

## STEPS... on our spiritual journey of discovery.

# THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS

On **February 17, 2013**, the Discernment Forum was held at CHPC for the purpose of allowing congregation members to address each other and the Discernment Team regarding denominational affiliation. Approximately 175 CHPC members and regular attenders were present in Fellowship Hall. The meeting opened and closed in worship and was open for anyone to address the crowd.

Afterwards, the Discernment Team had a debriefing session to share initial impressions of the meeting. All members remarked on the respectful tone of the meeting and the deep love that was sensed between members.

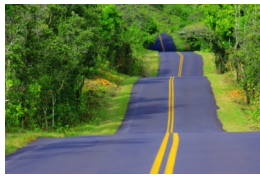
On **February 25, 2013**, the Discernment Team met to continue discussing the forum and to begin formulating a recommendation to present to session and the congregation. There was a sense of sadness and regret for the deep frustrations expressed by many at CHPC. The D-Team will be working on a draft of the recommendation over the next several weeks and will meet again March 18th.

Background			
Forming Discernment Team			
✓	College Hill Presbyterian Church (CHPC) Session commissions a denominational team to examine our relationship with PC(USA).		12/11/2011
✓	Presbytery of Cincinnati adopts Reconciliation and Dismissal Policy		5/8/2012
✓	CHPC Session votes to enter into Discernment process with the Presbytery.		5/16/2012
✓	CHPC congregational meeting votes to approve participation in Presbytery Discernment Process		6/17/2012
✓	Stated Clerk of the Presbytery and Clerk of Session sign a Covenant Agreement		6/17/2012
✓	Discernment Team (D Team) is formed. Members include 4 members from CHPC (Drew Smith, Janet Dumford, Mark Klusmeier and Heather Lethander) and 4 members from the Presbytery (Amy Duiker, Kevin Murphy, Kevin Waters and Dale Roush).		7/18/2012
Discernment Team		CHPC Discernment	
		How the Congregation is Involved	
✓	First Meeting of D Team - Review of Process, Selection of Facilitator, Extended Introductions	09/04/12	✓ Fireside Listening Sessions including video presentation were offered to discuss questions congregational members have about the denomination. March 2012
✓	Second Meeting of D Team - Share Faith Stories and identify spiritual and theological issues at stake between church and PC(USA)	09/25/12	
✓	Second Meeting of D Team (cont.) - identify spiritual and theological issues at stake between church and PC(USA)	10/16/12	✓ Video series offered about reformed theology and Presbyterian faith. June 2012
✓	Third Meeting - The Facilitator of the D Team will guide a dialogue on foundational theological issues. The purpose of this discussion is to determine how much common theological and ecclesiastical ground exists between the congregation and the denomination.	11/05/12	✓ CHPC congregational meeting votes and approves participation in Presbytery Discernment Process 06/17/2012
✓	Third Meeting (cont.) - discussion on foundational theological issues between the congregation and the denomination.	12/3/12	✓ Some members attended the Fellowship of Presbyterians/ECO Gathering 08/20/2012
✓	Fourth Meeting - The D Team will create a process to listen to the concerns, sensitivities and questions of congregation members.	12/3/12	✓ CHPC congregation receives a verbal and written update on the progress of the D-Team at the annual Congregational Meeting. 10/21/2012
			✓ CHPC congregation receives a packet explaining theological differences identified by D Team and outlining feedback process for second half of discernment process. 01/6/2013 - 01/13/2013

✓ This step is done

\* We're working on this step

● Yet to be Done



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# THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS SUMMARY (cont.)

Discernment Team	CHPC Discernment How the Congregation is Involved
<p>✓ Fifth Meeting - The D Team will discuss the concerns, sensitivities and questions of congregation members. 2/25/13</p> <p>* The D Team will create a final recommendation to share with the Congregation and Presbytery. Before 04/14/2013</p>	<p>✓ Members asked to provide feedback on denominational issues through Fireside Charts, Online survey, email, US Mail and direct conversation with CHPC D Team to discuss concerns, sensitivities and questions. 01/13/2013 – 02/03/2013</p> <p>✓ Members participated in "Discernment Forum" to share opinions with the D-Team. 02/17/2013</p> <p>* Members are encouraged to participate in Basics Matter Class and additional classes related to our discernment during Foundational Hour. Ongoing</p> <p>* Review Weblinks for Learning <a href="http://www.chpc.org/denomination-resources">www.chpc.org/denomination-resources</a> Ongoing</p> <p>✓ Session will host Paul Detterman, Executive Director of Presbyterians for Renewal to present information about Fellowship of Presbyterians (FoP) and the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO) - Congregation is invited to attend. 03/6/2013</p> <p>* Session will host Peter Larson, Pastor of Lebanon Presbyterian Church to explain why they have chosen to leave PCUSA for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). Congregation is invited to attend. 03/11/2013</p> <p>* Session will host Erwin Goedicke, Pastor of North Presbyterian Church and Jeff Hosmer, Pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church to discuss why their churches have decided to stay with PCUSA. Congregation is invited to attend. 03/20/2013</p> <p>● The D Team will present to the Congregation and Session their recommendation on denominational affiliation at a "Town Hall" Meeting at CHPC. 04/14/2013</p> <p>● CHPC Session determines if congregation is still called by God to remain in covenant relationship with PCUSA. April 2013</p> <p>● CHPC enters a 30 day period of fasting and prayer to consider our vote. May 2013</p> <p>● Session calls a CHPC Congregational meeting to vote on the outcome of the Discernment Process. June 2013</p>

✓ This step is done

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