

A Pastoral Letter to Eastminster Presbytery

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Following worship and prayer, Eastminster Presbytery, meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Mineral Ridge, on October 6th, pastorally responded to the legal action against Eastminster Presbytery initiated by the Hudson Presbyterian Church by appointing an administrative commission to talk to the Hudson Presbyterian Church following consent of the session. The Consulting Commission appointed by Eastminster Presbytery on September 12 to meet with churches throughout the Presbytery provided insight into efforts that have been made thus far to communicate with the Session of the Hudson Presbyterian Church.

Eastminster Presbytery took the following action at its October 6 meeting: "that the Moderator of Eastminster Presbytery appoint an Administrative Commission to attend, with the consent of the session of the Hudson Presbyterian Church, all meetings of the congregation, session, and committees of the Hudson Presbyterian Church; to be in conversation with the pastor and session; with the consent of the session of the Hudson Presbyterian Church, to have full access to all church records; and that the Presbytery maintain the authority to assign other responsibilities to this commission in the future."

An administrative commission performs particular functions of the Presbytery on behalf of the Presbytery and at the Presbytery's direction. Responsibilities and tasks of an administrative commission are limited by the Presbytery at their formation. Commissions are appointed routinely for such Presbytery functions as the installation of new pastors in churches and chartering new churches of the Presbytery. Previous commissions have carried out both of the aforementioned functions with the Hudson Presbyterian Church.

A minister and elder commissioner to the October 6 meeting offered to hand deliver the action of Eastminster Presbytery to the Hudson Church Session so that they might communicate in person the conciliatory nature of the Presbytery's action.

Please pray for Eastminster Presbytery and the Hudson Presbyterian Church as continued efforts are made at communication and reconciliation.

In Christ's service together,
Dan Schomer

Tuesday, October 10, 2006