

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF KING

THE PRESBYTERY OF SEATTLE, a
Washington nonprofit corporation; THE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
SEATTLE, a Washington nonprofit
corporation; ROBERT WALLACE,
President of The First Presbyterian Church
of Seattle, a Washington nonprofit
corporation; and WILLIAM
LONGBRAKE, on behalf of himself and
similarly situated members of First
Presbyterian Church of Seattle,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JEFF SCHULZ and ELLEN SCHULZ, as
individuals and as the marital community
comprised thereof; and LIZ
CEDERGREEN, DAVID MARTIN,
LINDSEY McDOWELL, GEORGE
NORRIS, NATHAN ORONA, and
KATHRYN OSTROM, as former trustees
of The First Presbyterian Church of
Seattle, a Washington nonprofit
corporation,

Defendants.

No.

COMPLAINT FOR
DECLARATORY AND
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
AND FOR DAMAGES

For their cause of action against the defendants, plaintiffs allege as follows:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

I. PARTIES

1. The Presbytery of Seattle (“Seattle Presbytery”) is a higher council within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (the “Church”) that partners in ministry and mission with more than 50 Presbyterian congregations in the greater Seattle area. Seattle Presbytery has its principal place of business in King County. Under the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (the “Church Constitution”), Seattle Presbytery is authorized to act on behalf of the Church with respect to local congregations and their leaders. Seattle Presbytery is a Washington non-profit corporation that has paid all applicable fees and taxes and is entitled to bring this action.

2. The First Presbyterian Church of Seattle (FPCS) is the oldest congregation in Seattle Presbytery. Its original articles of incorporation were filed on February 27, 1874. On February 16, 2016, as more fully described below, an administrative commission of Seattle Presbytery assumed original jurisdiction with the full power of the session of FPCS under G-30303e of the Church Constitution. Acting as the session of FPCS, this administrative commission has elected officers of The First Presbyterian Church of Seattle, a Washington nonprofit corporation, (“FPCS Corporation”) and has empowered them to represent FPCS Corporation in legal proceedings such as this.

3. Robert Wallace is the duly elected President of FPCS Corporation. Mr. Wallace is also a member of the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Seattle (the “Administrative Commission”), which was appointed by Seattle Presbytery on November 17, 2015, and issued its report on February 16, 2016.

4. William Longbrake is a long-time member and ruling elder of FPCS. Mr. Longbrake is a member of the true church at FPCS. Like Mr. Wallace, Mr. Longbrake is a member of the Administrative Commission. Mr. Longbrake is also the duly elected Secretary/Treasurer of FPCS Corporation.

1 5. Jeff Schulz and Ellen Schulz were co-pastors of FPCS from January 2006
2 until December 16, 2015, which is the day on which their renunciation of the jurisdiction
3 of the Church became effective.

4 6. Liz Cedergreen, David Martin, Lindsey McDowell, George Norris, Nathan
5 Orona, and Kathryn Ostrom were members of the FPCS session in 2015. On information
6 and belief, these defendants elected themselves trustees of FPCS Corporation on October
7 27, 2015, and served in that capacity until February 16, 2016. They are referred to
8 collectively as the “former trustee defendants.”

9 7. FPCS Corporation is the record holder of the following real property in
10 King County:

11 a. North Lot

12 Lots 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, Block 52, A. A. Denny’s Plat of an extension to
13 Terry’s 1st Addition to the City of Seattle, according to the Plat thereof
14 recorded in Volume 1 of Plats, Page(s) 86, in King County, Washington;

15 Except the southwesterly 75 feet of said Lots 1 and 4; and

16 Except those portions of said Lots 5 and 8, condemned for primary State
17 Highway No. 1 in King County Superior Court Cause Number 576017.

18 b. South Lot

19 Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, Block 53, A. A. Denny’s Plat of an extension
20 to Terry’s 1st Addition to the City of Seattle, according to the Plat thereof
21 recorded in Volume 1 of Plats, Page(s) 86, in King County, Washington.

22 Together with the vacated alley adjoining in said Block, which attached to
23 said Lots by operation of law, pursuant to City of Seattle Ordinance
24 Number 89584.

25 8. FPCS Corporation holds a 21.46% equity interest in the residence located
at 93rd Ave. SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040, legally described as follows:

FLOODS LAKE SIDE TRS DIV # 5 E 120 FT OF S 31.25 FT OF 4 & E 120 FT
OF 5.

1 16. The Church, its congregations, and its councils are all governed by the
2 Church Constitution. Part II of the Church Constitution is entitled the “Book of Order.”
3 The Book of Order sets forth, *inter alia*, provisions governing the councils and the
4 relationship between the councils, provisions related to property interest and ownership,
5 and provisions governing resolution of disputes within the Church.

6 **B. Background of FPCS**

7 17. FPCS is an historic church and congregation in downtown Seattle. Its
8 original articles of incorporation state that FPCS was established “to promote the worship
9 of Almighty God and the belief in and extension of the Christian Religion, under the form
10 of government and discipline of the ‘Presbyterian Church in the United States of
11 America.’”

12 18. As restated effective June 18, 1985, the articles of incorporation provide
13 that the “objects and purposes” of FPCS are “to promote the worship of Almighty God
14 and the belief in the extension of the Christian Religion, under the Form of Government
15 and discipline of ‘The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’”

16 19. FPCS has a long history of being faithful in its mission. FPCS helped to
17 establish many other churches in partnership with Seattle Presbytery, including Bethany
18 (1888), University (1908), West Side (1911), Wallingford (1913), Southminster (1941),
19 Lake City (1941), Lake Forest Park (1941), Lake Burien (1941), Mount View (1944),
20 Magnolia (1945), Rose Hill (1946), Wedgwood (1947), and Japanese (1947).

21 20. More recently, as its numbers have declined, FPCS has requested and
22 Seattle Presbytery has established several committees and an administrative commission
23 to recommend and approve the redevelopment of the real property that FPCS occupies.
24 For example, on November 20, 2012, Seattle Presbytery approved the formation of the
25 “Seattle First Redevelopment Administrative Commission.” According to the rationale

1 for the motion, authored by defendant Jeff Schulz and dated Sept 18, 2012, this
2 commission was established because “FPCS owns its property in trust of the presbytery,
3 which must approve a purchase/sale agreement.”

4 21. Under Presbyterian polity and the Church Constitution, FPCS is governed
5 by the session, which is comprised of ruling elders and all installed pastors. Under the
6 FPCS bylaws, the ruling elders also constitute the officers and directors/trustees of FPCS
7 Corporation. To the extent any distinction exists between the session and the officers and
8 directors/trustees of FPCS Corporation, the powers and duties of the trustees cannot
9 infringe upon the powers and duties of the session.

10 **C. Defendants attempt to unilaterally separate from the Church.**

11 22. Since November 2012, Seattle Presbytery has had in place a policy “to
12 create a simple, gracious separation process for those churches that feel led to separate
13 from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).” This policy is called Seattle Presbytery’s
14 Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation Policy, and it has been applied
15 successfully on several occasions since its adoption.

16 23. As early as 2014, if not earlier, defendants began to consider severing ties
17 with the Church and the higher councils that govern FPCS. Rather than follow the
18 Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation process, defendants began a secretive
19 process to unilaterally disaffiliate from the Church.

20 24. Seattle Presbytery learned of this secretive effort. In addition to urging
21 FPCS to follow the Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation Policy, Seattle
22 Presbytery began its own process to ensure that FPCS complied with the Church
23 Constitution and Presbyterian polity.

24 25. On July 21, 2015, Seattle Presbytery authorized its moderator to name a
25 Committee for Special Administrative Review or CSAR “to review allegations and

1 concerns raised regarding Seattle First Presbyterian Church, including the work of COM
2 [Seattle Presbytery's Committee on Ministry] in relationship to Seattle First Presbyterian
3 Church," and to report to Seattle Presbytery any recommendations from that review.

4 26. In the course of the CSAR's work, two of the elders on the FPCS session
5 raised many new allegations and concerns, which the CSAR regarded as beyond the scope
6 of its charge. These allegations included that the FPCS session

- 7 a. was unwilling to utilize the Communal Discernment and Gracious
8 Separation Policy approved by Seattle Presbytery;
- 9 b. was following a detailed strategy involving the establishment of a separate
10 corporation and was planning to engage the presbytery in a long legal
11 battle;
- 12 c. was contemplating the possible transfer of the congregation's funds
13 (restricted and otherwise) to this separate corporation or its lawyers;
- 14 d. was considering naming the current elders to a separate board of this
15 corporation;
- 16 e. had held unauthorized meetings of the session with irregularities in
17 proceedings, including failure to vote on duly moved and seconded
18 motions;
- 19 f. had kept inaccurate record of actions taken and had restricted access to
20 minutes;
- 21 g. had given no opportunity or provision for dissent and had isolated and
22 intimidated elders who expressed their conscience; and
- 23 h. had not apprised the congregation about these matters.

