implemented by the Session. The Discernment Team will address the concerns, sensitivities and questions of congregation members.

### Additional Meetings

The content of additional meetings will be determined mutually by members of the Discernment Team.

### *Report of the Discernment Team*

Upon completion of the prayer and discernment process, the Discernment Team will prepare a report with recommendations to be presented to the Session and subsequently to the congregation in one or more "town hall" meetings.

If the Session determines the congregation is still called by God to remain in covenant relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), both parties will work together to heal any broken relationships (see “Guidelines for Restoration of Fellowship and Recommitment to Presbytery-Congregational Relationship” below).

If the Session concludes that the congregation may be called by God to be dismissed from the PCUSA to another Reformed body, the Session shall follow the “Procedure for Seeking Dismissal.”

## GUIDELINES FOR RESTORATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND RECOMMITMENT TO PRESBYTERY-CONGREGATIONAL RELATIONSHIP

The result of a congregational advisory vote on the question of dismissal shall be reported to both the congregation and to the Presbytery. Following that vote, unless the session votes to seek dismissal, it shall complete this Procedure by entering into a season of reconciliation and prayer in concert with the Presbytery. The Presbytery will not agree to reinitiate the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure with the session for a period of at least three years following the advisory vote. A Reconciliation Team will be named, ordinarily including the members of the Discernment Team. This team shall create and conduct a process for continuation/transformation of fellowship and reaffirmation of the Presbytery-congregational relationship. In addition, it is appropriate for the Reconciliation Team to consult with the Session regarding reconciliation within the congregation. Among the tasks of the Reconciliation Team are:

1. Consulting with the Session as it prepares and adopts a covenant of reaffirmation articulating the relationship between the congregation, Presbytery and the PC (U.S.A.).
2. Consulting with the Session in fostering reconciliation and healing between congregational leaders and members, between congregational factions that may have surfaced or been created, and between the whole congregation and the Presbytery.
3. Conducting a public service of worship and reaffirmation to shared fellowship and ministry, with substantive participation from the Presbytery and the congregation.
4. Sharing of story and testimony from members of the Reconciliation Team and congregation at the congregational and Presbytery level.
5. Blessing and commissioning of any congregants who leave the local congregation (to the extent possible), in the hope of maintaining the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace. (*Ephesians 4:3*)

## PROCEDURE FOR SEEKING DISMISSAL

Upon completion of the discernment process, the Session may vote on whether to arrange for an assembly of the congregation for the purpose of advising the Session regarding dismissal from the PC(U.S.A.) to another Reformed body. This assembly shall be moderated by the pastor or his/her designee. At least 30% of the membership must be in attendance. The most recent edition of Robert’s Rules of Order will apply for the purpose of this assembly. An advisory vote shall be taken on the motion to request dismissal from the PC(U.S.A.) to a particular Reformed Body.

The Discernment Team will work with the Session to ensure the proper and fair implementation of the procedure outlined below:

1. The Session shall set a date for the advisory vote of the congregation. Advance notice of the date for the advisory vote shall be by written letter to each member on the active roll of the congregation who is eligible to vote, as well as by three Sunday worship announcements. The letter shall be mailed at least thirty (30) days in advance of the date of the advisory vote and shall include:
  - a. a proposed motion from the Session requesting dismissal by the Presbytery to a particular Reformed body.
  - b. a written statement from the Discernment Team majority and minority (if applicable).
  - c. a written statement from the Financial Analysis Consultation Team (see item #7 below).

Public announcements of the advisory vote shall be made at all worship services between the date of the first notice and the actual date of the vote. Representatives of the Presbytery (which may include members of the Discernment Team, General Council, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, General Presbyter, and Associate General Presbyters) shall also be invited to the meeting, with the right to address the body gathered.

