



February 20, 2016  
Reverend Dottie LaPenta  
Chair, Presbyterian Leadership Council  
National Capital Presbytery c/o  
Hope Presbyterian Church  
1100 Enterprise Road  
Mitchellville, MD 20721

Dear Reverend LaPenta,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Following prayerful study and discussions the session of Neelsville Presbyterian Church (NPC) requests the Presbytery Council appoint a Discernment Team (DT) to consult with our session and congregation, in accordance with step 3 in the *National Capital Presbytery Process for use When a Church Wishes to Disaffiliate from the Presbyterian Church (USA)*.

- In 2012 NPC session informed Council that we affiliated with the Fellowship of Presbyterians.
- In 2013 NPC session communicated our distress and objection to actions of the General Assembly to the Presbyterian Council.
- In the summer of 2014 NPC session called two town hall meetings to discuss the actions taken by the General Assembly.
- In October of 2014 NPC session invited Reverend Wilson Gunn to visit and he graciously spoke to our session regarding our concerns.
- In 2015 NPC session spent time in prayer about the way forward and focused on refining our mission statement and discipleship process.

We believe that, in accordance with our Presbytery Process we have completed steps 1 and 2. Our concerns have not diminished, nor has the negative impact on our ministries and mission, which we attribute in part to the denominational affiliation since the formation of the PC(USA).

We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Discernment Team (DT) in openness and transparency, striving together to honor Christ in the way we relate to each other when having the conversation, to determine whether the congregation wishes to request presbytery for dismissal.

Sincerely,

Joan Ginetis  
NPC Clerk of Session

Craig Arold  
NPC Discipleship & Discernment Team