

June 24, 2015

Dear members and friends of FPC-San Antonio,

As your Elders, we want to continue to keep you informed about what is going on in our church and in the denomination.

As you know, Mission Presbytery appointed a committee to investigate an allegation that our Interim Senior Pastor, Ron Scates has violated his ordination vows. Details regarding this investigation were sent to church members by letter dated June 18, 2015 and may be found at www.fpcsanantonio.org/congregationletter

The Session held a called Session meeting on Monday, June 22, 2015, to discuss a response. At that meeting the Session unanimously approved three motions:

1. To stand behind our interim pastor with a vote of confidence and the full support of the Session.
2. To ask the FPC Foundation to provide monies to provide for the legal representation of Reverend Ron Scates in church courts of the PC(USA) should that become necessary.
3. To ratify the current contract of Reverend Ron Scates including his recent increase in salary. This provides for at least a full year from his start date and two additional renewable periods of six months each

We believe many good things are happening at First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio. Attendance and giving have improved. The church has expanded mission opportunities by sending funds to flood victims in central Texas and those displaced by political turmoil in Iraq. Our goal is to stay the course and to continue the work of the church. At the regularly scheduled Session meeting on June 8, we approved hiring a pastor for congregational care to help Ron and Scott. This position will be filled on a contract basis in a manner similar to that in which George Sturch served the congregation.

At the same time, we realize many of you want a decision on the future of FPC's affiliation with the PCUSA. To provide information to the congregation about the process and alternatives, the Session has scheduled a series of meetings, **beginning this Sunday** to help provide information about the broader Presbyterian community. We have invited representatives of Mission Presbytery and Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians to communicate viewpoints. We are extending invitations to other speakers for July/August meetings. While speakers are being finalized, we can tell you that meetings have been scheduled on the following dates:

Sunday, June 28 | 12:15 PM | The Sanctuary

Update on the status of the declaratory judgment regarding property and Mission Presbytery's investigation of Ron Scates.

Sunday, July 12 | 8:30 AM | Geneva Room (Room 208)

If guests, TBA

Sunday, July 26 | 9:30 AM | Covenant Hall (Room 315)

If guests, TBA

Sunday, August 9 | 11:00 AM | Covenant Hall (Room 315)

If guests, TBA

Sunday, August 23 | 12:15 PM | Westminster Hall (Room 234)

Speaker: Rev. Dana Allin, Synod Executive, Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians

If you prefer to discuss issues one on one, please reach out to any member of the Session, CRC committee, Trustee or pastoral staff.

We earnestly seek your prayers for guidance in the weeks ahead. We also solicit your love and support for our dedicated staff.

Steadfast in Jesus Christ,

Session Members, First Presbyterian Church San Antonio