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Resolution Team report for Presbytery

The Resolution Team was appointed to work with New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Hutchinson, after the Listening Team heard their decision to withdraw from the PC(USA) and with the hopes of retaining their property.

Appointed to the Resolution Team was Scott Randle (Grace), Ben Ray (Derby), John Wilson (Independence), Carolyn Shaw (Grace) and Gail Doering (TEL).

In our first meeting it was unanimous that we wanted to find a way that New Covenant could move forward with their desire to serve Jesus Christ. We weren't sure what that looked like, but we did not want it to be too costly nor did we want to draw this out for an extended period of time.

We meet four times by zoom to discuss options that we could propose to New Covenant that might move them forward. A little bit of history, New Covenant was formed when Northminster and Forest Park Presbyterian Churches merged. These two previous churches each had a Board of National Missions Bond and Mortgage from The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Terms of these were that they did not need to be repaid unless: the church closed and property was sold, left the denomination, or were to move to another location and sell the property. If this happened, then the mortgage would be called with 5% interest for each year since it was loaned.

We contacted Judy Walton, Director of Credit Operations of the PCUSA. She informed us that the two "grants" were in the amount of \$6,500 for the Northminster Church (taken out in 1954) and \$24,613 for Forest Park (taken out in 1921). With the 5% interest, these "grants" became \$28,285 and Judy just told us that the other loan would be over \$100,000.

The Resolution Team worked with Judy and found a way that they could satisfy both "grants" with a payment of \$25,350. This is to be paid to the PCUSA over three years (\$8,450/year). This figure is the amount of the Northminster "grant" up to the year that it merged with Forest Park, the date it should have been called. The Loan Committee of the PCUSA will divide this money so that it will satisfy both "grants", one from Northminster (\$6,500) and the other from Forest Park (\$26,413). Judy also informed us that the money received will go back into funds that PCUSA churches can use for future "grants" to churches needing help. That was important to the Resolution Team that the money could be used for the same purpose.

The Resolution Team also talked about asking for money for the Presbytery, but figured it best if they would satisfy this amount to the PCUSA, we would not ask for anything for the Presbytery of Southern Kansas and ask for a gracious separation with New Covenant and PSK. Over the past 4 years, New Covenant had given less and less to shared ministries for the Presbytery and we were uncertain of Per Capita giving in the

last 4 years. We didn't feel that we would notice too much of a difference in this next year, therefore, we did not ask for a scaled down giving over the next 4 years.

MOTION: That New Covenant Presbyterian Church, Hutchinson, be released from Southern Kansas Presbytery and the PCUSA with their property and assets to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of the Great Plains with the condition that they repay the Loan Committee of the PCUSA the amount of \$25,350 at the terms agreed upon by the Loan Committee.