

2. How does LEAVING the PCUSA help CHPC fulfill its Mission?

We'd be connected and more encouraged by like-minded and like-missioned folks. When I hang out with people who are passionate about Skyline Chili, we often eat Skyline Chili. When I hang out with Gold Star fans, we just fight about which is better.

We won't spend our resources or build on shifting sand.

Focus on the mission of the church without distraction of the inaccuracy of beliefs/ scriptural interpretation of Bible of the PCUSA./ Break the ties of the lies of PCUSA

We can be a beacon of light without being associated with a group promoting false teaching (this reduces our effectiveness).

Frees up funds to use for doing the Lord's work, rather than for promoting a political agenda.

Removes us from distractions and continual seemingly futile struggle/ Removes us from much of the danger of future coercion to the lies we believe are erroneous and/or sinful/ May put us in a better position to work with evangelical missions esp. overseas

Leaving the PCUSA is less the issue than Where do we belong?!? Where is God's denominational home for us so we can Connect, Serve, Celebrate like God's True Church without walls in College Hill in the way that most blesses God!

Leaving the PCUSA as the focus of our discernment does not necessarily mean we are fulfilling or will fulfill our mission. Seeking God's will in obedience to His Word and guidance of the Holy Spirit will help us fulfill God's mission. The focus for me is more of how/ what choices we make provides the most fruitful way of spreading the good news of Jesus Christ to those who do not know and helping them grow in discipleship/ Does PCUSA – its values and actions reach out to a lost and dying world? or would that best be accomplished through change of affiliation? Currently it appears PCUSA promotes its own agenda at the cost of Truth. ECO has established parameters that keep that from happening with a STRONG emphasis on reaching others with the good news of Jesus Christ.

We can be a church without affiliation with the presbytery and some of the things we do not agree with.

Leaving PCUSA will shift the many hours spent defending our faith and understanding of God's Word to implementing the sharing of these truths with like minded believers

That we can rest in the knowledge that we listened to God's call for our church

Leaving provides us with the opportunity to define what we really believe as a body and pursue a mission consistent with our core fundamentals. Fellowship with believers who share our core beliefs could open up greater potential for dreaming, for creative and innovative ministry, for recodifying our identity as Christ followers.

I am not sure we will know the answer completely to this until we leave

Would hope it would allow us to focus on our mission, rather continue to have to waste valuable time and resources debating denominational issues which seem all too much like they will continue to surface. Therefore allowing us to fully focus on our mission

Leaving makes clear that we believe the PCUSA has become misguided, that it seeks to conform to the world rather than Christ. By aligning ourselves with solid Biblical principles, it helps us to reconcile our congregation to Christ

Strive for purity and in line with scripture; not shifting in the winds of political correctness/ Can be proud of our affiliation if it puts God first.

In a denomination that finds its unity in theology (vs. polity as in PCUSA) there may be more opportunities to collaborate with other congregations in program and mission. It is good to meet/ see people in other places who follow the Lord Jesus

Not tied to larger mandates that may not feel are in alignment with the truth of God's Word or represent us/ If it is God's will to be more College Hill focused could facilitate – this depends on God's will so unsure. If united to seek God may not feel bound by Presbyterian rut.

It may help eliminate the distraction that the PCUSA issues have presented./ Changing will be a big, costly, job for some/ Much of our mission is not affected by denomination

How can we know this when we don't know where we're going? Some denominations hinder women from fulfilling their mission!! If we go there half of us can't serve.

Leaving PCUSA would not help us fulfill our mission unless we affiliate with a denomination that will support our mission/ If that is the case, it may re-energize us – a re-birth of sorts. Would allow us to staff with pastors (in future) who are aligned with our core values

If the leaders of CHPC are on one accord with God and the church then we can live out what we claim to be: "A church without walls"

More freedom to be true to God's Word, not just to denominational decisions

If we make a decision to leave we don't have to worry about all the issues and can concentrate on our mission, but perhaps it will introduce new issues.

The focus would be on what God's Word truly said on the points of our disagreement with the PCUSA. We would not be led away by the changes in the PCUSA.

Leads us to a committed path in the faith, belief of Christianity in Jesus Christ – according to scriptures

Leaving PCUSA would make it easier for us to stand with the knowledge that our leadership/ finances/ professed agreements stand in line with one another./ Currently, our mission is to engage in a vibrant relationship with Christ, yet PCUSA doesn't acknowledge the divinity of Christ, so there's this disconnect.

By leaving, we can align our congregation with others that are following God's Word. I can also see where leaving would give a fresh start to put the past behind us.

Leaving may help in the following: avoid divisive issues distracting from the mission, dividing people; open door for Christians that won't affiliate with PCUSA to become part of our fellowship/ And depending on where we might go... unite us with a vibrant body aligned with our hearts; extend the impact of CHPC to the glory of God

If our mission is divergent from what the General Assembly is calling us to do, it strengthens our purpose to not be at odds with a governing body.

Maybe new ideas and new ways to do mission would emerge and change the mission outlook at CHPC.

Unity is an important component of the Church. And yet God has consistently engaged in "new" endeavors, which have not precluded unity but rather enhanced the work of the Church Universal. How cool would it be to be part of such an endeavor if it is what God's calling us to?

I don't know. Is PCUSA preventing us from fulfilling our mission?

Cannot be Missional unless we have a theology to drive that mission – we need to find a framework denominationally that has a theology that is congruent with CHPC Mission

Since CHPC is not aligned with the guidance of PCUSA (relative to gays, etc.), we can align ourselves with other churches who believe the same beliefs.

I believe we will be set free to honor God and worship Him if we leave.