24 27. In response to Seattle Presbytery's direction that it produce documents, the
25 FPCS session wrote on October 30, 2015, as follows:

- 1 a. “On Tuesday, October 27, 2015, the Session voted to reestablish the FPCS
2 Board as a body separate from the Session. The FPCS Board is governed
3 by the Corporation’s Articles of Incorporation and Corporate Bylaws, as
4 well as the provisions of the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act, and is
5 not subject to the authority of the Presbytery of Seattle (‘Presbytery’) or the
6 PCUSA Book of Order.”
- 7 b. “[A]ll assets of FPCS are owned by and under the control of the
8 Corporation, and are therefore not subject to Presbytery authority.”
- 9 c. “The Corporation transferred approximately \$420,000 into the trust
10 account of law firm Lane Powell PC in October 2015.”

11 28. The actions that the FPCS session took on October 27, 2015, to purportedly
12 amend the FPCS bylaws were invalid. The bylaws provide that they “may be amended
13 subject to the Articles of Incorporation, the laws of the state of Washington and the
14 *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* by a two-thirds vote of the voters
15 present, providing that the proposed changes in printed form shall have been distributed at
16 the same time as the call of the meeting at which the changes are voted upon.” The
17 purported bylaw amendments contravened the Church Constitution and the articles of
18 incorporation because they purported to remove authority over property and other matters
19 from higher-level councils. The bylaw amendments additionally were not made in
20 accordance with the bylaws because they were approved by the session and not by the
21 members of the congregation, who never received proper notice. The purported bylaw
22 amendments, and any actions taken under these purported amendments, were void and
23 without legal effect.

24
25

1 29. On November 2, 2015, the Presbytery Council called a special meeting of
2 Seattle Presbytery to consider developments at FPCS. That meeting was scheduled for
3 November 17, 2015.

4 30. The FPCS session called a meeting of the congregation to vote on a
5 resolution to “disaffiliate” from the Church; to ratify the bylaw amendments that the FPCS
6 session had purportedly adopted on October 27, 2015; and to approve amendments to the
7 articles of incorporation. The amendments to the articles of incorporation, proposed by
8 the former trustee defendants, purported to insulate them from liability for wrongful acts
9 committed in contravention of the bylaws and articles of incorporation of FPCS as well as
10 the Church Constitution.

11 31. Seattle Presbytery advised the FPCS session that these actions were out of
12 order, that only the presbytery can dismiss a congregation, and that the Book of Order
13 does not allow proxy voting. The FPCS session ignored this advice. On November 15,
14 2015, by a majority vote of the members of the FPCS congregation present in person or by
15 proxy, the congregation approved the resolutions put before it by the FPCS session.

16 32. The actions at the November 15, 2015 purported congregational meeting
17 were invalid because (among other things) the meeting was not properly noticed under the
18 existing bylaws of FPCS and the purported “ratification” of the former trustees’ earlier
19 invalid actions was accomplished by proxy voting. The bylaws and the Book of Order do
20 not allow proxy voting.

21 33. Seattle Presbytery met on November 17, 2015. By a vote of 136 to 8, with
22 three abstentions, Seattle Presbytery approved a resolution appointing an administrative
23 commission to work on the presbytery’s behalf with the following purposes and authority
24 (all bracketed references are to provisions of the Church Constitution):
25

- 1 a. to reiterate the presbytery’s invitation to the FPCS session to enter into the
2 presbytery’s Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation policy and,
3 if that invitation is accepted, to appoint the members of the Discernment
4 Team;
- 5 b. to require or request, have access to, receive, and review all documents of
6 FPCS, including but not limited to business and financial records of the
7 congregation and the corporation [G-3.0107, G-3.0108, G-3.0204];
- 8 c. to ensure that the provisions of the Church Constitution are followed in the
9 governance of FPCS, including but not limited to G-4.0101, G-4.0102, G-
10 4.0202, and G-4.0204;
- 11 d. to direct that corrective action be taken if matters are determined to be out
12 of compliance with the Church Constitution [G-3.0108c];
- 13 e. to make provision for and to name a moderator [G-1.0504 and G-3.0201];
- 14 f. to call meetings of the congregation [G-1.0502] and the session [G-
15 3.0203], if necessary, to transact business in accordance with the Book of
16 Order;
- 17 g. if it becomes evident that the church is in ‘schism,’ to determine the ‘true
18 church’ within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in this matter [G-4.0207];
- 19 h. to thoroughly investigate and provide a full opportunity for the session to
20 be heard, and if it concludes that the session is unable or unwilling to
21 manage wisely its affairs, to assume original jurisdiction with the full
22 power of the session [G-3.0303e];
- 23
24
25

- 1 i. to consult with ruling elders and teaching elders, to provide written notice
2 of disapproval, and, if the ruling or teaching elder persists in the work, to
3 conclude that he or she has renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian
4 Church (U.S.A.) [G-2.0407; G-2.0509];
- 5 j. if necessary, to dissolve pastoral relationships, both temporary and
6 installed, fully observing the due process requirements of the Church
7 Constitution [G-2.0901ff.];
- 8 k. to consider the viability of the congregation and make recommendations to
9 the presbytery in that regard;
- 10 l. to negotiate terms for the dismissal of the congregation if it becomes
11 evident that a sufficient majority of the active membership desires to be
12 dismissed to another Reformed body, utilizing the presbytery's Communal
13 Discernment and Gracious Separation Policy;
- 14 m. to safeguard all FPCS property, which continues to be held in trust for the
15 use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and to determine the
16 ownership of any property that has been transferred to third parties; and
- 17 n. to seek relief in civil court, if necessary, and/or to respond to court actions
18 instituted by others, to remedy any omission, error, or misdeed on the part
19 of the session, the congregation, or the trustees (or any other entity that
20 purports to act or have acted on behalf of FPCS).

21 34. Also on November 17, 2015, Seattle Presbytery appointed the following
22 individuals to serve as the Administrative Commission:

23 Steve Aeschbacher (Ruling Elder, Bellevue Presbyterian Church)

24 Heidi Husted Armstrong (Teaching Elder, Member-at-large)

25 Shelley Dahl (Ruling Elder, University Presbyterian Church)

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

- J.P. Kang (Teaching Elder, Japanese Presbyterian Church)
- William Longbrake (Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church of Seattle)
- Jonathan Siehl (Teaching Elder, Honorably Retired)
- Kathy Smith (Commissioned Ruling Elder, North Point Church)
- Robert Wallace (Ruling Elder, Bellevue Presbyterian Church)

At its initial meeting on November 18, 2015, the Administrative Commission elected Ms. Dahl and Mr. Aeschbacher as co-moderators.

D. The Administrative Commission determines that defendants have violated the Church Constitution and assumes original jurisdiction over FPCS.

35. The Administrative Commission met many times and received information from more than 45 persons. Based upon this information and under its ecclesiastical authority, the Administrative Commission made findings and took actions on February 16, 2016. The Administrative Commission’s findings and actions are described in its detailed report of the same date. A true copy of the Administrative Commission’s report is attached as **Exhibit A**.

36. The Administrative Commission determined that the FPCS session, comprising the former FPCS elders and former trustee defendants, was unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs. On that basis, and consistent with its ecclesiastical authority, the Administrative Commission assumed original jurisdiction with the full power of the FPCS session under G-3.0303e effective February 16, 2016. The Administrative Commission’s action meant that the former FPCS elders and former trustee defendants no longer had any role in the governance of FPCS and no authority with respect to its ministry or its property. The Administrative Commission appointed Shelley Dahl and Steve Aeschbacher as co-moderators of the FPCS session in accordance with G-3.0201.

1 37. The Administrative Commission determined that there is a schism in FPCS
2 and that the members who opposed the actions of the former FPCS elders constitute the
3 true church. The Administrative Commission also noted that Jeff and Ellen Schulz,
4 having renounced the jurisdiction of the Church effective December 16, 2015, had ceased
5 to function at that point as pastors of FPCS. The Administrative Commission appointed
6 the Rev. Dr. Heidi Husted Armstrong as temporary pastor for the FPCS congregation and
7 appointed the Rev. Scott Lumsden, who is the Executive Presbyterian of Seattle Presbytery,
8 as the person having authority to oversee the property and financial affairs of FPCS.

9 38. The Administrative Commission determined that its members, as the
10 current ruling elders on session, are the officers and directors of FPCS Corporation. They
11 elected Robert Wallace as president, Shelley Dahl as vice president, and William
12 Longbrake as secretary/treasurer.

13 39. The Administrative Commission determined that, even if the bylaws were
14 not clear on this point, they were now the trustees of FPCS Corporation under G.-4.0102,
15 unless FPCS Corporation had determined another method for electing its trustees. The
16 Administrative Commission noted that the restated articles of incorporation of FPCS call
17 for the election of corporate trustees at the annual meeting of the congregation, but the
18 former trustee defendants were not so elected.

19 40. The Administrative Commission determined that, because only persons
20 eligible for membership in the congregation or council are eligible to be members of the
21 corporation and to be elected as trustees under G-4.0102, loss of membership and ordered
22 ministry disqualifies the individuals who previously constituted the FPCS session from
23 continuing to serve as trustees of the FPCS Corporation.

24 41. The Administrative Commission determined that, to the extent that the
25 former trustee defendants nevertheless continue to claim the status of corporate trustees,

1 they are subject to the Administrative Commission’s original jurisdiction and are
2 answerable to the Administrative Commission in all respects under G-3.0201c, G-4.0101,
3 and G-4.0202.

