

A COVENANT OF GRACIOUS SEPARATION AND DISMISSAL

BETWEEN

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DUNELLEN

AND

THE PRESBYTERY OF ELIZABETH

PC(USA)

In recognition of our mutual desire to further the peace, unity, and purity of the larger church, the living body of Christ, and to fulfill our respective roles and responsibilities towards our Presbytery, Church and congregation, we, the Presbytery of Elizabeth, and the First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen, enter into this Covenant of Gracious Separation and Dismissal, recognizing the end of our denominational affiliation, issuing this ecclesiastical dismissal, and covenanting as set forth below.

ARTICLE I

In furtherance of this covenant, the Presbytery of Elizabeth acknowledges that the First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen as a congregation has sought and requested Dismissal from the Presbytery of Elizabeth, ending its relationship as a congregation within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In accord with the Presbytery of Elizabeth's Policy on Dismissal, the Presbytery hereby Dismisses First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen, to the ECO: Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, (the "ECO").

Pursuant to this understanding, the Presbytery of Elizabeth, by ratification of this agreement dismisses First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen as a congregation within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member congregation of this Presbytery effective the date of the ratification of this Covenant by the Presbytery of Elizabeth. The Presbytery acknowledges that for purposes of the civil law of New Jersey, the ecclesiastical dismissal of First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen as a congregation within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is intended to apply to all legal rights of the particular church, whether or not expressly stated in this covenant.

ARTICLE II

The Presbytery of Elizabeth based upon its discernment of its mission, for itself and as the council of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) relinquishes its claims upon all the real and personal property held by First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen, and any beneficial interests therein. The real property released includes all real property owned by First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen, such as the church

building and two manses. As title is currently in the name of First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen, formal transfer of Title is not necessary; although upon request, a proper Quit Claim Deed shall be given to release any interest in the property on the part of the Presbytery. Any such Quit Claim Deed shall be prepared by First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen at its own cost, and presented to the Presbytery at no cost to the Presbytery, and FPC Dunellen shall be responsible for any recording costs for the Deed.

ARTICLE III

First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen shall render to the Presbytery of Elizabeth the balance of its per capita payments for calendar year 2011, in the amount of \$8,614, and full per capita payment for calendar year 2012, in the amount of \$10,614, for a total per capita payment of \$19,228.

ARTICLE IV

First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen accepts responsibility for payment of reasonable legal fees paid by the Presbytery to review documents relating to this dismissal.

ARTICLE V

Any member of First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen who wishes to remain as a member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be under the care of the Presbytery of Elizabeth.

ARTICLE VI

In further consideration of this Covenant, The First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen shall render to the Presbytery of Elizabeth the monies it is holding as a Self-Development of People grant originally awarded to First Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth. The grant was intended to finance a computer training program, and when FPC Elizabeth did not use it, it transferred the money to FPC Dunellen with the hope that FPC Dunellen's Hispanic Ministry would take over the project. Believing that the monies are intended for the Presbytery of Elizabeth, FPC Dunellen shall give these funds to the Presbytery of Elizabeth. These funds amount to \$9,520.90.

ARTICLE VII

The First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen shall also commit to sharing a time of worship with the Presbytery of Elizabeth shortly after the dismissal process is completed, whereby we shall celebrate the ministry we have shared, and whereby we shall hold up our common love for Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE VIII

The pastors serving at the First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen, Rev. Jeffrey Wildrick and Rev. Silvio Del Campo, having become members of another denomination, shall be considered to have renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Their membership in the Presbytery of Elizabeth as teaching elders in the Presbyterian Church (USA) shall conclude as of June 26, 2012, the date of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth when this document shall take effect.

This serves as a written covenant agreement between The Presbytery of Elizabeth and the First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen, and is understood to be binding on any succeeding governing body.

We pray that each other go forth in peace, honoring Christ.

Attested:

First Presbyterian Church, Dunellen

CLERK OF SESSION DATE

PRESBYTERY OF ELIZABETH

MODERATOR DATE

STATED CLERK DATE