



October 28, 2015

The Rev. Louis Zbinden, Pastor Emeritus  
First Presbyterian Church  
135 Oakhurst  
San Antonio, Texas 78209

Dear Mr. Zbinden,

I am writing today to you and the other Teaching Elders associated with First Presbyterian Church, and to the Ruling Elders in service on your Session, to make certain once again that all of you are aware that the call for the congregational meeting that is planned for this coming Sunday, November 1, 2015, is not consistent with the requirements and provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I have already communicated this concern to the Clerk of the Session, Dr. N. A. Stuart.

My concern is for you and for others who have participated in calling this meeting or endorsing the Session's recommendations to know that acting in defiance of the Constitution of the Church is a serious matter, entailing the possibility of ecclesiastical charges and of being found to have renounced the jurisdiction of the Church.

In order to be in compliance with the Constitution, the call for the meeting would need to be for the congregation to vote on a question like the following example:

"Shall the congregation of First Presbyterian Church request to be dismissed by Mission Presbytery from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO)?"

It is important that you and the others to whom I am writing know both the significance and the full implications of what you are about to do, and of what you are asking others to do.

If you have questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to call [713-870-3240] or write [statedclerk@missionpby.org].

Yours in Christ,

*William C. Poe*

William C. Poe  
Interim Stated Clerk

• We are Mission Presbytery, serving Christ in the World. In the Reformed Tradition, together we

▫ Establish and equip congregations and sessions to carry out their missions;

▫ Recruit, receive, ordain, develop, and care for those called to service in the church;

▫ Enable mission and witness to the Gospel that congregations cannot accomplish alone; and

▫ Steward our resources faithfully and generously.

• We are better together.

RE Ruben Armendariz  
Associate General Presbyter

Rev. Dr. William Poe  
Interim Stated Clerk

Rev. Kathy Anderson  
Director, John Knox Ranch

RE Lita Simpson  
Youth & Young Adult Min.