4 42. The Administrative Commission determined that, under G-4.0204, all
5 property of FPCS—including real property, personal property, and intangible property—is
6 subject to the direction and control of the Administrative Commission’s original
7 jurisdiction and must be held, used, applied, transferred, or sold as Seattle Presbytery may
8 provide.

9 43. The Administrative Commission directed that all funds that had been
10 transferred to the Lane Powell trust account be returned to the church immediately. The
11 Administrative Commission further directed that all funds held in the name or under the
12 control of FPCS Corporation be turned over to the Administrative Commission and that,
13 until the Administrative Commission directs otherwise, no church or corporate funds of
14 FPCS may be used or expended without the prior approval of the Administrative
15 Commission acting as the session.

16 44. The Administrative Commission directed that all books and records related
17 to FPCS, including membership and communicant rolls or financial records, be turned
18 over to the Administrative Commission acting as the session by February 21, 2016.

19 45. The Administrative Commission directed all persons who were responsible
20 for any financial transactions involving FPCS since December 31, 2014, to provide a full
21 accounting of such transactions to the Commission no later than February 21, 2016.

22 46. The Administrative Commission gave copies of its report to the defendants
23 on February 16, 2016, and directed them to comply with the Administrative
24 Commission’s determinations and directives.
25

1 47. Counsel for the defendants responded that “the decisions of the
2 Administrative Commission have no authority over SFPC [i.e., FPCS] nor do the AC, the
3 Presbytery or PCUSA hold any valid claims to, or interests in, SFPC records or property.”
4 Defendants have refused to accept any of the decisions or to comply with any of the
5 directions of the Administrative Commission acting as the session of First Presbyterian
6 Church of Seattle.

7 **E. Defendants’ actions have caused and are continuing to cause real and substantial**
8 **harm.**

9 48. Defendants have wasted and continue to waste the assets of FPCS.

10 49. Defendants have frustrated and limited the ministries of the Church,
11 including the shelter ministry previously conducted at FPCS.

12 50. Defendants have harmed the reputation of the Church.

13 51. Defendants have caused public confusion by advertising themselves as
14 “First Presbyterian Church of Seattle” despite having no connection to the Church or to
15 any other Reformed denomination.

16 **IV. CAUSES OF ACTION**

17 **A. Declaratory judgment**

18 52. The above paragraphs 1- 51 are incorporated herein by reference.

19 53. RCW 7.24.010 authorizes courts “to declare rights, status and other legal
20 relations whether or not further relief is or could be claimed. . . . The declaration may be
21 either affirmative or negative in form and effect; and such declarations shall have the
22 force and effect of a final judgment or decree.”

23 54. An actual controversy exists between plaintiffs and defendants related to
24 the following issues:
25

- 1 a. Are the Administrative Commission's February 16, 2016, resolutions,
2 which were adopted consistent with its ecclesiastical authority and are
3 reflected in its report, entitled to deference in all respects?
4 b. As a matter of nonprofit law, were the purported amendments to the FPCS
5 bylaws and articles of incorporation that were presented for adoption in
6 October and November 2015 ineffective?
7 c. Is the property held by FPCS and FPCS Corporation held in trust for the
8 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

9 55. Plaintiffs seek and are entitled to a declaration to the following effect:

- 10 a. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a hierarchical church in which the
11 determinations of Seattle Presbytery, through its Administrative
12 Commission, are conclusive and binding on FPCS's session, trustees, and
13 congregation.
14 b. The findings and rulings of the Administrative Commission adopted on
15 February 16, 2016, are conclusive and binding in all determinations of
16 church policy and governance related to FPCS.
17 c. The purported amendments to the bylaws in October and November 2015,
18 and the purported amendments to the articles of incorporation in November
19 2015, are void and without effect. FPCS Corporation is governed by the
20 Restated Articles of Incorporation of the First Presbyterian Church of
21 Seattle dated June 18, 1985, and the Bylaws of the First Presbyterian
22 Church of Seattle dated May 8, 2005.
23 d. Any interest FPCS has in church property is held in trust for the benefit of
24 the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
25

1 56. As Civil Rule 57 provides, the “existence of another adequate remedy does
2 not preclude a judgment for declaratory relief in cases where it is appropriate. The court
3 may order a speedy hearing of any action for a declaratory judgment and may advance it
4 on the calendar.”

5 57. Plaintiffs hereby request a declaratory judgment as set forth in this Part A.

6 **B. Injunctive relief**

7 58. The above paragraphs 1 through 57 are incorporated herein by reference.

8 59. Plaintiffs are entitled to temporary relief, a preliminary injunction, and a
9 permanent injunction to prevent, *inter alia*, the waste of property held in trust for the
10 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the diminution in the Church’s ministries, the harm to the
11 reputation of the Church, the loss of a place of worship for the members of FPCS who
12 constitute the true church, and the public confusion that results from a congregation’s
13 advertising itself as “Presbyterian” when it is not. Plaintiffs have a likelihood of success
14 on the merits of their claims, plaintiffs face the threat of irreparable harm, the balance of
15 the equities favor plaintiffs, and injunctive relief furthers the public interest.

16 60. Plaintiffs hereby request temporary relief, a preliminary injunction, and a
17 permanent injunction to the following effect:

- 18 a. Defendants are enjoined from purporting to govern FPCS or FPCS
19 Corporation.
- 20 b. Defendants are enjoined from representing that they constitute or speak for
21 FPCS or FPCS Corporation.
- 22 c. Defendants are enjoined from preventing the members of the
23 Administrative Commission entitled to govern FPCS and FPCS
24 Corporation from exercising authority over them.

- 1 d. Defendants are enjoined from taking any action with respect to any
2 property held by FPCS or FPCS Corporation, except that defendants must
3 immediately cause the funds that they deposited in the Lane Powell P.C.
4 trust account to be paid to the Administrative Commission.
- 5 e. Defendants are required to turn over all books and records of FPCS
6 Corporation and/or FPCS to the Administrative Commission within five
7 calendar days of the Court's order.
- 8 f. Any defendant who was responsible for any financial transaction involving
9 FPCS since December 31, 2014, is required to provide a full accounting of
10 such transactions to the Administrative Commission within five calendar
11 days of the Court's order.
- 12 g. Defendants are required to vacate the church premises and turn over to the
13 Administrative Commission the keys and all other means of ingress and
14 egress to the church premises within 48 hours of the Court's order.

15 **C. Ultra vires actions (RCW 24.03.040)**

16 61. The above paragraphs 1 through 60 are incorporated herein by reference.

17 62. Under RCW 24.03.040(2), a claim that a nonprofit corporation lacked the
18 capacity or authority to perform an act may be brought in a suit by the corporation,
19 whether acting directly or through a receiver, trustee, or other legal representative, or
20 through members in a representative suit, against the officers or directors of the
21 corporation for exceeding their authority.

22
23
24
25

1 63. The members of the Administrative Commission may direct a suit on
2 behalf of FPCS Corporation against its former officers and directors for exceeding their
3 authority. Additionally, members of FPCS Corporation are entitled to bring a suit on
4 behalf of FPCS Corporation against its former officers and directors for exceeding their
5 authority. Plaintiffs have standing to do both under RCW 24.03.040(2).

6 64. The former trustee defendants have exceeded their authority under the
7 Church Constitution, the articles of incorporation, the bylaws, and the Washington
8 Nonprofit Corporation Act. The former trustee defendants exceeded their authority when
9 they purported to amend FPCS Corporation's bylaws without the approval of the members
10 of the congregation and FPCS Corporation. The former trustee defendants exceeded their
11 authority when they purported to amend or recommended amendment of the articles of
12 incorporation and the bylaws to provide indemnification for themselves at the expense of
13 FPCS Corporation. All of the purported amendments by the former trustee defendants
14 were improper because they violated the Church Constitution by claiming to remove the
15 authority of the Church and its higher councils from the affairs of FPCS Corporation.

16 65. Even though the former trustee defendants were not empowered to act in
17 contravention of the Church Constitution, they nevertheless transferred \$420,000 to the
18 Lane Powell PC trust account for the purposes of litigating against higher councils within
19 the Church. The former trustee defendants exceeded their authority under the Church
20 Constitution, the articles of incorporation, and the bylaws, and their actions are void and
21 invalid.

22 66. Pursuant to RCW 24.03.040, plaintiffs are entitled to an order invalidating
23 these purported actions and a judgment for damages to FPCS Corporation.
24
25

1 **D. Unauthorized Assumption of Corporate Powers (RCW 24.03.470)**

2 67. The above paragraphs 1 through 66 are incorporated herein by reference.

3 68. RCW 24.03.470 provides that “[a]ll persons who assume to act as a
4 corporation without authority to do so shall be jointly and severally liable for all debts and
5 liabilities incurred or arising as a result thereof.”

6 69. The former trustee defendants have refused to recognize that, in light of the
7 Administrative Commission’s assuming original jurisdiction, they are not authorized to
8 act as FPCS Corporation.

9 70. The former trustee defendants have refused to recognize that they are not
10 authorized to act as FPCS Corporation because they no longer members of the church or
11 FPCS Corporation.

12 71. The former trustee defendants are jointly and severally liable for all debts
13 and liabilities incurred or arising as a result of their assumption to act as FPCS
14 Corporation.

15 **E. Conversion**

16 72. The above paragraphs 1 through 71 are incorporated herein by reference.

