

The Nature of a New Presbyterian Denomination Initiated by the Fellowship of Presbyterians

Background

A group of 7 pastors from some of the largest churches in the country have begun a movement that resulted in the August gathering in Minneapolis of almost 2000 people. Part of their purpose is to create a new Presbyterian denomination where PC(USA) churches could be dismissed. While this is a fully autonomous denomination, pastors and staff may be allowed to continue in their current pension and medical plan.

This polity, theology, and legalities of this Presbyterian denomination are being created and will be constituted in January of 2012.

Some characteristics of this Presbyterian denomination are:

1. It will hold to a solid core of the Christian and Reformed faith and Biblical morality and will not be afraid to hold **officers in leadership** (pastors, elders and deacons) accountable to these standards.
2. Congregations would own their property out right (not in trust of the denomination)
3. It will be far more of a flat denomination, with much less denominational and presbytery staff. And thus cost the congregation far less to be in this denomination. For example our cost, if we were a part of this denomination would go from \$20,000 to about \$8,000.
4. Presbyteries would be smaller (10-20 congregations) rather than the 57 that we currently have in our presbytery. These presbyteries would seek to be more connectional and spend less time on business, (and fighting).
5. Presbyteries will spend more time would be spent on encouragement,, sharing best practices, and allowing networks of churches united in similar types of ministry, and training officers and up and coming pastors.
6. Congregations would be able to function exactly as they currently function, but would have greater flexibility if they wanted.
7. While we don't know how many churches will move over there is an estimation that at least 750-2000 churches will join in the first two years. This could result in a denominational membership of more than 500,000.

PLEASE NOTE: While many are excited about the direction of this new Presbyterian denomination, everyone is still watching to see the specifics on its formation.