

Revised Proposed Covenant Presbyterian Church Overture to the Presbytery of Santa Fe

There are times in the life of the corporate church, as it seeks to follow the Great Ends of the Church, when (1) the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind, (2) the promotion of social righteousness, and (3) the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world call us to testify by speaking publicly. Beyond the venue of acting through a presbytery meeting, the Presbytery of Santa Fe therefore authorizes the Coordinating Team (CT) to speak on the presbytery's behalf without calling a presbytery meeting, with these stipulations:

- A. If the Presbytery or a higher governing council has already made a statement on the issue at hand, and the CT's proclamation would be in keeping with those previous statements, a simple majority of CT could approve the drafting of a public position.
- B. If there is no previous statement on a subject by the Presbytery or higher governing councils, it would require a 2/3 majority of CT to draft such a statement.
- C. If a statement is drafted it should express theological imperatives of Reformed faith as expressed in Scripture and reflected in our confessions.

Once CT has approved the statement by the above stipulations, the Moderator and the Stated Clerk would be instructed and authorized to sign the statement on behalf of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery of Santa Fe is blessed with rich diversity – race, gender, abilities/limitations, ethnicity, age, theological conviction, and political persuasion. While we are one in Christ Jesus, we have a variety of characteristics, and a single statement issued by the presbytery may not reflect the convictions of all members or congregations. Accordingly, if the CT opts to issue a public statement, it will provide electronic notification to all members of the presbytery (including active and retired) Ministers of Word and Sacrament, moderators of session, and clerks of session at least 24 hours in advance of release of such a statement. Individual congregations in the presbytery or members of the presbytery may wish to make a simultaneous public statement. In such cases we would be openly affirming and validating our corporate diversity.

We acknowledge that individual congregations and/or Ministers of the Word and Sacrament may choose on occasion to make a public expression of their respective convictions, with Ministers of Word and Sacrament identifying themselves as ordained within the PCUSA.