17 73. Seattle Presbytery and FPCS Corporation have property interests in all
18 property held by FPCS, including real property, cash, securities, and other personal
19 property.

20 74. Defendants improperly exercised exclusive dominion and control over the
21 property that is subject to Seattle Presbytery’s and FPCS Corporation’s property interests.
22 Defendants converted the property that is subject to Seattle Presbytery’s and FPCS
23 Corporation’s property interests by purporting to remove Seattle Presbytery’s trust interest
24 in the property and by transferring money to a third party--namely, Lane Powell PC.
25

1 75. As a result of defendants' conversion, Seattle Presbytery's and FPCS
2 Corporation's property interests have been substantially impaired.

3 76. Seattle Presbytery and FPCS Corporation are entitled to return of the
4 property plus damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

5 **F. Breach of Fiduciary Duty**

6 77. The above paragraphs 1 through 76 are incorporated herein by reference.

7 78. As trustees, directors, and officers of FPCS Corporation, the former trustee
8 defendants were required under RCW 24.03.127 to perform the duties as a director (1) in
9 good faith, (2) in a manner the director believed to be in the best interest of the
10 corporation, and (3) with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use
11 under similar circumstances.

12 79. The former trustee defendants breached their fiduciary duties to FPCS
13 Corporation by engaging in a self-interested transaction--namely, purporting to amend the
14 bylaws and articles of incorporation to provide themselves indemnity at the expense of
15 FPCS Corporation.

16 80. The former trustee defendants breached their fiduciary duties to FCPS
17 Corporation by concealing their actions from the members of FPCS. The former trustee
18 defendants failed to disclose, and actively concealed, events at session and board meetings
19 relating to the former trustee defendants' plan to unilaterally disaffiliate from the Church,
20 among other things.

21 81. By acting in their personal interests, rather than in the best interest of FPCS
22 Corporation, the former trustee defendants breached their fiduciary duty of loyalty.

23 82. FPCS Corporation is entitled to damages for the former trustee defendants'
24 breaches of fiduciary duty.

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

V. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

Plaintiffs respectfully ask the court to grant them the following relief:

B. A declaratory judgment as set forth in Paragraphs 52 through 57 of the Complaint.

A. Temporary, preliminary, and permanent injunctive relief as set forth in Paragraphs 58 through 60 of the Complaint.

C. Judgment on plaintiffs' claims for conversion, ultra vires actions, unauthorized assumption of corporate authority, and breach of fiduciary duty in an amount to be determined at trial.

D. An order directing the defendants and their counsel to return the \$420,000 in church funds deposited in the trust account of Lane Powell PC and, pending final resolution of this matter, requiring that such funds be placed in the registry of this Court.

E. Such other and further relief as may be ordered by the Court.

DATED this 17th day of February, 2016.

K&L GATES LLP

By /s/ Peter A. Talevich
Robert B. Mitchell, WSBA #10874
Peter A. Talevich, WSBA #42644
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

MILLS MEYERS SWARTLING

By /s/ David D. Swartling
David D. Swartling, WSBA #6972
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

SE-#332446-v1

EXHIBIT A

Report of the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Seattle

February 16, 2016

Executive Summary

After thoroughly investigating allegations of mismanagement by the leadership of First Presbyterian Church of Seattle (FPCS), the Administrative Commission for FPCS has determined that the governing board of FPCS (the FPCS session) is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs. The Administrative Commission has, therefore, assumed original jurisdiction with the full power of the session, in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This decision was not arrived at lightly, but after much prayer and deliberation.

Seattle Presbytery appointed the Administrative Commission (AC) on November 17, 2015, and assigned it a number of responsibilities. First, the AC was asked to reiterate the Presbytery's invitation to the FPCS session to enter into the Presbytery's Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation process. Second, the AC was directed to investigate "... allegations, admissions, and events [which] suggest that the session is affected with disorder and call into question its ability and willingness to exercise its authority and manage wisely its affairs." And third, the AC was instructed to take actions it deemed appropriate based upon its findings. The accompanying Report of the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Seattle describes how the AC discharged the responsibilities entrusted to it. It sets forth detailed findings and identifies the actions taken by the AC.

The Report's findings focus on the conduct of the session and former co-pastors of FPCS. The AC determined that the FPCS leadership:

- Failed to follow the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and its own procedures;
- Failed to be truthful and forthcoming with its own congregation, ministry partners, and the Seattle Presbytery; and
- Failed to wisely manage the affairs of the church

FPCS leadership attempted to declare unilaterally that FPCS is no longer a part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and not subject to the jurisdiction of the Presbytery. The FPCS session did this rather than engage in the process set forth in the Presbytery's Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation Policy.

The AC extended repeated invitations to FPCS leadership to enter into the Gracious Separation process, which were ignored or rebuffed.

The AC also repeatedly invited the FPCS session to engage in a non-conditional meeting "... to listen to your concerns, to build trust, and to find a way forward." The FPCS session refused these invitations and responded that they would meet only if the AC agreed to legal conditions that would treat any such meeting not as part of the AC's ecclesiastical process but rather as a confidential "settlement" negotiation.

The AC determined that the FPCS session's attempt to amend the existing bylaws of the church on October 27, 2015, was improper and ineffective, as was the congregation's subsequent vote to "disaffiliate" from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Therefore, the existing bylaws, adopted on May 8, 2005, remain in effect. The church remains a part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) because it has not been dismissed--a step that only the Presbytery is constitutionally authorized to take.

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) also requires that a congregation may be released only to another Reformed body. No Reformed body has advised the Presbytery that it is prepared to accept the FPCS congregation. In addition, some members of the congregation want to remain within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The AC has concluded that the actions of the FPCS session have caused a schism within the congregation and those who disagree with the actions of the FPCS session constitute the "true church," in accordance with the denomination's Constitution.

The AC reviewed pertinent available documents, but the FPCS session refused to provide any documents requested by the AC. The AC also met with and received information from more than 45 individuals. The AC's investigation confirmed the allegations made to the Presbytery about the FPCS session. It also revealed additional irregularities in the records and the finances of the church and a broad-based pattern of misconduct by the former co-pastors.

Because the former co-pastors of FPCS renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) effective December 16, 2015, leaving the church without a pastor, the AC has appointed an interim pastor.

In summary, the AC conducted a thorough investigation and afforded the FPCS session a full opportunity to be heard. But the FPCS session refused to produce any records, and it refused to meet with the AC except under unacceptable conditions. Despite this non-cooperation, the AC's investigation, as reflected in the Report, confirmed allegations and identified additional irregularities, which together show a broad-based pattern of misconduct by the FPCS leadership.

The AC has advised the persons who previously constituted the FPCS session that they no longer may act in that capacity. The AC has elected church officers and has appointed an individual to handle administrative matters. It also has called for an audit of the church's finances. The AC expects to supplement this report after it has had an opportunity to review church records.

Report of the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Seattle

February 16, 2016

Background

On July 21, 2015, Seattle Presbytery (the “presbytery”) authorized its moderator to name a Committee for Special Administrative Review or CSAR “to review allegations and concerns raised regarding Seattle First Presbyterian Church, including the work of COM [the presbytery’s Committee on Ministry] in relationship to Seattle First Presbyterian Church,” and to report to the presbytery any recommendations from that review. The CSAR made its recommendations in a report to the presbytery dated December 5, 2015.

In the course of the CSAR’s work, two elders on the session of First Presbyterian Church of Seattle (“FPCS”) raised many new allegations and concerns, which the CSAR regarded as beyond the scope of its charge. These allegations included that the FPCS session:

1. was unwilling to utilize the Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation policy approved by the presbytery;
2. was following a detailed strategy involving the establishment of a separate corporation and was planning to engage the presbytery in a long legal battle;
3. was contemplating the possible transfer of the congregation’s funds (restricted and otherwise) to this separate corporation or its lawyers;
4. was considering naming the current elders to a separate board of this corporation;
5. had held unauthorized meetings of the session with irregularities in proceedings, including failure to vote on duly moved and seconded motions;
6. had kept inaccurate record of actions taken and had restricted access to minutes [G-3.0107; see G-3.0108b]¹;
7. had given no opportunity or provision for dissent [G-3.0105a and 3.0105b] and had isolated and intimidated elders who expressed their conscience [G-2.0105]; and
8. had not apprised the congregation about the matters stated above.

The presbytery directed the FPCS session to produce documents. In response, the FPCS session² wrote the presbytery on October 30, 2015, as follows:

¹ All citations in this report refer to provisions of the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Part II, Book of Order, 2015-2017*. The *Book of Order* describes the polity and form of government of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). “Each congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be governed by this constitution.” [G-1.0103]

² By the time that this response was written, resignations had reduced the FPCS session to the following individuals: Liz Cedergreen, David Martin, Lindsey McDowell, George Norris, Nathan Orona, and Kathryn Ostrom, along with then co-pastors Jeff and Ellen Schulz as moderators of session. Church records indicate that Lindsey McDowell, George Norris, and Nathan Orona have now been on the FPCS session more than six consecutive years, which is contrary to G-2.0404.

