



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN REACHES SETTLEMENT WITH FORMER DENOMINATION, PARTNERS TO REBUILD WIMBERLEY CAMP**

SAN ANTONIO, TX, January 31, 2016 – First Presbyterian Church in downtown San Antonio (FPC) has reached a final settlement with Mission Presbytery, the local judicatory of FPC's former denomination, the Presbyterian Church, USA, for the church to retain sole use, control and ownership of its name and property.

Under the terms of the settlement, FPC will provide \$1,525,000 to the denomination. Mission Presbytery will contribute \$125,000 of this amount to the John Knox Ranch Summer Camp, a Christian camp on the Blanco River in Wimberley, Texas, to help rebuild a dining hall destroyed by the 2015 Memorial Day floods. FPC will match this contribution for a combined gift of \$250,000 to the camp.

“Our church is energized as we enter this new chapter in the history of First Pres,” said FPC Interim Senior Pastor Ron Scates. “We will continue our mission to make Jesus visible to inner city San Antonio, surrounding communities, and around the world.” FPC joined its new denomination, ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, in November of 2015.

Scates praised the positive spirit shown by both parties joining to assist the camp in their post-flood recovery efforts. “FPC and Mission Presbytery have worked together with a number of missions in the South Texas region for well over 30 years. I've personally led numerous confirmation and youth retreats at John Knox Ranch, so this has a special place in my heart and I'm delighted for us to help in this time of need. We see no reason these kinds of efforts cannot continue,” Scates said.

The contribution to the camp provides one quarter of the \$1 million being raised for the hall's reconstruction. Anyone interested in helping can visit [www.johnknoxranch.com](http://www.johnknoxranch.com).

First Presbyterian Church San Antonio is the city's oldest Presbyterian Church, and the oldest Protestant church of any denomination. Founded in 1846, just ten years after the Battle of the Alamo, First Presbyterian Church is today a vibrant community of faith in Jesus Christ that is absolutely committed to learning and teaching the Bible, growing in discipleship, and serving its community and the world in order to make Jesus visible.

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