



March 7, 2016

Dear Members of Neelsville,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank God for all the good we see Him doing in the life of our congregation and in our community. As we continue in our journey to fulfill NPC's mission to glorify God by being and making disciples of Jesus, we are called, through the work of the Holy Spirit, to take action that enables NPC to faithfully and enthusiastically fulfill its mission. As many of you are aware, the Session has been in discussions regarding denominational issues in the PCUSA over a number of years, and with the launch of our new discipleship process this past Fall, Session has concluded that now is the right time to revisit the concept of discernment about remaining in the PCUSA or starting the process of aligning with another Presbyterian denomination.

After much prayer and discussion, the Session voted in December, 2015 to form a small team of Elders to assist in guiding this process. This Discipleship & Discernment Team invited all of Neelsville's active elders, current and past, to a meeting on February 20, 2016. The meeting resulted in over 90% of the elders present recommending that Session begin the formal Discernment process with our Presbytery. Following this meeting, the Session voted unanimously to begin this process, and sent a letter to this effect to our National Capital Presbytery.

We do not yet know where God will lead us, but we are committed to seeking His will together. The discernment process will require the participation of our entire congregation. The purpose of this letter is to inform you and invite your participation in what we believe will be a season of significant spiritual renewal and that requires extraordinary prayer.

Attached, you will find an executive summary, a Question & Answer document, and Pastor Pete and Elder Sue Farrell's newsletter articles from February and March. The Discipleship & Discernment Team will keep you informed of upcoming meetings on this subject, but feel free to contact anyone on the team if you have questions or would like to discuss anything in more detail.

In His Service,

Neelsville's Discipleship & Discernment Team

Craig Arold, Chair	Connie Barnes	Rev. Dr. Peter Della Santina, ex officio
Sue Farrell	Michele Kelly	Lynn Kroah
Chad Porter	Bob Velthuis	Merilee Worsley