1. "On Tuesday, October 27, 2015, the Session voted to reestablish the FPCS Board as a body separate from the Session. The FPCS Board is governed by the Corporation's Articles of Incorporation and Corporate Bylaws, as well as the provisions of the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act, and is not subject to the authority of the Presbytery of Seattle ('Presbytery') or the PCUSA Book of Order. Nevertheless, as an accommodation to the FPCS Session, the FPCS Board has authorized the Session to provide the following information to Presbytery: The Board held a meeting following the FPCS Session meeting on October 27, 2015."
2. "[A]ll assets of FPCS are owned by and under the control of the Corporation, and are therefore not subject to Presbytery authority. Nevertheless, as an accommodation to the FPCS Session, the FPCS Board has authorized the Session to provide a copy of the Corporation's most recent financial statements."
3. "The Corporation transferred approximately \$420,000 into the trust account of law firm Lane Powell PC in October 2015."

On November 15, 2015, the congregation of FPCS voted to "disaffiliate" from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), to ratify changes to the bylaws of the congregation and the corporation that the FPCS session had adopted on October 27, 2015, and to amend the articles of incorporation of the church. The presbytery had advised the FPCS session before November 15, 2015, that these actions were out of order, that only the presbytery can dismiss a congregation, and that the Book of Order does not allow proxy voting. The FPCS session ignored this advice.

A special meeting of the presbytery took place on November 17, 2015, for the purpose of considering the circumstances summarized above. By a vote of 136 to 8, with three abstentions, the presbytery approved a resolution appointing an administrative commission to work on the presbytery's behalf with the following purposes and authority:

1. "to reiterate the presbytery's invitation to the session of First Presbyterian Church of Seattle (FPCS) to enter into the presbytery's Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation policy and, if that invitation is accepted, to appoint the members of the Discernment Team;
2. "to require or request, have access to, receive, and review all documents of FPCS, including but not limited to business and financial records of the congregation and the corporation [G-3.0107, G-3.0108, G-3.0204];
3. "to ensure that the provisions of the Constitution are followed in the governance of FPCS, including but not limited to G-4.0101, G-4.0102, G-4.0202, and G-4.0204;
4. "to direct that corrective action be taken if matters are determined to be out of compliance with the Constitution [G-3.0108c];
5. "to make provision for and to name a moderator [G-1.0504 and G-3.0201];
6. "to call meetings of the congregation [G-1.0502] and the session [G-3.0203], if necessary, to transact business in accordance with the Book of Order;
7. "if it becomes evident that the church is in 'schism,' to determine the 'true church' within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in this matter [G-4.0207];
8. "to thoroughly investigate and provide a full opportunity for the session to be heard, and if it concludes that the session is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs, to assume original jurisdiction with the full power of the session [G-3.0303e];
9. "to consult with ruling elders and teaching elders, to provide written notice of disapproval, and, if the ruling or teaching elder persists in the work, to conclude that he

or she has renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [G-2.0407; G-2.0509];

10. "if necessary, to dissolve pastoral relationships, both temporary and installed, fully observing the due process requirements of the Constitution [G-2.0901ff.];
11. "to consider the viability of the congregation and make recommendations to the presbytery in that regard;
12. "to negotiate terms for the dismissal of the congregation if it becomes evident that a sufficient majority of the active membership desires to be dismissed to another Reformed body, utilizing the presbytery's Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation Policy;
13. "to safeguard all property of FPCS, which continues to be held in trust for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and to determine the ownership of any FPCS property that has been transferred to third parties; and
14. "to seek relief in civil court, if necessary, and/or to respond to court actions instituted by others, to remedy any omission, error, or misdeed on the part of the session, the congregation, or the trustees (or any other entity that purports to act or have acted on behalf of FPCS)."

The presbytery appointed the following eight individuals to serve as members of the Administrative Commission:

- Steve Aeschbacher (Ruling Elder, Bellevue Presbyterian Church)
- Heidi Husted Armstrong (Teaching Elder, Member-at-large)
- Shelley Dahl (Ruling Elder, University Presbyterian Church)
- J.P. Kang (Teaching Elder, Japanese Presbyterian Church)
- Bill Longbrake (Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church of Seattle)
- Jonathan Siehl (Teaching Elder, Honorably Retired)
- Kathy Smith (Commissioned Ruling Elder, North Point Church)
- Bob Wallace (Ruling Elder, Bellevue Presbyterian Church)

Proceedings of the Administrative Commission

At its initial meeting on November 18, 2015, the Administrative Commission elected Shelley Dahl and Steve Aeschbacher as co-moderators. After reviewing and discussing background documents, the Administrative Commission determined that letters should be sent to the FPCS session identifying concerns, requesting additional documents, and inviting the FPCS session to appear before the Administrative Commission on December 4, 2015, at 3:00 p.m. to address the issues described in the Administrative Commission's charter. The letters were sent to the FPCS session on November 20, 2015.

The FPCS session did not respond. Instead, its lawyers wrote a letter dated December 1, 2015, to the presbytery's legal counsel. This letter asserted: "Because the AC [Administrative Commission] has no ongoing ecclesiastical or legal authority over the Church or the Corporation, its production requests, stated areas of inquiry, and the Presbytery's discernment and dismissal process are moot and require (and will therefore receive) no further response." The Administrative Commission did not receive any other response to its request for documents from the FPCS session, and no member of the FPCS session attended the meeting of the Administrative Commission on December 4, 2015.

The Administrative Commission continued to encourage the FPCS session to appear before it. To that end, the Administrative Commission twice rescheduled the meeting time that it had initially offered, to December 16 and then to December 17, 2015. The Administrative Commission also advised the FPCS session that its appearance would be without prejudice to any argument that it was no longer under the authority of the presbytery. The lawyers for the FPCS session assured the Administrative Commission that the FPCS session was available at the appointed hour, but they refused to permit any meeting to occur except under conditions that would treat the session's meeting with the Administrative Commission in this ecclesiastical proceeding as if it were a litigation settlement conference and that would preclude the Administrative Commission from disclosing the fact or the substance of the meeting. The Administrative Commission could not accept those conditions. Once again, despite repeated invitations, no member of the FPCS session attended the meeting of the Administrative Commission on December 17, 2015.

On December 18, 2015, the Administrative Commission again wrote to the FPCS session, urging it to engage with the Commission and to "step out from behind your lawyer and communicate with us so we can hear more of your perspectives" On December 30, 2015, the FPCS session responded. It stated that "FPCS is no longer affiliated with the Presbytery. Engaging in an investigation or having an 'opportunity to be heard' is not appropriate" The Administrative Commission replied on December 31, 2015, reiterating its invitation to the FPCS session to appear and participate in the Administrative Commission's meeting on January 7, 2016, to which members of the presbytery, members of FPCS, and other interested persons had been invited. But again the FPCS session did not appear.

At the Commission's meeting on January 7, several members of the presbytery lamented the breakdown in communication between the FPCS session and the presbytery. They also voiced concern that the lawyers had become an impediment to open communication. With that encouragement, the Administrative Commission wrote to the FPCS session on January 11, 2016, inviting the session members to a non-conditional listening meeting on January 20, 2016, from which all lawyers, staff, and spokespersons would be excluded and at which no notes would be kept. The FPCS session said that it would attend only if the Administrative Commission agreed that the fact of the meeting, its participants, and any communications or actions relating to the meeting would never be used as evidence in any legal proceeding. This would preclude the Administrative Commission from reporting to the presbytery the fact of the meeting or, if it did, from using its report in any subsequent proceeding, including one initiated by the FPCS session.

Even though such conditions were inconsistent with a non-conditional meeting and betrayed the influence of persons who were not supposed to be part of such a meeting, the Administrative Commission offered a revised agreement that would bar participants from publicly attributing any statement to any speaker (either by name or position) without that person's permission. The Administrative Commission also agreed not to use the FPCS session's appearance at the meeting as evidence that it acknowledged the continuing jurisdiction of the presbytery. But the FPCS session rejected that proposal, insisting that the January 20 meeting occur on its terms or not at all. The meeting did not occur.

