**First Presbyterian Church of Dunellen**

**The Process of Dismissal from the PC(USA) to the**

**Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO)**

* Completed € Pending as of May 20, 2012
* In response to change in ordination standards, session votes to withhold per capita payments, April 2011
* Session holds congregational Town-Hall Meeting to discuss per capita, May 2012
* Presbytery Cabinet sends team to discuss per capita with session
* Formation of Denominational Relations Team (DRT)
* DRT offers four forums on denominational issues
* DRT creates http://updates.dunellenpres.org website to keep congregation informed of process
* Presbytery of Elizabeth creates Gracious Dismissal Process, November 2011
* DRT studies various denominational homes
* Pastor Wildrick & Clerk of Session Suzanne Geiger attend ECO (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians) conference, January 2012
* DRT recommends that session begin dismissal process, January 2012
* Session unanimously notifies presbytery of desire to enter dismissal process, February 20, 2012
* Presbytery forms Resolution Team (PRT)
* DRT recommends ECO for our new denominational home, February 2012
* PRT meets with session to hear why they are seeking dismissal
* Session votes to apply for membership in ECO, March 2012
* At the request of PRT, session calls a Town-Hall Meeting of the congregation
* PRT meets with session to share presbytery’s perspectives on issues raised at the first meting. PRT and DRT issue a joint letter recommending that the dismissal process continue.
* PRT meets with English and Spanish speaking members at separate Town-Hall meetings, and takes straw polls regarding dismissal. The vote is overwhelmingly “yes.” May 6, 2012
* PRT, in consultation with leaders from presbytery trustees and Committee on Ministry (COM), recommends that First Presbyterian Church be dismissed to ECO with property, following payment of all unpaid per capita, May 11, 2012
* Session (with Presbytery) calls a special congregational meeting for the congregation to vote on whether to formally request dismissal from the PC(USA) to ECO
* DRT accepts dismissal terms, and offers to return to the presbytery a Presbyterian grant that was transferred to Dunellen from 1st Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth but never used.
* Session is interviewed by the ECO assimilation team, May17, 2012
* Administrative teams make transition plans for:
  + Transfer of Medical and Pension benefits for staff
  + Church investments
  + Church insurance
  + Legal release of Presbytery claims on church property
* Pastors are interviewed by ECO assimilation team
* Presbytery Trustees meet to approve dismissal terms
* Presbytery COM meets to approve dismissal terms, June 7
* Congregation votes to request dismissal from PC(USA) to ECO. (Quorum of 143 people, with at least 80% of those present voting yes to pass) June 10, 2012, 12:15 pm
* ECO Board of Directors meets to accept 1st Presbyterian Church, Pastor DelCampo, and Pastor Wildrick, June 15-17, 2012
* Presbytery of Elizabeth votes to dismiss 1st Presbyterian to ECO June 26, 2012
* Worship service with the Presbytery of Elizabeth to thank God our years of ministry together