

## ***5. What do you like or dislike about being connected with the PCUSA?***

Dislike – lack of scriptural truth and pursuit of God’s will

Problem of staying within the PCUSA is the constant battling over fundamental key issues of reformed theology. 1) Inerrancy of Bible 2) Virgin birth of Christ 3) Christ’s substitutionary atonement 4) Jesus bodily Resurrection 5) Ordination issues/ Are we not better served under a different structure

I dislike being associated with, supporting financially, those parts of the PCUSA agenda that are contradictory to the Word of God

I do not agree with all of the beliefs/ standards but I do like the connections it gives us with other churches/ people

Dislike - need to stay with scriptures and the Word

I dislike the controversy – the negative attention in the media – that PCUSA seems to be wrapped up in.

like – heritage/ dislike – continual drift into liberal and humanistic direction. Increasing danger of being coerced to follow the liberal rules

I like being connected to the PCUSA because our history as a PCUSA church and history is valuable

I am proud to be a Presbyterian but PCUSA has changed its position considerably and consistently away from Presbyterian beliefs through many false teachings

I dislike being connected to a denomination that is losing its belief in the truth of the scriptures

What do I like? The entire foreign mission group is very evangelical and concerned about the welfare of the people involved. When I go overseas, I am so proud of what my church is doing.

I like the heritage. I like the connectiveness. I like the past missions. I don’t like abandoning it to those who have changed its direction.

Dislike that the connection is causing a distraction for a number of people.

What are the major themes we agree upon with PCUSA? What do we celebrate? We are not talking about that.

We will continue to fight a more likely losing battle of issue that are key to most in CHPC

Tradition – The way it has always been!

I like the credibility that a denominational affiliation to PCUSA gives to my witness to un-churched coworkers, friends and family./ I dislike that some core values seem to not only depart from conservative values but Christian doctrine (the divinity of Christ, the exclusivity of redemption, salvation only through Christ).

I have benefitted from my affiliations with others who share my ministry area. There has been great support and sharing and even collaboration.

Dislike – 1)the views of PCUSA 2)the PCUSA's ignoring of order and for lack of better words – ignoring parliamentary procedure.

Like – The rich heritage of the PCUSA but dislike how far removed they are today from their heritage

Dislike: Abortions; leadership of those in premarital sexual relationships without conviction or repentance deemed necessary. In other words, picking and choosing what scriptures we want and which we don't, depending on the culture around us

I feel embarrassed because we are aligned to PCUSA and part of that faith body/ Also I'm not sure that being aligned with a Christian body that doesn't follow its own doctrinal belief statements please God. / Does God want us to be part of a denomination that is living a New Age philosophy? I don't think so...

Will our affiliation with the PCUSA dilute our witness in the world and diffuse our efforts and work to win others to Christ?

My major dislike about the PCUSA has become the liberal attitude over interpretation and actions. More worldly concepts from a liberal agenda./ Great people, but not great ideas for me.

dislike - what the GA voted for despite the opposition; dislike what they profess in belief/ like - a governing body; not sure about the ?isher? but they do not hurt; God is not exclusive

I like our history in being a part of the PCUSA/ I dislike the changes within the PCUSA and the turmoil it causes.

I am troubled with the connectional piece – that we are under the authority of a denomination that has loosened its confessional standard so significantly.

Its current direction, policies, and procedures, I believe the PCUSA is leading the church toward destruction.

Dislike being associated with a denomination that is perceived as: 1) Not clear as to its theology; 2) Constantly fighting with itself; and 3) Obsessed with sex (on both sides of the issue).

I dislike the moral trend of PCUSA and lack of Biblical conscience. / It breaks my heart for God...

I like the idea of being linked in fellowship and dialogue with other churches, but I'm more interested in the idea of how we do a better job of that in our community and city than on a national level.

We do not like being connected to PCUSA because the general public believes CHPC has the same beliefs as what they read in the newspaper about PCUSA.

I am new to the Presbyterian Church and have no previously formed opinion about it. But I have watched the u-tube video and I do like what I've seen so far.

I like that the PCUSA is made up of brave, passionate, deeply spiritual believers in Christ. I love that the people feel free to speak their hearts. I love that the moderator and other officials are diplomatic and that the Body is Dynamic. I love that the PCUSA is made up of conservative AND liberal minded thinkers because we need ALL thinkers to get things even close to Christ-like thinking. I love that it is huge and made up of people from all over the country and quite diverse in race and culture. I think the larger the thinking pool, the more room the Holy Spirit has to work, and the harder it is for Satan to get in to mess things up. I love the checks and balances that make it harder for the leaders to be tempted by their pride, or power. In other denominations, this happens quite easily.

