

April 2016 Newsletter

UPDATE FROM THE DISCIPLESHIP AND DISCERNMENT TEAM

Background:

For a number of years the Neelsville Session has had lengthy discussions regarding denominational issues. Last December the Session concluded that now is the right time to revisit the concept of discernment — a season in which the church membership considers carefully whether to remain in the PCUSA or to start the process of aligning with another Presbyterian denomination. A formal presentation on this issue was given to Neelsville's College of Elders on February 20th. After lengthy discussion, over 90% of the elders present voted to support the plan the Session was proposing, that is, to enter a formal Discernment Process with our Presbytery. On March 7th a letter was mailed to all members of Neelsville which discussed the Session's action and provided much background information.

Update:

Session did subsequently vote to begin Discernment and sent a letter to the Presbytery making this request. In response, Presbytery will be sending a delegation to meet with the Session on April 21st. It is expected that the Presbytery Council will then establish a Discernment Team from the Presbytery to meet regularly with our Session and our congregation throughout 2016. As stated in the March 7th packet, this year-long (or longer) process will be led by our elders, the Presbytery Team, and our own Discernment team and will culminate in a vote of the congregation about whether to stay in the PCUSA or to realign with another Presbyterian denomination. Therefore, all are asked to stay informed, participate, and pray for guidance during this process. Questions? Want more information? See any member of the Discipleship and Discernment Team: Craig Arold—Chair, Connie Barnes, Sue Farrell, Michele Kelly, Lynn Kroah, Chad Porter, Bob Velthuis, Merilee Worsey, or Pastor Pete.