We would be supported in many vital ways by other churches and leaders with a commitment to the same Essential Tenets of the faith...with the same passion for Mission - locally, nationally and internationally. We would be with others sold out to accomplishing Christ's Great Commission with a passion and with power and for equipping the Church to do so. I want to be part of a church that lives under the Authority of Scripture, examines the Confessions and lives out what it says it believes.

CHPC will be free to promote what the Bible really states.

I don't think it will. I think its pride before a fall. But if I have to pick something, I guess it could give us the freedom to do what ever we want. It seems we have plenty of freedom now, however, as it is.

Based on the mission alone, it's not clear.

Leaving the PCUSA hurts our mission. If we break away, it feels like we are running away from the issues, and not staying to confront them. If we feel like change is needed, then lets work to make the change. PCUSA is, I'm sure, filled with intelligent and Jesus-loving people, working for the greater good. By leaving, we are "throwing our hands up" at the situation. What if Jesus had done that in his age. Stopped trying to reach out to those that needed counseling, feeling it is "too hard to change".

Its funny how much Christ talked about love and acceptance and yet we don't act this out in every capacity of our lives. Let God be the judge. Not the church.

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ""This is the great and foremost commandment. ""And a second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."" (Matthew 22:37-40)

""A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."" (John 13:34-35)

""Whatever you want others to do for you, do so for them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."" (Matthew 7:12)

""But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward in heaven will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men."" (Luke 6:35)

""Whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant; and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a ransom for many."" (Mark 10:43-45)

""If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you."" (John 13:14-15)"

The reverse of the above will be true

We simply become one of a group of churches that all believe the same without diversity

We can be more free to live out our convictions as a body of believers without the more liberal influences within the denomination. It would be more helpful and supportive to align with a denomination that is more in line with our theology and practices.

We have spent much time, energy and resources trying to be "salt and light" in this denomination, yet its leadership has proven that it still does not affirm Biblical truths. If we leave the denomination, this time, energy and resources could now be spent toward connecting, serving and celebrating in the community where we have been placed.

I believe CHPC should not be associated with PCUSA due to the differences in our beliefs.

As it stands we are constantly at odds with our denomination. We are not preaching the same gospel which is, in our view, that in Jesus Christ "there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." Most in the PCUSA, I believe, hold that we at CHPC adhere to a narrow and regressive view, and that we are not as broadminded as the denomination's other members. And we aren't. Therefore - being at such odds - we cannot stir one another up (as churches) to love and good works in our denomination, because we are in profound disagreement about what those good works are. It would be better to be affiliated with a body in which we work with like-minded churches, and let the PCUSA go its own way.

I believe we are distracted by our dealings with the PCUSA. Our efforts to combat resolutions that we disagree with, take away precious resources from the efforts of our church to fulfill the great commission and live our out mission. I feel that endorsement or passiveness toward issues like sexual sin and abortion, can hinder the work and power of the Holy Spirit in CHPC and the PCUSA.

I believe we can better focus the efforts of our congregation, Session and staff on efforts to be aligned with God's will and our mission, if we LEAVE.

We will be freed of the ongoing struggle with a denominational leadership that is becoming more apostate each year. Connecting with other churches that reinforce our faith and values will encourage our church.

It is a declaration. We declare God's word is our authority. We all bow to it, we all are accountable to it. No more distractions, we need to get to the work of God...not debating the sovereignty of the Bible's authority.

If you are offended by God's word, might I recommend the pagan shrine across the street. And - yes....I did that.

We are known by the company we keep and what and who we align ourselves with.

We will be free.

Gives clarity to focus on mission/ no distraction by apostasy/ more chance for growth

Removes existing distractions

I'm expecting the theological make up of the PCUSA is changing at a much quicker rate than before. Say we remain in the PCUSA. What happens a few years down the road when we become so theologically out numbered that we don't have a choice in the matters which we disagree with? It's safe to say that even among Christians there's intolerance towards those of us who do not agree with the marriage of same sex couples. They claim their position based on statistical trends in agreement with the homosexual agenda or pro choice persuasion and that God's love negates the need for us to strive towards righteousness.

I'm not stuck on just marriage and abortion issues. Those are just stems from the root, not believing in the Bible's infallibility and inerrancy. I don't think the climate for leaving will be any better than it is now. We have choices of opting out those things in disagreement with our convictions, but what happens in future General Assemblies that lack the voice for the sanctity of marriage and life?

I feel the leadership of our denomination is allowing outside interests to revise our beliefs and focus. God rules! We need to concentrate on Him.

By leaving, CHPC, is showing its desire to live under the authority of Scripture. By living under that authority, we are better able to extend grace to sinners. We are better able to model God's love and Christ's example to others. We are able to exemplify an alternative world view and lifestyle.

It might help in that we stay just as we have for years, but no growth in our feelings about the openness we have had for years.

We can't say for sure whether leaving the PCUSA will help CHPC fulfill its mission since part of this depends on what denomination CHPC chooses if it were to leave. However, if CHPC chooses to become part of a denomination that is more in line with its mission, there is great potential to collaborate with the denomination/other churches in that denomination to fulfill its mission.

one less thing to debate

We are responsible for this mission not the denomination, but I worry that we will simply become "that church that voted such and such way". Will we just be a thorn in the side?

The name of denomination carries associations with it that we disagree with.

As above, you lose the focus of connecting "in Jesus no matter our differences."

There is nothing holding us back in following the Lord as He calls us to. There is nothing to prevent us from sending a check to our missionaries.

We have a defined mission which is contrary to PCUSA's vision.

interpreting of the bible

homosexuality

Jesus Christ

We would be standing up for our beliefs.