Dislike the increasing dilution of and minimizing of the Word.

I love the fact that we have a say in the running of the church. Not all denominations have that ability. To be involved in congregational discussions and being able to view meetings. (as i did watching the 220th General Assembly) it was a great insight into all Jesus loving individuals who make up the church. I like being part of a place that wants to include all individuals and welcome everyone into the church. I feel that is truly living out Jesus' work in today's time. I believe that Jesus would not segregate, and welcome all to his table.

We should be connected in Christ. Period. Denominational affiliations are secondary. I want a church aligned 100% with Christ and his teachings.

The PCUSA is the defining example of a theologically liberal organization, and that is the opposite of me. It is amazing that it has taken as long as it has for the impact on the local church to be felt. I see no real advantages to CHPC of staying connected, the advantage is to the denomination, our being salt and light to it and our money.

I dislike the liberal bias, I like the diversity, strong mission outreach,

Although I was not raised in the PCUSA, the sentiments and more progressive platforms being introduced at each GA is totally foreign to my theology and in my opinion, anti-biblical.

Because its leadership does not affirm inerrancy of scripture and sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman. I do not believe it represents who we are as a church body.

I do not like - I detest - being in a denomination that does not hold pastors to faithfulness to the Bible and to our confessions. The PCUSA has not upheld the doctrines of historical Christian orthodoxy as expressed by our confessions. How many ways can I say it? The Bible speaks so clearly about issues of faith and practice, yet our denomination allows wide deviation from those biblical truths (truths that have been held as normative for 2,000 years). They have allowed believers to be led astray without raising any alarms. Although many historically orthodox member churches have raised alarms in these last 45 years, the tide has turned and the denomination has chosen to a different way on issues like the nature of the Bible, abortion, and sexuality.

Again because of the fact the PCUSA is not calling sin sin.

As a former Session member, I saw some of the issues first hand. I don't like that the church is engaged within itself regarding the validity of marriage, human life and scripture itself.

Not at all. (This is mostly covered in next statement.)

For too long - they have skirted issues, and not stood for the word. Sorry, I do not care to be part of a group who augments and apologizes for the word. While sure as the darned heck don't want to be persecuted....I would be persecuted before I did that...so yes....my family and I would not wish to participate in that.

I don't like what they represent or the moves they have made.

Dislike the continual distraction of rebellious and sinful behavior by other clergy and leaders of PCUSA church/ PCUSA aligning with liberal politics - more a political advocacy organization than a church

Like: being able to support the mission at large/ Dislike: gay and lesbian issue/  
Connection: Study group

We do not like the direction that the PCUSA has taken in recent years. In terms of its official policies and statements, it appears orthodox. However, in practical terms, it seems to go against the very things it says it believes. This hypocrisy is troubling

and does not further the gospel or CHPC's mission. Also, when key orthodox doctrines - like Jesus' full divinity and him being the only way to God - are denied in practice as at least some within the PCUSA are doing, We don't see how this can still be considered Christianity. These doctrines are essential to the Christian faith.

Dislike their lack of follow through and direction it is moving in regards to marriage

I was shocked about the things I read in the article in our packet. I was deeply saddened by elements of social justice that has crept into the denomination. Social justice portrays the wealthy as evil and the poor as victims, it demands a government that takes the role of Jesus for the needy while Christians relinquishes that responsibility. The end result is dependence on Government, the glorification of man, and a wedge driven between classes of income.

It doesn't matter much to me whether I'm part of PCUSA or another denomination. As I've said above, having the focus on differences instead of similarities is a major concern.

From what I've heard, having known homosexuals within the church is a major problem for many people. I agree that homosexuality is a sin, but many things the rest of us do are sins.

I have felt a growing unease the last few years over differences in theology with the PCUSA. I think their increasing separation from the authority of scripture and increasing reliance on their Judiciary Committee over even their Book of Order and Book of Confessions leaves them grounded in sinking sand. The homosexual issue is smoke and mirrors. The real issue is PCUSA's desire to change scripture's definition of sin.

their views on the bible, homosexuality,

They keep watering down our basic standards and creeds.