2. Meetings After a Call for a Congregation Advisory Vote: The Discernment Team shall meet with the Session to ensure proper, fair and balanced communications during the period between the call for a congregational vote and the vote. Whenever possible, members of the Discernment Team should attend any town hall meetings or other congregational gatherings that take place during the period leading up to the congregational vote. The Discernment Team shall report to the Presbytery regarding the fairness of communications during this period.
3. Members eligible to cast an advisory vote shall be those listed on the roll of Active members of the church (G-1.0402) as of the date of the letter setting the date of the advisory vote. Members must be present to vote. The quorum for the advisory vote shall be the designated quorum stated in the congregational bylaws or that which was adopted at the assembly of the congregation specified above (lines 79-80), whichever is higher.
4. All members present, as well as the representatives of Presbytery, shall have the right to speak.
5. When the discussion is concluded, the advisory vote shall be taken by written ballot. In order for the proposal to pass, at least two-thirds of ballots cast must approve the proposed motion from Session.
6. After the advisory vote is taken, the Session may submit a request for dismissal to the Presbytery, which must include the results of the advisory vote of the congregation.
7. Prior to a desired dismissal, the Session shall propose a legally binding contract on behalf of the congregation regarding financial settlement. This contract shall be negotiated with Session representatives by a Negotiation Team appointed by the General Council and in consultation with the Financial Analysis Consultation Team. The Negotiation Team will recommend a contract to the Session which takes into consideration the report of the FACT, and which establishes a fair financial settlement of the congregation's responsibilities under the provisions of G-4.0203. This contract shall include payments reflected in this provision as well as those specified in item 8 below. The agreed upon settlement may be payable as a lump sum or paid in quarterly payments

over five (5) years. The first (or lump sum) payment shall be due upon the signing of all legal documents, which shall occur as soon as practical if the Presbytery votes to approve dismissal.

8. The method, interest, timing, and securing of all the above financial settlements shall be negotiated.
9. The contract shall include at least the congregation's contribution to the Presbytery the greater of: the per member share of the current Presbytery budget<sup>1</sup> or the average of the congregation's past three years' Presbytery contributions. These contributions shall be calculated on a declining scale over a five year period according to the following schedule:

Year one – 100%  
Year two – 80%  
Year three – 60%  
Year four – 40%  
Year five – 20%  
Year six and beyond – 0%

10. The Presbytery, at its next stated meeting, shall vote on the proposed dismissal of the congregation, predicated on the contract noted above. Such dismissal, if approved, shall be pending execution of the contract.
11. A congregation that is approved for dismissal may take its name with it.
12. If any members express a desire to start a PC (U.S.A.) congregation, the Presbytery's committee responsible for evangelism and church growth shall determine if the leadership, mission, and resources exist to organize a new worshiping community. It shall be the responsibility of the Presbytery of New Covenant to support, encourage and provide resources for the establishment of a new church by a loyal minority.
13. A congregation being dismissed will be required to transfer the memberships of all those on the roll who request transfer to another congregation. The Session minutes and church register become the property of the Presbytery of New Covenant and will be delivered prior to all legal documents being signed.
14. When the Presbytery has approved the request for dismissal, all legal documents have been signed and payment(s) made, the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New Covenant shall issue a letter of dismissal to the Reformed Body which is prepared to receive the congregation.
15. In the event that any congregation's request for dismissal is approved under the terms of this Procedure, the Presbytery shall hold, in conjunction with the congregation, a final worship service of commissioning, to celebrate our common life in Jesus Christ and to pray for the effectiveness and well-being of both the congregation and the Presbytery. Those departing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be commissioned by the Presbytery to further their work for the kingdom as they go forward in ministry. The service will be jointly planned by representatives of the Presbytery of New Covenant appointed by the Moderator and the Session, and all congregations of the Presbytery of New Covenant shall be invited.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, in 2015 the per member share of the Presbytery budget is \$40.77.

