

NEW WINESKINS PRESBYTERY

A TRANSITIONAL, NON-GEOGRAPHIC PRESBYTERY OF THE EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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April 4, 2009

VIA E-MAIL

To: All Senior Pastors and Clerks of Session

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Please give or show a copy of this letter to each of your ruling elders in active service.

We have just completed an uplifting two-day meeting of the Joint EPC-NWAC Commission and the Coordinating Team of the Transitional Presbytery/Support Network ("TP/SN"). Our meeting at the Office of the General Assembly ("OGA") was bathed in prayer and the study of God's written Word and gave us an opportunity both to assess our progress since June 2007 and to look forward to our next steps in the EPC. We are glad to tell you that much progress has been made in charting our future together in the EPC.

Two years ago, our brothers and sisters in the EPC opened their hearts, their arms, and their doors to welcome us into their fellowship. At that time, we were spiritually and emotionally tired from the fight to leave the PC(USA). Our new family gave us time and a place to rest, to recover, to regain our strength, and to refocus on the future. As a result, we now have a clearer view of the path before us as we continue our journey towards full membership in the EPC.

Throughout the past two years, the OGA has been an ever present friend. For those of us who were forced to disaffiliate, a simple phone call to the OGA ensured that our pastors and their families were protected with health care insurance, retirement planning protection, and spiritual nurture. On short notice, and at real financial cost, the Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Jeff Jeremiah, the Assistant Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Ed McCallum, or other representatives of the EPC and its Joint Commission came to visit, worship with, and reassure congregations who were under spiritual attack.

As we have grown, the staff of the OGA and the TP/SN have incurred increasingly heavy financial strains. The Coordinating Team and the EPC recognize that most churches departing from the PC(USA) have also experienced financial strains associated with their departures. Your Coordinating Team believes that when churches accepted the

hospitality offered by the EPC and the refuge of the TP/SN, those congregations also understood they would help the OGA and the TP/SN to carry forward the work that is their responsibility. We regret that our review of financial records indicates that in the case of *nearly all* of our congregations, there has not yet been any action to fulfill the implied responsibility to financially support the OGA and the TP/SN.

Based on reported membership in the TP/SN of over 18,520, the 2009 per member asking (pma) for the OGA (\$25 per member)¹ and the TP/SN (\$20 per member) would result in contributions of \$463,000 for OGA and \$370,400 for the TP/SN. Through the end of the first quarter of 2009, contributions to the OGA were \$7,373 (1.6% of pma) and to the TP/SN were \$5,100 (1.4% of pma).

We recognize that budgeting realities and the current economic conditions in the nation *may* make it difficult for you to forward the full per member asking to each court at this time. We prayerfully ask you now to make whatever contributions, full or partial, that you can as soon and as frequently as you can with the goal of meeting each pma target in full as soon as possible. By doing so, we acknowledge with gratitude the loving care and support we have received from our new denominational home in the past and enable both the OGA and the TP/SN to actively encourage and forward the New Wineskins vision in the future.

Finally, the work associated with receiving new refugees from the PC(USA) is far from done. Recent constitutional votes in the and threats by some elements of continued discord will assuredly result in new immigrants arriving on our shore in need of the same care and sustenance we have already received. As you prepare your 2010 budgets, please ensure that they reflect pma requests in the same range as 2009, *i.e.*, OGA: \$25 per member and TP/SN: \$20 per member.

Should you have any questions, please call one or more of us. Your prompt, prayerful, and charitable response is anticipated and appreciated.

Yours, in His service,

Mac

Michael R. McCarty
Stated Clerk

Trish

Trish Dietz
Acting Deputy
Stated Clerk

Randy

Rev. Dr. Randall T. Jenkins
Moderator

encl

cc: Rev. Dr. Jeff Jeremiah
Rev. Dr. Ed McCallum

¹ Unlike the PC(USA) practice in which the presbytery is the collection agent for the General Assembly, in our new home, each court independently establishes its own pma which is remitted separately and directly to the requesting court.

EPC-NWAC Joint Commission
NWEPC Coordinating Committee