Besides reaching out repeatedly to the FPCS session, the Administrative Commission invited all interested persons to provide input about the matters before it. The Administrative

Commission also followed up with everyone who contacted it. In addition to holding meetings and gathering information from members of the Administrative Commission and presbytery staff, the Administrative Commission interviewed and/or received information from 14 ruling elders, 18 teaching elders, and 27 current or former members, attenders, and employees of FPCS (some categories overlap):

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Judy Andrews | Ruling Elder at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church |
| John Baker | FPCS member |
| Becki Barrett | Teaching Elder, Overlake Park Presbyterian Church; Committee for Special Administrative Review |
| Steven B. Bass | CPA who conducted audits and financial reviews of FPCS for many years up to and including 2010 and who interacted with members of the FPCS session in 2013-14 |
| Michael Bennett | Ruling Elder and former FPCS member who served on session |
| Tiesa Blankenship | Former FPCS employee |
| Lynne Faris Blessing | Teaching Elder, Bethany Presbyterian Church |
| Gordy Boyd | Ruling Elder and Union Church member |
| Carla Brown | FPCS bookkeeper, 2007-early 2010 |
| Claudie Cassady | Former FPCS member and former FPCS Operations Committee and Nominating Committee member |
| Mark Cassady | Ruling Elder and former FPCS member who served on session |
| Colleen Chinen | Ruling Elder, Steel Lake Presbyterian Church; co-moderator, Committee on Ministry |
| Fred Choy | Teaching Elder, Seattle Community Church |
| Peter Chung | Ruling Elder, Seattle Community Church |
| Sheri Edwards Dalton | Teaching Elder and Seattle Presbytery member-at-large |
| Barbara Danhoff | FPCS bookkeeper, 2010-2013 |
| Susan Denton | FPCS member |
| Tyler Easley | Teaching Elder and Seattle Presbytery member-at-large; Committee for Special Administrative Review |
| Nancy Emerson | Ruling Elder (Wabash Valley Presbytery, Indiana); Exeter House resident and FPCS visitor |
| Dave Erland | Ruling Elder, Sammamish Presbyterian Church; Committee for Special Administrative Review |
| Brian Fuson | Former FPCS attender |
| Mona Gacutan | Ruling Elder and FPCS member who served on session until October 25, 2015 |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Melinda Glass | Ruling Elder, Lake Burien Presbyterian Church; Committee for Special Administrative Review |
| Larry Grounds | Teaching Elder, Redmond Presbyterian Church; former co-moderator, Committee on Ministry |
| Julie Gustavson | Ruling Elder and former FPCS member who served on session |
| Jerry Hardcastle | Exeter House resident; FPCS visitor (member, Trinity Episcopal Church) |
| Gail Irving | Teaching Elder and FPCS Shelter Team employee |
| Mansour Khajehpour | Teaching Elder and Operations Manager at FPCS from January 2013 until July 2014 |
| Neal Lampi | Ruling Elder and FPCS member who served on session until October 27, 2015 |
| David Lapse | Former assistant organist and sexton at FPCS (1987-2007); current musician at Exeter House |
| Della Lium | Ruling Elder, Brighton Presbyterian Church; Exeter House resident and FPCS attender |
| Jim Lium | Ruling Elder, Brighton Presbyterian Church; Exeter House resident and FPCS attender |
| Scott Mann | Teaching Elder, Bellevue Presbyterian Church, and Moderator of Seattle Presbytery |
| Will Mason | Teaching Elder, Steel Lake Presbyterian Church; former co-moderator, Committee on Ministry |
| Jack Merner | Teaching Elder, Cascades Presbytery; Exeter House resident and FPCS attender |
| James B. Notkin | Teaching Elder, Union Church |
| Binh Nguyen | Director of Southeast Asia Ministries, Seattle Presbytery |
| Lyle Oliver | Deacon and Ruling Elder; Exeter House resident and current FPCS attender |
| Cindy O'Sullivan | FPCS Shelter Team member |
| Rajat (RJ) Parsad | FPCS member |
| Jane Pauw | Teaching Elder, Rainier Beach Presbyterian Church |
| Charles Peet | Teaching Elder; Exeter House resident and FPCS visitor |
| Michelle Perrigo | Former FPCS member; former worship team member and small group leader |
| Steve Quant | FPCS Shelter Team member |
| Dale Sewall | Teaching Elder, Honorably Retired |
| Dick Steele | Teaching Elder; Exeter House resident and FPCS attender |
| Elizabeth Steele | Exeter House resident |
| Laurinda Steele | FPCS member |
| Vonna Thomas | Teaching Elder and Seattle Presbytery member-at-large |
| Kelly Wadsworth | Teaching Elder/Validated Ministry (Exeter House chaplain) |

Findings of the Administrative Commission

Having carefully and prayerfully considered the information before it in light of the authority, roles, and responsibilities that the presbytery has entrusted to it, the Administrative Commission makes the following findings:

1. The Administrative Commission reiterated to the FPCS session multiple times the presbytery's invitation to enter into the Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation process. See, e.g., letters to FPCS session dated November 20, 2015, and December 18, 2015. The FPCS session ignored or explicitly rejected every invitation to follow the presbytery's Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation policy.
2. The presbytery's Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation Policy constitutes the only policy under which a congregation in the presbytery may be dismissed or otherwise separated from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
3. The presbytery has received no request from another Reformed denomination to dismiss the FPCS congregation. Nor has the presbytery received any information suggesting that another Reformed denomination is willing to receive the FPCS congregation.
4. By written statement submitted to the stated clerk of the presbytery, Jeff and Ellen Schulz, until then the co-pastors of FPCS,³ renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In accordance with G-2.0509, renunciation is effective upon receipt, and the Schulzs' letter was received by the presbytery on December 16, 2015.
5. Under G-2.0509, renunciation of jurisdiction removes a pastor from membership in the presbytery and terminates the exercise of the pastor's ministry. The roles occupied by Jeff and Ellen Schulz as co-pastors at FPCS therefore ended on December 16, 2015, leaving FPCS without any pastor. On January 19, 2016, the stated clerk reported the Schulzs' renunciation at a meeting of the presbytery, and their names were deleted from the roll.
6. The Administrative Commission requested documents from the FPCS session, including business and financial records of the congregation and the corporation. The Administrative Commission was entitled to such documents under G-3.0108b. The FPCS session refused to comply with the Administrative Commission's requests. This refusal violates G-3.0108 and G-3.0202.
7. On October 30, 2015, the FPCS session sent to the presbytery audited financial statements for 2014. The Administrative Commission has questions about these statements, which were the first CPA-reviewed statements for FPCS since 2010.
8. Multiple witnesses supplied the Administrative Commission with credible reports of financial irregularities involving the FPCS session. These irregularities include but are not limited to the following: tampering with the books; failing to reconcile bank

³ In this report, "pastor" refers to a teaching elder and minister of the Word and Sacrament who has been called by a congregation and installed in a pastoral relationship. See G-2.0501, G-2.0504a.

statements and to balance the general ledger; failing to provide complete information to accountants; having unauthorized signers sign checks; and failing to submit accurate financial information to the presbytery. In addition, the Administrative Commission received information suggesting that the FPCS session may have impermissibly used restricted funds and improperly recharacterized certain assets. The actions by the FPCS session described in this paragraph violate G-3.0113 and G-3.0205.

9. There are numerous irregularities in the records maintained by the FPCS session. For example, the minutes that the FPCS session provided to the presbytery on October 30, 2015, reflect alterations and deletions of relevant material that had been included in the earlier versions of the minutes obtained by the Committee on Ministry in 2014. The minutes maintained by the FPCS session also fail to reflect discussions and actions leading up to the decision to unilaterally “disaffiliate” from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These irregularities violate G-1.0505, G-3.0107, and G-3.0204.
10. Members of the FPCS session isolated and drove out ruling elders who expressed their conscience, and they sought to supplant the elders’ ordination vows with vows of secrecy and deception. These actions violate G-3.0103, G-3.0105, G-3.0201, and G-3.0202.
11. The Administrative Commission received many credible reports that reflect a pattern of intimidation and manipulation by the former co-pastors and other members of the FPCS session. These reports came from elders, congregants, staff, volunteers, and others.
12. Jeff Schulz gave ruling elders scripts and directed them to read the scripts verbatim before the congregation. Elders were also instructed as to what they could and could not say when visitors attended session meetings.
13. The record of the dealings between the former co-pastors and the presbytery reflects a pattern of duplicity rather than candor, including specifically with respect to the proposed merger with A Seattle Church and the attempt to “disaffiliate” from the presbytery unilaterally. The FPCS session has also not been candid with the congregation about these subjects. The FPCS session has demonstrated a disregard for transparency, accountability, and polity. Its actions violate G-3.0201 and G-3.0202.
14. From 2010 through 2015, the Administrative Commission has been told, the full terms of call for the then co-pastors were not brought before the congregation for its approval, contrary to G-1.0503 and G-2.0804. The Administrative Commission has seen no documents suggesting otherwise. In addition, the FPCS session entered into agreements with the then co-pastors purporting to guarantee future severance compensation if the presbytery formed an administrative commission. These agreements were neither disclosed to nor approved by the congregation, contrary to G-1.0503c.
15. Multiple witnesses supplied the Administrative Commission with credible reports of improper conduct involving the former co-pastors. Among other things, it was reported that the former co-pastors were paid amounts not authorized by the congregation; that funds in accounts maintained for the upkeep of the church were used on the former co-pastors’ personal residence, without corresponding increases in the church’s equity interest or the pastors’ reported compensation; and that in late 2013 the former co-pastors

took some of their compensation in cash in order to make a better case for financial aid for a college-age child. These actions violate G-2.0104a.

