

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.¹
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7 No congregation that is in debt to any entity of the PCUSA, or in arrears on pension or
8 medical dues payments, shall be permitted to withdraw until all such obligations are met
9 in full.
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11 The Session of a congregation seeking withdrawal shall research and present to the
12 Presbytery a report of all its properties and holdings (e.g. buildings, cemetery,
13 investments), so that, if dismissed, arrangements for proper transfer thereof may be made.
14

15 For all Session meetings referred to in the Process, a 75% (seventy-five per-cent)
16 majority of those present and voting shall be required to proceed.
17

18 For all congregational meetings referred to in the Process, every effort, including, but not
19 limited to, written notice, postmarked at least 30 days prior to the meeting, shall be
20 provided to all active members.
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22 For all congregational meetings referred to in the Process, a minimum of 35% (thirty-five
23 per-cent) of active members shall constitute a quorum; all votes shall be by secret ballot;
24 an 80% (eighty per-cent) majority shall be required to proceed in seeking/requesting
25 dismissal.
26

27 At all times the rights of, and ministry to, the minority in the issues shall be of concern.
28

29 Ministers may request transfer to the Reformed body to which the congregation is
30 requesting dismissal, or they may remain as members of the Presbytery. Transfers may be
31 requested concurrently with the congregation's request, or they may occur separately. If
32 transfer is not requested concurrently, the minister will become a member at large, which
33 will allow the minister to continue to seek calls within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
34 or to become a member-at-large if their call at the church ends. Transfers to another
35 Reformed body will normally be approved unless the minister is the subject of a pending
36 judicial or investigative action (D-10.0105). The reasons for not granting transfer shall be
37 communicated by the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery to the appropriate persons.
38

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

¹ For congregations that have already begun the process of considering withdrawal, it shall be up to the Dismissal Consultation Team to determine where that congregation is in the process, and to make recommendations accordingly.

1 A Proposed PROCESS for the Withdrawal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
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- 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.
20
- 21 ○ At the second (or some subsequent) of these called meetings, the Session shall vote
22 to recommend to the congregation that the church should seek dismissal.
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- 24 ○ If the result of the above vote is in the affirmative, the Session shall, in accordance
25 with the Presbytery's Policies, call a meeting of the congregation for the
26 presentation of the results of their discussion of the materials and resources
27 provided by the Team, and of their vote, and shall place before the congregation
28 the question, "Shall the (name) Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) request dismissal to
29 another Reformed body of its choice?"
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- 31 ○ If the vote of the congregation is in the affirmative, the Session shall, in
32 consultation with the Team, begin/continue its research regarding to which
33 Reformed body the Church wishes to be dismissed, as well as the specific terms of
34 the dismissal, including its plan to honor its historic relationship with the
35 Presbytery and its support of its ministry.
36
- 37 ○ Not less than two months, nor more than nine months, from the date of the meeting
38 of the congregation in which the request for dismissal was affirmed, the Session
39 shall, in accordance with the Presbytery's Policies, call a meeting of the
40 congregation and place before it the question, "Shall the (name) Presbyterian
41 Church (U.S.A.) request dismissal to (the Reformed body of choice)?"
42
- 43 ○ If the result of the above vote is in the affirmative, the Session shall seek
44 conditional acceptance from the new body.

- 1 ○ Once the above conditional acceptance has been received, the Session shall,
2 through its Moderator, notify the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of its formal
3 request for dismissal, detailing the body to which it is to be dismissed, and the
4 specific terms of the dismissal.
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- 6 ○ The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery shall notify the Moderator of Presbytery and the
7 Moderator of Council who shall docket the request for consideration and vote at
8 the subsequent regular meeting of the Presbytery.
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- 10 ○ Pending the outcome of the vote of the Presbytery (a simple majority shall be
11 required) the Presbytery shall hold a service of celebration of the Church's and
12 Presbytery's unity in Christ, and the Church shall be dismissed to the Reformed
13 body of their choosing,
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