

On June 27th, Church of the Good Shepherd, Winona Lake, simultaneously filed a lawsuit against our Presbytery seeking a declaratory judgment that the Constitution of the PC(USA) (Book of Confessions and Book of Order) does not apply to them, and sent a letter announcing its unilateral decision to "disaffiliate" from PC(USA) and to seek "affiliation" with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Council held a specially called meeting by conference call on July 6th to make the following decisions:

Named Council Moderator John Ritchie and General Presbyter Frank Vardeman to write a letter of urgent invitation to the Session for mutual conversation and reconciliation of the relationship between the congregation and our denomination in keeping with our covenants as Christians and as part of the Presbyterian Church (USA), seeking a meeting time before August 5th.

Engaged Judy Woods of Benesch/Dann lawfirm, Indianapolis, to represent Presbytery of Wabash Valley in the litigation.

Named the officers of Council, the moderator of the Stewardship Ministry Team, and the General Presbyter ex-officio, to make necessary client decisions for litigation in consultation with the Presbytery attorney. Those are Pam Camren, Laura Reason, John Ritchie, Linda Long, Alan Griffin and Frank Vardeman.

It is our commitment as Presbytery to act in a spirit of truth and love; to respect each other believing that all desire to be faithful to Jesus; to maintain Christian community; and to be in prayer as we seek God's grace in understanding God's mission.

-- □Linda L. Long, Stated Clerk, □Presbytery of Wabash Valley