16. The Administrative Commission heard from many of those whom it interviewed that the former co-pastors frequently did not act in the manner called for by G-2.0501, G-2.0503, and G-2.0504. They failed to support many people in the disciplines of the faith amid the struggles of daily life and did not enable the ministry of others.
17. The Administrative Commission found irregularities in the manner in which the FPCS session added congregants to or removed them from membership rolls and in the vetting of prospective elders. There has been arbitrary and inconsistent treatment of potential and current members; David Martin was made an elder before he was baptized into church membership; and elders were not rotated off the session after six years. These actions violate G-2.0104, G-2.0402, G-2.0404, G-3.0201c, and G-3.0204.
18. Until very recently (the second half of 2015), the FPCS session (including the co-pastors) and congregational leadership through their conduct and statements proclaimed the authority of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with respect to both temporal and spiritual matters at FPCS. For example, in a report to presbytery dated September 18, 2012, in which Jeff Schulz asked that the Seattle First Redevelopment Committee be reconstituted as the Seattle First Redevelopment Commission, he wrote that FPCS “owns its property in trust of the Presbytery, which must approve a purchase/sale agreement.” In a letter dated April 16, 2014, he wrote that “because PC(USA) properties owned by local congregations are held in ‘trust’ of the denomination, Presbytery has the authority to deny dismissal with the property, or to approve dismissal with property with a negotiated financial settlement.”
19. In 2014, at the request of FPCS, the FPCS session and the presbytery through another administrative commission collaborated on and approved agreements to sell and redevelop church properties, using agreed legal counsel. As this was happening, the FPCS session secretly hired a lawyer with a reputation for advising churches that seek to leave the denomination about property disputes. When this was discovered, Jeff Schulz first denied that the lawyer had been hired and then claimed that his hiring had nothing to do with church property. He also denied that he had any plans to take the congregation out of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
20. On July 31, 2015, ten days after the appointment of the CSAR, elders David Martin and George Norris met with then-elder Mona Gacutan in Kirkland, Washington. They outlined to her a plan to unilaterally pull out of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), while keeping such discussions out of the session’s minutes. They also discussed “how to isolate” another elder, Neal Lampi, whom they saw as unsympathetic to their plan. They supported their arguments with false information about the finances of other churches in the presbytery.
21. At a session meeting on August 6, 2015, the FPCS session discussed this “disaffiliation” plan, although the discussion there and at other meetings was not disclosed in the minutes. The moderator, Jeff Schulz, asked the members of the FPCS session to take a vow of secrecy. Ms. Gacutan left the room rather than do so.

22. At a session meeting on October 25, 2015, Ms. Gacutan made a motion, which was duly seconded, to pursue the presbytery's Communal Discernment and Gracious Separation policy. The FPCS session failed to take a vote on Ms. Gacutan's motion, in violation of section 4 of Robert's Rules of Order and G-3.0105. At the end of the meeting, Ms. Gacutan resigned from the FPCS session. She asked that her resignation letter be placed in the minutes, but that request was refused.
23. At a session meeting on October 27, 2015, ruling elder Neal Lampi resigned from the FPCS session. His seven-page letter of resignation described this as "the culmination of [the session's] long often duplicitous struggle with the Presbytery." He described the session's practice of "concealing [its] deliberations" as having "now emerged to be the norm." He called upon his fellow session members to consider their own motivations rather than just attack the presbytery's. And he lamented that the conflict with the presbytery would now take place in civil court; "other options available to our congregation have been set aside in favor of the satisfaction of self-righteous indignation."
24. At its meeting on October 27, 2015, the remaining members of the FPCS session took several actions that violated the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). They began by voting to rescind the existing bylaws of the church and to adopt separate congregational and corporate bylaws.
25. The existing "Bylaws of the First Presbyterian Church of Seattle" were adopted by a vote of the congregation on May 8, 2005. Those bylaws are not subject to amendment by the FPCS session, and they remain in full force and effect.
26. Article II of the bylaws is entitled "Relation to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)," and it provides as follows: "The First Presbyterian Church of Seattle is a member church of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)."
27. Article V of the bylaws is entitled "Governance of the Church." It provides as follows:

This church shall be governed in accordance with the current edition of the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*. Consistent with that *Constitution*, these bylaws shall provide specific guidance for this church. *Robert's Rules of Order (Newly Revised)* shall be used for parliamentary guidance. Any matter of church governance not addressed in these bylaws shall be governed by the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*.
28. Article VI of the bylaws, entitled "Meetings," requires an annual meeting of the congregation and the corporation during the first quarter, at which changes in the terms of call for the pastor(s) must be presented. It also provides that special meetings may be called by the Session, if the call for the meeting states clearly the purpose of the meeting and business is restricted to that which is specified. Under Article VI, an annual special meeting is required during the second quarter for receipt of the nominating committee report and election of church officers. Consistent with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Article VI states that only active members may vote and that "[p]roxy voting is not permitted in meetings of the congregation and the corporation."

29. Article VII of the bylaws, entitled "Notice of Meetings," requires that public notice of meetings of the congregation "be given and printed and verbal form on at least two successive Sundays prior to the meeting." It also requires that printed notice of meetings of the corporation "be included in the church bulletin, signed by the Clerk of the Session, . . . which notice shall be audibly read at public worship to the assembled congregation on at least two successive Sundays prior to the date of such meeting."
30. Article XI of the bylaws, entitled "Elders," states that "[t]he Session shall have such duties and powers as are set forth in the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*." It provides further that the session "shall act as officers and directors of the corporation, and shall form such committees as are necessary to carry out its work and maintain the corporation's good standing with the State of Washington."
31. Article XV of the bylaws, entitled "Amendments," states that those bylaws "may be amended [a] subject to the Articles of Incorporation, [b] the laws of the state of Washington and [c] the *Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* [d] by a two-thirds vote of the voters present, [e] providing that the proposed changes in printed form shall have been distributed at the same time as the call of the meeting at which the changes are voted upon." The bylaw amendments that the FPCS session purported to adopt on October 27, 2015, satisfied none of these five requirements.
32. The bylaw amendments purportedly adopted by the FPCS session on October 27, 2015, violate both the Articles of Incorporation and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The restated Articles of Incorporation, adopted in 1985, provide that the corporation exists and acts "under the Form of Government and discipline of the 'Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'." The Presbyterian Form of Government requires, among other things, that the powers exercised by any corporation formed by a congregation are "subject to the authority of the session and under the provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The powers and duties of the trustees shall not infringe upon the powers and duties of the session or the board of deacons." G-4.0101. The corporate bylaws approved by the FPCS session on October 27, 2015, however, purport to place the property of the church outside the control of session, contrary to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The purported amendments are, therefore, void.
33. The bylaws provide that they can be amended only by the congregation, not by the session. The changes to the bylaws that the FPCS session purported to adopt on October 27, 2015, were made without the knowledge, much less a two-thirds majority vote, of the congregation. Nor were they distributed in printed form to the congregation until after the FPCS session adopted them. For these reasons as well, the amendments adopted by the FPCS session on October 27, 2015, were improper and ineffective.
34. Acting under the improperly amended bylaws, the FPCS session on October 27, 2015, appointed themselves trustees of a supposedly independent corporation. Under the restated Articles of Incorporation, the board of trustees must be elected by the congregation at its annual meeting, but that did not happen in this case. The FPCS session/trustees also transferred approximately \$420,000 in church funds to the trust account of Lane Powell PC. This transfer was contrary to G-4.0201. The presbytery has

demanded an accounting of the funds and either their return or their deposit in the court registry. The lawyers for the FPCS session have refused to do any of those things.

35. On October 30, 2015, the FPCS session asserted to the presbytery that the FPCS Board of Trustees “is not subject to the authority of the Presbytery of Seattle . . . or the Book of Order.” This assertion is fundamentally contrary to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): a board of trustees is subject to the session, just as the session is accountable to the presbytery, and the actions of the board of trustees are subject to the Book of Order. See G-3.0101, G-3.0201c, G-4.0202, and G-4.0203.
36. The FPCS session called a meeting of the congregation for November 15, 2015, to vote on a resolution calling for the church to “disaffiliate” from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The notice of this meeting violated the requirements of the bylaws and G-1.0502. Among other things, it was not given in printed and verbal form on at least two successive Sundays prior to the meeting. It was not mentioned at all in the service on November 8, 2015, which was a joint service with two other churches. The meeting notice also did not meet the bylaw requirements for a public notice of a meeting of the corporation: it did not appear in the church bulletin, and it was not audibly read at public worship to the assembled congregation on at least two successive Sundays.
37. “Disaffiliation” is not among the matters that are proper to a congregational meeting under G-1.0503. The FPCS session also called for proxy voting at this meeting in violation of G-1.0501 and Article VI of the bylaws, both of which permit only active members of the congregation who are present at a meeting to vote. The presbytery informed the FPCS session of these constitutional flaws, but the FPCS session proceeded anyway. It counted proxy votes and required that all ballots be signed, thereby intimidating members. It disregarded protests from the floor. The FPCS session acted contrary to G-3.0202c and section 45 of Robert’s Rules of Order.
38. The meeting of the congregation on November 15, 2015, had 54 individuals in attendance in addition to the then co-pastors, two lawyers, and two security guards. One member of the congregation, RJ Parsad, was dragged out of the meeting and was readmitted only after police intervention. As of November 15, 2015, according to the Administrative Commission’s review of session minutes, the roster of active or occasional members at FPCS should have had 101 names, including Mr. Parsad’s, plus four youth members.
39. Liz Cedergreen, clerk of session, wrote a letter to the Stated Clerk and the Executive Presbyter that was received by them on November 17, 2015. Ms. Cedergreen reported that at the congregational meeting on November 15, 2015, “81 out of 104 members were present,” and 73 of them “approved disaffiliation from Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).”
40. Under G-3.0303b and G-4.0207, a congregation’s relationship with Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) can be severed only by constitutional action on the part of the presbytery. The “disaffiliation” resolution presented by the FPCS session to the congregation on November 15, 2015, was unconstitutional and has no effect.
41. The amendments to the articles of incorporation that the congregation approved on November 15, 2015, are also invalid and of no effect, because (among other things) those amendments purport to effect a unilateral “disaffiliation” from the Presbyterian Church

(U.S.A.). The FPCS session's attempt to validate its bylaw changes retroactively by congregational ratification on November 15, 2015, was ineffective as well, because (among other things) those bylaw changes violated the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The meeting of the congregation and corporation at which these actions were taken was also not validly called and was not properly noticed as the bylaws require.

