

# Denominational Issues Update - June 5, 2016

**NEELSVILLE TOWN HALL MEETING  
Sunday, July 24, 2016**

**Church Sanctuary - After the Service**

- **Discussing Denominational Discernment**
- **Process, Issues and Information**
- **Questions & Answers**

As we continue to focus on our mission: To glorify God by being and making disciples of Jesus Christ, Neelsville has begun a process of discernment with our Presbytery to determine if we should remain in the PC(USA) or affiliate with another Presbyterian denomination that better aligns with our mission. The objective of this process is to hear all points of view and prayerfully consider where the Holy Spirit is leading us for our discipleship mission to flourish. This short paper will briefly bring you up to date on what has been happening in the past six months and where things stand for the way forward.

## ***The Past***

Prior to this time, there have been many years of prayer and discussions about changes in the denomination and several years of intently studying denominational issues.

- ❖ In late December of 2015, a team of Elders was formed at the direction of Session to guide NPC. This is our Discipleship and Discernment (D&D) Team.
- ❖ On February 20, 2016, the D&D Team met with the College of Elders (that is, all ordained Elders whether or not they were on the current Session) and presented information regarding the reasoning behind Session's action in forming the Team. The Elders held an advisory vote and over 90% recommended that Neelsville enter into a formal discernment period. Immediately following this meeting, Session voted unanimously to begin the process and sent a letter stating such to the National Capital Presbytery.
- ❖ On March 7th, a letter was sent to all Neelsville members informing them of this action. The letter had an attached Q&A that explained the situation, issues and the decision of Session.
- ❖ On April 21st, Session met with four members of Presbytery, explained why Neelsville wanted to enter this process, and that members of Session were unanimous. The Leadership Council considered Neelsville's request and on

May 11th, communicated that they hoped to have a Presbytery Discernment Team in place by September of this year. Members of the Presbytery have been very congenial and cooperative. In our Presbytery, Centreville Presbyterian is well into the process and two others: Ashburn Presbyterian and First Korean Presbyterian Church also in Virginia have begun the process.

### ***What's Next?***

So what does the future hold? Since it is all members of Neelsville that will ultimately hold an advisory vote to stay in the PC(USA) or align with another Presbyterian denomination, it is important to be informed and up-to-date with the process.

- ❖ On Sunday, July 24, our Discipleship and Discernment Team will hold a Town Hall meeting in the sanctuary after the 10:00 am worship service. We will provide details on the process, issues, background information, and a time for questions.
- ❖ In September, a Discernment Team from Presbytery should be in place. This team will begin meeting with our D&D team, the Session, and various groups within the church. They will also hold congregation-wide meetings.

This process should not impact any of our programs, outreach, or Sunday worship. We will continue to keep our attention on our mission to “be and make disciples of Jesus Christ”.

A web page is being assembled which will be updated with activities, documents and other information. Look for the Discernment page at [Neelsville.org](http://Neelsville.org).

If, throughout this time, you have questions, please feel free to ask any member of Neelsville’s D&D Team. You may also submit questions before the Town Hall meeting, and we will endeavor to answer them. Contact us! Chair – Craig Arold, Connie Barnes, Lynn Kroah, Michele Kelly, Bob Velthuis, Chad Porter, Merilee Worsey and Sue Farrell.

*If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.*

Galatians 5:25