

DISMISSAL TIMELINE

Sunday February 19th at 1:30pm:

There will be an additional town hall meeting. Originally the Presbytery indicated that they would present their case for staying in the PC(USA) at our first congregational meeting on January 22nd, which is why we changed from having a morning meeting to an afternoon meeting that day. They have asked, however, to present their case at a separate town hall meeting. So that is the nature of this meeting on February 19th. There is no required minimum attendance at this meeting and no vote will be taken.

Sunday April 22nd at 1:00pm:

This will be our official congregational meeting when we will vote on the question of whether or not IRPC should be dismissed from the PC(USA). There will be a lunch provided again prior to the meeting. This meeting requires a minimum attendance of 1/3 of our active membership which is around 180 people. There are three possible outcomes from this vote:

1. 80% or more request dismissal. In this case we keep all of our property and pay the negotiated amount for dismissal to the Presbytery.* (see note below)
2. Between 67% & 80% request dismissal. We would be dismissed with our main campus, but likely lose the Hartman Road property to the Presbytery.
3. Less than 67% vote for dismissal. We will not be dismissed and remain with the PC(USA). The process now stops.

It is important to note that there is no opportunity to abstain from the vote if you show up and sign in. Any member who shows up and does not vote that lack of a vote is counted as a vote against dismissal. So it is extremely important that every member who attends casts a vote. We are working it out so that this meeting will be at the most one hour!

On Tuesday, May 15th:

If the congregation officially votes to request dismissal it is up to the Presbytery to officially dismiss us. On Tuesday, May 15th our Presbytery will vote on our request for dismissal. People have asked "could the Presbytery not dismiss us?" They could vote not to dismiss us. However, we don't believe this will become an issue. Almost 40% of the membership in our Presbytery is going through this process (and we still get to vote on our own dismissal and the dismissal of other churches); those who are staying have promised to uphold the decision of a congregation.

30 Day Transitional Period:

There is then a 30 day transitional period between the vote of the Presbytery and the dismissal into the new denomination, which means that if dismissal were to occur we would be dismissed from the PC(USA) and received into the ECO on June 15th.

We appreciate your prayers and faithfulness as we go through this rather lengthy yet very important process. Our prayer is that God would continue to use this time to prepare our hearts and souls as a congregation.