

Presbytery of San Diego  
Administrative Commission  
Presbytery of San Diego

June 21, 2011

WHEREAS the “Next Wave Task Force” has been engaged in various stages of conversation with sessions and congregations within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) regarding their presbytery affiliation; and

WHEREAS the churches involved have expressed a serious interest in uniting with the Presbytery of San Diego of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and

WHEREAS the churches involved have become discouraged with the reaction of their current presbytery to recent developments with either their own presbytery, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or both; and

WHEREAS, the churches involved support the content of the *Essential Tenets and Reformed Distinctives* document that was adopted by the Presbytery of San Diego and is used by the Committee on Ministry and Committee on Preparation for Ministry; and

WHEREAS the leadership of what could become a “sending” presbytery has been fully informed of the desire of their member congregation to unite with the Presbytery of San Diego; and

WHEREAS the Committee on Ministry has been informed that transfer requests are pending and they are prepared to process the necessary steps to receive Ministers of Word and Sacrament into the Presbytery of San Diego by transfer from another presbytery within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and

WHEREAS the Presbytery Council has been advised of the complexity of these requests; and

WHEREAS the Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry will need to work with sister presbyteries in the eventual transfer of inquirers and candidates under their care to be sent to the Presbytery of San Diego; and

WHEREAS the congregations involved have or will have voted to request a transfer from their current Presbytery to the Presbytery of San Diego; and

WHEREAS the pastors serving these churches have expressed their unequivocal desire to move from their presbytery of current care to the Presbytery of San Diego; and

WHEREAS the Synod Executive/Stated Clerk of the Synod of Southern California & Hawaii convened the staff leadership of the presbyteries involved to date (Santa Barbara, Pacific, San Diego & San Gabriel) and this group shared common interests and concerns and moved the conversation forward in a positive direction; and

WHEREAS the Council of the Pacific Presbytery has voted to recommend to the full Presbytery that the First Presbyterian Church of Honolulu be released to the Presbytery of San Diego and that the Malibu Presbyterian Church be transferred to the Santa Barbara Presbytery indicating their support of these churches;

Therefore the Next Wave Task Force moves that the Presbytery form an Administrative Commission for the purpose of processing requests to be received from churches within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to transfer into the Presbytery of San Diego. The Task Force further recommends the Administrative Commission be granted the following authorities:

1. The authority to discern whether the reason for the desired transfer is in fact spiritual, missional and relational in nature;
2. The authority to interact with the Middle Governing Body Commission authorized by the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly;
3. The authority to interact with the Synod of Southern California & Hawaii;
4. The authority to interact with any affected presbytery;
5. The authority to make recommendations to the Presbytery regarding the request for transfer of a congregation;
6. The authority to make recommendations to the Presbytery, through the Committee on Ministry, regarding transfers of Ministers of Word and Sacrament;
7. The authority to gather sufficient information to discern the financial implications of receiving a particular congregation with the expectation that this be reported to the Presbytery;
8. The authority to engage persons, other than those appointed to serve the Administrative Commission, for the purpose of information gathering and specialized consultations; and;
9. The authority to review the Bylaws of each congregation and report to the Presbytery regarding their validity; and
10. The authority to require a Mission Study of each congregation desiring to transfer to San Diego for the purpose of identifying what the missional implications of receiving each congregation will be.

The Administrative Commission does not have the final authority over the decision to receive or not receive a particular congregation. The decision to receive or not receive remains with the Presbytery itself, recognizing that before a transfer can be consummated, it is subject to the approval or disapproval of both the sending and receiving Synod and ultimately the General Assembly or a commission with the authority of the General Assembly.

Any expansion of the authority of this commission requires a subsequent vote of the Presbytery.

The final recommendation of the Next Wave Task Force is that they be dissolved simultaneously with the formation of the Administrative Commission, to be appointed by the Moderator of Presbytery, and reported to the Presbytery, at the earliest opportunity.