

To: The Session and Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of North Port, FL.

From: The Presbytery of Southwest Florida (PCA)

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Dear Pastor Brevick, Ruling Elders, Deacons and Members of the congregation,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! By now you have heard of the final dispositions of the PCA Standing Judicial Commission regarding appeals and judicial actions brought against your session. They have deemed our actions as being in error, and in the matter of our judicial process, they have reversed our judgment.

It is our desire to move forward from this process and experience with a view toward the honor of Christ and in a manner conducive to the promotion of peace and unity between your local church and this presbytery.

We understand this experience has been very difficult for you, and from what we have heard, the cause of considerable strain with regard to the bonds of our fellowship. We look to our Lord for His grace that we may be able to walk together in the days to come with increasing trust, expecting, praying, and looking for evidence of His Spirit's work among us, restoring peace-in what we anticipate - will entail a process of time.

The objective nature of the Standing Judicial Commission's findings and determination doesn't address the practical challenge confronting us with regard to how best to move forward. We believe that prayer and communication will be important ingredients to the restoration of the health of the bond of unity in the Spirit.

We would encourage you and your leadership to avail yourselves of the Shepherding Committee of our Presbytery should you find it desirable to discuss matters which might serve the cause of peace between us, or in light of any assorted challenges which may yet confront you regarding the disposition of certain membership questions . We have noted in the concluding language from the SJC statement that their "decision does not find fault with the legitimate concern presbytery sought to address." Though they disagreed with our process, they found no fault with our concern. We do believe we should seek to work together and not let these recent events provoke bitterness or uncharitable regard. We extend to you our expression of wanting to move forward with you in peace and we look to our Savior for grace strength sufficient.

We remain with you all, through it all, in the bonds of Christ