

1 Proposed Gracious POLICIES for the Withdrawal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
2 of a Congregation of Shenango Presbytery
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4 Dismissal will ordinarily only be granted to another Reformed body, and according to the
5 attached process. For congregations that have already begun the process of considering
6 withdrawal, it shall be up to the Dismissal Consultation Team to determine where that
7 congregation is in the process, and to make recommendations accordingly.

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9 No congregation that is in debt to any entity of the PCUSA, or in arrears on pension or
10 medical dues payments, shall be permitted to withdraw until all such obligations are met
11 in full.

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13 To enable the Presbytery to assure that, if the church is dismissed, arrangements can be
14 made for appropriate transfers, the Session of a congregation seeking withdrawal shall
15 research and present to the Presbytery a report of all its assets or the assets of any of its
16 constituent organizations, including real estate and buildings, vacant land and cemetery
17 property (with copies of deeds attached), leasehold interests and easements (with copies
18 of leases and easement/right-of-way agreements attached), bank accounts, certificates of
19 deposit, investment funds and stock portfolios (with copies of recent statements
20 attached), and trust funds or open estates naming the church or one of its constituent
21 organizations as a present or contingent beneficiary (with copies of relevant documents
22 attached).

23
24 For all Session meetings referred to in the Process, a 75% (seventy-five per-cent)
25 majority of those present and voting shall be required to proceed.

26
27 For all congregational meetings referred to in the Process, every effort, including, but not
28 limited to, written notice, postmarked at least 30 days prior to the meeting, shall be
29 provided to all active members.

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31 For all congregational meetings referred to in the Process, a minimum of 35% (thirty-five
32 per-cent) of active members shall constitute a quorum; all votes shall be by secret ballot;
33 an 80% (eighty per-cent) majority shall be required to proceed in seeking/requesting
34 dismissal.

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36 At all times the rights of, and ministry to, the minority in the issues shall be of concern.

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38 Ministers may request transfer to the Reformed body to which the congregation is
39 requesting dismissal, or they may remain as members of the Presbytery. Transfers may be
40 requested concurrently with the congregation's request, or they may occur separately. If
41 transfer is not requested concurrently, the minister will become a member at large, which
42 will allow the minister to continue to seek calls within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
43 Transfers to another Reformed body will normally be approved unless the minister is the
44 subject of a pending judicial or investigative action (D-10.0105). The reasons for not

1 granting transfer shall be communicated by the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery to the
2 appropriate persons.

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4 Variance to these Policies shall be reviewed, and must be approved by the Presbytery
5 Council.

1 A Proposed PROCESS for the Withdrawal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
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3

- 4 ○ The Session of the Church seeking to be dismissed [hereinafter referred to as the
5 Session, or the Church] notifies the Presbytery, through the Stated Clerk, of its
6 desire to explore withdrawal from the PCUSA.
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- 8 ○ A Dismissal Consultation Team [hereinafter referred to as the Team], consisting of
9 at least two persons, is appointed by the Moderator of the Presbytery in
10 consultation with the Moderator of Council, the Moderator of the Committee on
11 Ministry, and the Executive Presbyter.
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- 13 ○ The Moderator of the Session of the Church calls a special meeting of the Session
14 for the purpose of hearing the Team's presentation of the Dismissal Policy/Process
15 and materials and resources relevant thereto.
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- 17 ○ After meeting with the Team, the Session calls at least two more meetings of the
18 Session for the purpose of considering and discussing the materials and resources
19 provided by the Team.
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- 21 ○ At the second (or some subsequent) of these called meetings, the Session shall vote
22 whether or not to recommend to the congregation that the church should seek
23 dismissal.
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- 25 ○ If the result of the above vote is in the affirmative, the Session shall, in accordance
26 with the Presbytery's Policies, call a meeting of the congregation for the
27 presentation of the results of their discussion of the materials and resources
28 provided by the Team, and of their vote, and shall place before the congregation
29 the question, "Shall the (name) Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) request dismissal to
30 another Reformed body of its choice?"
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- 32 ○ If the vote of the congregation is in the affirmative, the Session shall, in
33 consultation with the Team, begin/continue its research regarding to which
34 Reformed body the Church wishes to be dismissed, as well as the specific terms of
35 the dismissal, including its plan to honor its historic relationship with the
36 Presbytery and its support of Presbytery's ministry.
37
- 38 ○ Not less than two months, nor more than nine months, from the date of the meeting
39 of the congregation in which the request for dismissal was approved, the Session
40 shall, in accordance with the Presbytery's Policies, call a meeting of the
41 congregation and place before it the question, "Shall the (name) Presbyterian
42 Church (U.S.A.) request dismissal to (the Reformed body of choice)?"
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- 1 ○ If the result of the above vote is in the affirmative, the Session shall seek
2 conditional acceptance from the new body.
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- 4 ○ Once the above conditional acceptance has been received, the Session shall,
5 through its Clerk, notify the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of its formal request for
6 dismissal, detailing the body to which it is to be dismissed, and the specific terms
7 of the dismissal.
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- 9 ○ The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery shall notify the Moderator of Presbytery and the
10 Moderator of Council who shall docket the request for consideration and vote at
11 the subsequent regular meeting of the Presbytery.
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- 13 ○ If the vote of the Presbytery favors dismissal, (a simple majority shall be required)
14 the Presbytery shall hold a service of celebration of the Church's and Presbytery's
15 unity in Christ, and the Church shall be dismissed to the Reformed body of their
16 choosing,
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