16. A congregation being dismissed shall be required to remove the Presbytery of New Covenant from any outstanding loan guarantees and to pay off any loans outstanding to any entity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
17. A congregation being dismissed will be required to work with the Presbyterian Board of Pensions to determine the effective date of the dismissal.
18. There are some practical considerations to be addressed, should a congregation be approved for dismissal. These are listed for information, and are not all-inclusive or binding for the purposes of this Procedure:
  - a) The status of Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders and members in the ordination process
  - b) The status of any insurance policies held by the congregation .
  - c) The corporate status of the congregation shall be revised to reflect its dismissal.
  - d) The Presbytery agrees to execute all documents necessary to effectuate the transfer of all assets or property pursuant to this procedure.
  - e) Upon dismissal to another Reformed body, the congregation so dismissed shall be considered dissolved as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

### Approval and Amendment of this Procedure

This Procedure shall be effective after a preliminary reading/discussion of the Procedure at a Presbytery meeting and ratification by a majority of those voting at a subsequent Presbytery meeting. Amendments to the Procedure are in order at the Presbytery meeting where the vote takes place.

Subsequent to the adoption of this Procedure, it may only be amended or removed by the same procedure stated above: after a preliminary reading/discussion of the Procedure at a Presbytery meeting and ratification by a majority of those voting at a subsequent Presbytery meeting.

The Procedure in effect on the date of the covenant agreement between the Session and the Presbytery shall remain in effect throughout the process for that particular congregation even if the Procedure is amended or removed by the Presbytery during the process.



## **THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURE FOR A CHURCH CONSIDERING OR SEEKING DISMISSAL FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)**

The Presbytery of New Covenant has established a Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure for member churches considering dismissal from the denomination and strongly encourages pastors, Sessions and congregations to engage in the process outlined in that Procedure.

Recognizing that there may be churches that either choose to seek dismissal from the PC (U.S.A.) without covenanting to abide by the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure or that may choose to abandon that process before completing it while continuing to seek dismissal from the denomination, the Presbytery establishes this Alternative Procedure for Churches Seeking Dismissal from the PC (U.S.A.).

The intent of this Alternative Procedure is to provide guidelines for a gracious, decent, and orderly interaction between the Presbytery and churches seeking dismissal outside of the process defined in the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure.

### **ALTERNATIVE PROCESS**

When the Presbytery is notified that a church has taken steps to request dismissal from the PC (U.S.A.) without complying with the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure or that a church that was proceeding under the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure fails to complete it but is requesting dismissal, then the Presbytery will respond by following these guidelines.

#### **A. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION**

1. Pursuant to G-3.0109b(5), the Moderator of Presbytery shall nominate and the Presbytery shall elect, an Administrative Commission ("AC"). The primary task of the AC is to "attempt to inquire into and settle the difficulties" of the church in question. The authority of the AC will be specifically defined for the situation. Powers of the AC may include authorization for the AC to assume jurisdiction in whole or in part over the affairs of the church with the power to act in place of the Session.
2. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery will conduct a training session for members of the AC to apprise them of the powers that are delegated to the AC, and the facts and circumstances that prompted the formation of the AC.
3. Powers granted to the AC by the Presbytery may include the authority for the AC:
  - a. to determine whether a schism exists within the congregation (see Book of Order, G-4.0207).
  - b. If schism exists, to determine if one of the factions of the church represents the true church within the PC (U.S.A.) (see Book of Order, G-4.0207).
  - c. to make recommendations to the Presbytery to dissolve pastoral relationships or to place pastors on administrative leave. When requisite authority is given by the Presbytery, the AC may dissolve pastoral relationships (see Book of Order, G-3.0109b).

d. to request records of the Session (see Book of Order, G-3.0108b), "If a higher governing body learns at any time of any irregularity or delinquency by a lower governing body, it may require the governing body to produce any records and take appropriate action."

e. to examine and copy whatever records of the church that may be relevant (e.g., how money is held, title to property, title policies, surveys, insurance documents, financial statements and records, budgets, tax returns, bank and account statements, mortgages or other loan documents, corporate articles, bylaws, and charters – especially changes in any of these).

f. to assume original jurisdiction (in whole or in part) in any case in which it determines that the Session is unable or unwilling to manage wisely the affairs of its church (see Book of Order, G-3.02 and G-3.0201).

g. to freeze the assets of the church and approve expenditures.

h. to secure the building, grounds and other property of the church for the use and benefit of the PC (U.S.A.).

