

Denominational Issues Update

September 2011

The Session is committed to keeping the congregation fully informed of its actions in regard to the recent issues within the PC(USA). Here is a summary of the activity since the last edition of *The Reminder*.

- ♦ At the July 26th New Harmony Presbytery meeting, the “**Principles and Processes for New Harmony Presbytery when Churches Seek to Separate from Presbytery**” was adopted. Our church successfully introduced an amendment to the policy that changed the congregational voting requirements for churches seeking dismissal from the PC(USA).
- ♦ The **Denominational Issues Task Force** is organizing working groups to help in three specific areas. Joe McLean has agreed to chair the Legal and Property Issues working group and David Banner will chair the Other Denominations Research working group. These working groups, along with the Financial Issues group will be vital in evaluating our church's options in responding to the turmoil within the denomination.
- ♦ Seven representatives from our church attended a **gathering of Presbyterians in Minneapolis** on August 25th & 26th (David Banner, Chris Handley, Barry Jenkins, Wendell Jones, Mike Lavespere, Joe McLean, Dudley Saleeby). The gathering was “a time for life-giving worship, discussion, and prayer as we ask God to bless a new way forward.” More information about The Fellowship of Presbyterians is available at their web site (www.fellowship-pres.org).
- ♦ Our church will be represented at a meeting to be hosted by **First Presbyterian Church in Greenville** on September 13th. Meetings of this type are occurring around the country as churches are exploring ways to move forward in the midst of difficult and troubling times.
- ♦ It is anticipated that a **congregational information meeting** will be held in September to brief everyone and to provide an opportunity for questions.

Please keep all those dealing with these issues in your prayers.

- *Mike Lavespere, Clerk of Session*