



JAMES ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 2, 2014

Dear JIPC Family,

On behalf of the James Island Presbyterian Church Session, I would like to thank all of you for your participation in the non-binding straw poll concerning PC(USA) denominational issues. Your Session met on December 1, 2014, 6:00 – 9:29pm, to discuss whether the direction of PC(USA) or the recent decisions at the 221st PC(USA) General Assembly warrant consideration of a change in affiliation of James Island Presbyterian Church from PC(USA) to another type of Presbyterian denomination. After extensive deliberation, the Session voted to invite the Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery to form a Presbytery Response Team (PRT) in order to engage the congregation in discussions about potential resolution or dismissal for identified reasons of conscience. The PRT will not determine the merits of the concerns raised by the Session, but will work to assure that before the issues are brought before the congregation, they have been addressed fairly and accurately.

Taking this action is not an endorsement of any position regarding denominational issues but provides a framework for the congregation to engage in further dialogue and discernment.

In the meantime, we feel that it is important that the congregation be aware of the following:

- We are committed to continuing in ministry together at James Island Presbyterian Church and feel it is of utmost importance that we not allow any issues to take our focus from our mission: to love God, to love our neighbors, to be Christ's witnesses, and to make disciples of Christ.
- We will continue to engage in prayerful dialogue about current actions of the PC(USA) and how they might affect James Island Presbyterian Church.
- This process will include congregational meetings, and your participation at these meetings is vital.

We realize that our members have many strong convictions on both sides of these issues that face our denomination. However, it is our goal that our love of God and love for one another is greater than anything that might divide us. Even when we disagree, in Christ we are able to extend God's reconciling love to one another. If you have any questions about these or other issues, please contact a member of Session.

In Christ,

Marilyn Muckenfuss

Note: a copy of the Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery's Covenant for Gracious Discernment and Mutual Accountability is attached.