



May 14, 2015

Dear Members and Friends of FPC:

On Monday, May 11, after many months of deliberation, after careful consideration of your input to the survey conducted last Fall, and following a series of meetings with Mission Presbytery—the CRC (Church Relations Committee) presented the elders of the Session with a report which included alternatives for next steps related to the future of our worshipping community at FPC-San Antonio and our church property.

Following, the Session voted *unanimously* to ask the Trustees of FPC to take decisive steps to determine ownership of our property at 404 N. Alamo by requesting that the civil court system make a ruling in this regard. This decision was a result of MUCH prayer, careful deliberation over months/years, and many hours invested exploring every possible alternative to determining the future of our church.

After the unanimous vote by the Session, the Trustees of FPC-San Antonio voted unanimously to support the recommendation of the Session to ask the courts for a declaration of the church's property interests. The Trustees also voted to engage Dykema Cox Smith to represent the church in this action.

On Tuesday, May 12, a suit was filed to declare the church's rights in its property at Fourth and Alamo and in all of its personal property. Judge John Gabriel signed an order that maintains the status quo so the court can hear the property issue, and so we can discuss freely all the issues affecting our church.

It is important to know that the court action taken by the Trustees on Tuesday is not a decision to leave the PC-USA, it is to determine who rightfully owns our church property. The civil legal system has no jurisdiction over theological and denominational matters.

We also feel it is important for our congregation to know that discussions with representatives at Mission Presbytery are ongoing. Your Session and Trustees do not take lightly the action taken these past few days.

A first of several informational meetings to allow you to ask questions and learn more will begin this Sunday during the 9:30 Sunday School Hour.

**Date:** May 17, 2015  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m.  
**Place:** Covenant Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor (Room 315)

*(see reverse)*

There will be multiple opportunities over the next few weeks to meet. We encourage you to take advantage of one of these meetings so that you feel fully informed. Keep an eye on our website to find out when these meetings will take place.

We covet your prayers for wisdom and guidance as we seek to follow God's will for our church and be true to His word.

Earnestly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norton A. Stuart, III, MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a stylized "S".

Norton A. Stuart, III, MD  
Clerk of the Session,  
First Presbyterian Church San Antonio