

## Foster Tukwila Discernment Team Recommendation

Foster Pres. Congregational meeting of Dec. 13, 2015 voted 51 to 3 to have their session request of Seattle Presbytery to be allowed to go to ECO. The discernment team met with the congregation on several occasions and also met with their session representatives. It is the recommendation of the discernment team to allow their session to request a commission to be formed to allow them to disaffiliate with PC (U.S.A.) and move to ECO.

*Submitted 12/17 via email from DT member Steve Glass*

Discernment Team Members: Bea Eaton RE (Foster Tukwila), Steve Glass RE (Lake Burien), Nick Krantz TE (Foster Tukwila), Jan Lentz RE (John Knox), Alex Myrick RE (Foster Tukwila), Sallie Patterson RE (Foster Tukwila), Jonathan Siehl TE, Vonna Thomas TE.

### Background Communication

*Email from Vonna Thomas on 10/25*

Hi all,

We wanted to give you a heads up on where we are.

The Discernment Team for Foster PC and our Presbytery met this past Friday, October 23rd. There was the initial meeting with Foster PC's Session earlier this summer and since then there have been two congregational gatherings and this meeting was the second of two meeting for just the discernment team since the congregational meetings.

After opening with prayer we had much discussion to determine and discern whether or not Foster PC could "agree to disagree" with some of the positions of PC(USA). The bottom line is that Foster PC representatives hold the position that they cannot "agree to disagree" and that "theological issues and constitutional changes has created a bridge too far to cross." ~~The Foster representatives believe that the covenant between Foster PC and PC(USA) is broken.~~

[Strikethrough at the request of Foster Tukwila as too strong a statement, with this statement from Nick Krantz via email on 10/30: "It is possible that I, or one of the other Foster reps, made such a statement. But we also emphasized, in respect to the marriage/divorce analogy that our prime covenant is with the Lord Jesus Christ and the Church (big "C") of which the PCUSA is a part. We do not see a broken covenant with the Lord. However, we do see a "sharp disagreement" along the lines of Paul and Barnabas in Acts 15:39 that leads us to part ways with the PCUSA to a better fit with ECO in the big "C" Church." And this statement via email on 12/18: "Though FTFC believes that ECO is now a better theological fit for us we pray blessing over the PCUSA and Seattle Presbytery in particular. We will remain partners in the advancement of the good news of the gospel."]

The team therefore voted to recommend that Foster PC pursue a gracious separation from PC(USA). The FPC Session will meet November 18th.

At that time our recommendation will be reported to the Session. It is anticipated that the Session will agree with the recommendation and a meeting will be called for an advisory vote. The results will then be shared with Council.

FPC is hoping that by the January 2016 Presbytery meeting an AC can be appointed. Team, if I got any of this incorrect, please reply all and provide your recollection.

Blessings to you all, Vonna

*Email from Nick Krantz on Nov 20, 2015:*

Dear Discernment Team,

At our October 23 meeting at FTFC it was agreed that the DT would recommend to the FTFC session that Seattle Presbytery dismiss FTFC to another Reformed body, in this case ECO. This past Wednesday night, Nov. 18, the FTFC session at its regular monthly meeting voted unanimously to concur with the DT's recommendation. According to the Gracious Separation Policy the DT, on behalf of the presbytery, will call a congregational meeting for an advisory vote. The FTFC session would recommend to the DT that this called congregational meeting take place after the benediction of the December 13, 2015 worship service. This date would allow plenty of time to alert the FTFC members of the upcoming vote while also giving advance notice to Seattle Presbytery as to FTFC's desires before the January 19, 2016 presbytery meeting.

Since it is technically the DT that calls the congregational meeting, do we as session have your approval to begin announcing this meeting at that particular date and time?

Thanks again for your support and prayers.

In Christ's service,  
Nick Krantz  
Moderator, Foster Presbyterian Session