42. Ms. Cedergreen's letter of November 17, 2015, signed "For the Session," states that FPCS "is no longer affiliated with either PCUSA or the Presbytery of Seattle." Ms. Cedergreen's letter appears to be a written statement by the ruling elders of FPCS renouncing the jurisdiction of this church.
43. On January 27, 2016, Neal Lampi found that the door to the room where he regularly met for Bible study with FPCS shelter guests had been boarded up. On January 28, 2016, Gail Irving resigned from her position as shelter employee. She lamented the closing of "the one evangelical piece of the shelter where the gospel of Christ was literally shared" and described other aspects of the "shameful treatment" that shelter guests had received as a result of the steps taken by FPCS leaders in recent months.
44. The actions of the FPCS session described in these findings violate G-4.0202, which states:

The provisions of this Constitution prescribing the manner in which decisions are made, reviewed, and corrected within this church are applicable to all matters pertaining to property.

45. The actions of the FPCS session described in these findings violate G-4.0203, which states:

All property held by or for a congregation . . . whether legal title is lodged in a corporation, a trustee or trustees, or an unincorporated association, and whether the property is used in programs of a congregation or of a higher council or retained for the production of income, is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

46. The actions of the FPCS session described in these findings violate their ordination vows, including specifically W-4.4003e and i:

e. Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit?

i. (1) (For ruling elder) Will you be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service? Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

(2) (For teaching elder) Will you be a faithful teaching elder, proclaiming the good news in Word and Sacrament, teaching faith and caring for people? Will you be active in government and discipline,

serving in the councils of the church; and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?

47. The FPCS session has failed to act in accordance with basic principles of accountability and responsibility, consistent with the mutual commitments of Presbyterian polity, including those governing the shared responsibilities of councils (e.g., sessions and presbyteries) and the governance of congregations, as required by F-3.01 and G-1.01.
48. The conduct of the FPCS session has caused a schism within the congregation. The members of the congregation who oppose the actions taken by the FPCS session on and after October 27, 2015, are “the true church within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” G-4.0207.
49. The Administrative Commission has conducted a thorough investigation of the matters entrusted to it by the presbytery.
50. The Administrative Commission has accorded the FPCS session a full opportunity to be heard.
51. The FPCS session is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs.
52. For all these reasons, the FPCS session “cannot exercise its authority.” G-3.0303e.
53. The FPCS session has ceased to use FPCS’s property as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). See G-4.0204.
54. The FPCS congregation is not viable under its current leadership. Under other circumstances, there are ministry opportunities that appear to be viable.

Actions by the Administrative Commission

After prayerful deliberation and with a heavy heart, but as required by the findings set forth above and consistent with its delegated authority and responsibilities, the Administrative Commission has decided, declared, and taken action as follows:

1. Effective 10:00 a.m. on February, 16, 2016, the Administrative Commission has assumed original jurisdiction with the full power of the session of First Presbyterian Church of Seattle under G-3.0303e. The individuals who constituted the FPCS session prior to this action by the Administrative Commission no longer have any role in the governance of FPCS and have no authority with respect to its ministry or its property. The Administrative Commission will now perform the duties of the session.
2. The Administrative Commission, acting as the session, will (a) provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard, (b) provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received, and (c) nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ, consistent with the responsibility and power conferred by G-3.0201.

3. The Administrative Commission has appointed Shelley Dahl and Steve Aeschbacher as co-moderators of the session in accordance with G-3.0104 and G-3.0201. If there are any meetings of the congregation, the Administrative Commission has appointed Shelley Dahl and Steve Aeschbacher to act as co-moderators under G-1.0504.
4. Acting as the session, the Administrative Commission has elected Kathy Smith as the clerk of session.
5. Acting as the session, the Administrative Commission has appointed Heidi Husted Armstrong as temporary pastor to serve the FPCS congregation.
6. Acting as the session, the Administrative Commission has appointed Scott Lumsden as the person having authority to oversee the property and financial affairs of FPCS.
7. The amendments to the bylaws of FPCS that were purportedly adopted on October 27, 2015, and purportedly ratified on November 15, 2015, are null and void.
8. The amendments to the 1985 restated articles of incorporation of FPCS that were purportedly adopted by the congregation on November 15, 2015, are null and void.
9. The Administrative Commission believes that ruling elders Liz Cedergreen, David Martin, Lindsey McDowell, George Norris, Nathan Orona, and Kathryn Ostrom have renounced the jurisdiction of this church. If they have not, the Administrative Commission acting as the session will give them as well as Blair Bush notice of its disapproval of their work. If any of these individuals wishes to consult with the session, he or she should contact Kathy Smith within five calendar days. If, having been provided opportunity for consultation and having been given this written notice, Liz Cedergreen, David Martin, Lindsey McDowell, George Norris, Nathan Orona, Kathryn Ostrom, and Blair Bush, or any of them, persist in acting as if they are leaders of the FPCS congregation or the FPCS corporation, the Administrative Commission acting as the session will conclude that they have renounced the jurisdiction of this church under G-2.0407.
10. As provided in the bylaws of the church, the members of the Administrative Commission, as the current ruling elders on session, are the officers and directors of the corporation. They have elected Bob Wallace as president, Shelley Dahl as vice president, and Bill Longbrake as secretary/treasurer of the FPCS corporation to serve terms of one year or until their successors are elected, if sooner, and have empowered them to take appropriate steps and to pursue appropriate remedies to implement this report.
11. The individuals who previously constituted the FPCS session are no longer officers, directors, or trustees of the FPCS corporation. Their successors have been named in accordance with the bylaws of the church and the corporation.
12. Even if the bylaws were not clear on this point, the members of the Administrative Commission, as the current ruling elders on session, are the trustees of the FPCS corporation under G.-4.0102, unless the corporation has determined another method for electing its trustees. The 1985 restated articles of incorporation of FPCS call for the

election of corporate trustees at the annual meeting of the congregation, but the former corporate trustees were not so elected.

13. Because only persons eligible for membership in the congregation or council are eligible to be members of the corporation and to be elected as trustees under G-4.0102, loss of membership and ordered ministry disqualifies the individuals who previously constituted the FPCS session from continuing to serve as trustees of the FPCS corporation.
14. If the former FPCS session members nevertheless continue to claim the status of corporate trustees, they are subject to the Administrative Commission acting as the session and are answerable to the Administrative Commission acting as the session in all respects under G-3.0201c, G-4.0101, and G-4.0202.
15. All property held by or for FPCS--including real property, personal property, and intangible property--is subject to the direction and control of the Administrative Commission exercising original jurisdiction as the session of the church. Under G-4.0204, such property must be held, used, applied, transferred, or sold as the presbytery may provide.
16. All funds that were transferred to the Lane Powell trust account must be returned to the church immediately. Acting as the session, the Administrative Commission further directs that all funds held in the name or under the control of the FPCS corporation be turned over immediately to the Administrative Commission in its capacity as the session of the church.
17. Until the Administrative Commission directs otherwise, no church or corporate funds of FPCS may be used or expended without the prior approval of the Administrative Commission acting as the session.
18. To the extent that any books and records related to FPCS, including membership and communicant rolls or financial records, are currently in the possession of the corporation, the former trustees, or any individual who, before today's Administrative Commission action, was a member of the FPCS session, those books and records must be turned over to the Administrative Commission acting as the session within five calendar days.
19. The financial records of FPCS will be audited as soon as possible by a certified public accountant appointed by the Administrative Commission acting as the session.
20. The Administrative Commission acting as the session directs all persons who were responsible for any financial transactions involving FPCS since December 31, 2014, to provide a full accounting of such transactions to the Administrative Commission within five calendar days.
21. Acting as the session, the Administrative Commission directs the individuals who previously constituted the FPCS session and any persons acting under their direction and control, including the former co-pastors, to vacate the church premises and turn over the keys, electronic door openers, and all other means of egress/ingress to Scott Lumsden by 10:00 a.m. on February 18, 2016. The Administrative Commission, acting as the session, will provide for the continuation of the ministries of the church.

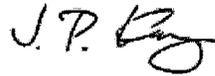
22. The Administrative Commission acting as the session directs all persons doing business with FPCS to do so through Scott Lumsden.
23. The Administrative Commission has authorized and directed the presbytery's staff and its legal counsel to take all steps deemed necessary or appropriate to carry out these actions.
24. The Administrative Commission reserves the right to make additional findings and to take further actions as necessary or appropriate.



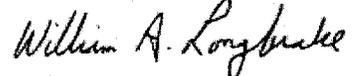
Steve Aeschbacher



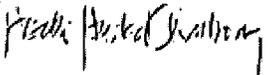
Shelley Dahl



J.P. Kang



Bill Longbrake



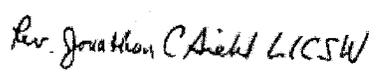
Heidi Husted Armstrong



Kathy Smith



Bob Wallace



Jonathan Siehl