i. to determine if and when an assembly of the congregation is appropriate for the purpose of voting to seek dismissal from the PC (U.S.A.).

j. to call that assembly of the congregation, and provide the Moderator and Clerk for that assembly and to report results of the congregational vote to the Presbytery;

k. to authorize oversight of the church, its ministry and its property by a group within the congregation that has been identified as "the true church within the PC (U.S.A.)" (G-4.0207).

l. to propose to the Presbytery any recommendation for the disposition of the property held by or for the church, and the assumption of the liabilities of the church, if there is no group within the congregation that has been identified as the true church within the PC (U.S.A.), or if such group cannot or does not assume responsibility for the church, or its property or liabilities.

m. to consider the conformity with the PC (U.S.A.) (in matters of doctrines and order) of the proposed receiving body or denomination to which a congregation has, or may, request dismissal, and to propose to the Presbytery any recommendation regarding same for the Presbytery's consideration and action.

n. to fulfill any other responsibilities as assigned by the Presbytery, or as may be necessary or appropriate in connection therewith or in connection with those set forth above.

## B. ASSEMBLY OF THE CONGREGATION

1. The AC shall keep the Presbytery informed of significant actions taken and shall make recommendations directly to the Presbytery for all actions that require the Presbytery's approval.
2. One of the powers of the AC is to determine when or if an assembly of the congregation is appropriate for the purpose of advising the Presbytery whether the congregation wishes to seek dismissal from the PC (U.S.A.) to another Reformed denomination. Prior to any such advisory vote, the leadership of the church shall furnish to the AC written verification that they will receive the church upon dismissal from the PC (U.S.A.). The Presbytery or AC may request any other written information about that

denomination, such as doctrine, governance and permanence. The call for an assembly of the congregation shall be in accordance with the notice and quorum requirements of that congregation.

3. A request for dismissal shall be by two-thirds advisory vote of the active membership of the congregation as recorded in the Annual Statistical Report for the immediately preceding year. By such vote the congregation must adopt a resolution requesting that the Presbytery dismiss the church to a specified Reformed denomination that is in correspondence with the General Assembly of the PC (U.S.A.) and is a member of ecumenical bodies in which the PC (U.S.A.) is also a member. The resolution shall specify whether dismissal is sought with all or part the church's property or without the church's property. If dismissal is sought with part of the property then the resolution shall specify the property to be retained.

### C. DISPOSITION OF CHURCH PROPERTY

1. Disposition of the property of the church shall be resolved in accordance with the provisions of G-4.0207 (Property of Congregation in Schism) and G-4.0208 (Exceptions) of the Book of Order.
2. A minority of the church congregation may choose to elect new church leadership and assume responsibility of the property subject to the jurisdiction of the AC or sell the property to the majority with the approval of the Presbytery (if required).

If the minority does not or cannot assume responsibility for the property within a reasonable period of time (as determined by the AC), then the AC may recommend that the Presbytery dismiss or dissolve the congregation, or dispose of the property, or take other appropriate action.

3. The AC may consider the following options for the disposition of the church property if there is no faction of the congregation that can or does assume responsibility for the church property as a continuing congregation of the PC (U.S.A.):
  - a. Sell, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of the property to a third party.
  - b. Retain the property for a new church development, or hold, use and apply the property for another mission of the Presbytery.
  - c. Sell, lease or transfer the property to the membership of the dismissed congregation upon terms acceptable to the Presbytery on condition that the church is dismissed to another Reformed denomination.

## Covenant Agreement

In order to: promote the ongoing faithfulness of our members in the work of the Mission of God through Jesus Christ; exercise "mutual forbearance"; treat others with respect regardless of theological and ecclesiological differences; and work for fairness to all parties in our decisions, therefore, the General Council of the Presbytery of New Covenant and the congregation of the

\_\_\_\_\_ Church of

\_\_\_\_\_, Texas, covenant to follow the Gracious Reconciliation and Dismissal Procedure and abide by all its terms.

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pastor/Moderator of Session

\_\_\_\_\_  
Moderator, General Council, Presbytery of New Covenant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Session

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of New Covenant