

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
At McGees Crossroads - 14664 NC Hwy 210
Angier, NC 27501

May14, 2012

Dear Providence Presbyterian Church Family,

As many of you may be aware our Form of Government changed July 10th 2011, which the denominational standard for determining suitability for ordained church leadership and service now leaves it up to the individual presbyteries (and churches) as to what standards are for the ordination of their ministers (teaching elders) and officers (ruling elders). The PC(USA) New Form of Government has many changes and new augmentations regarding how Christ's church is to conduct itself in the world today.

Historically our congregation has been theologically conservative in regards to matters such as this and we strongly anticipate that very little (if any) will change for Providence Presbyterian Church with respect to the standards we continue to govern ourselves by. However, the changes in our denomination's Book of Order are in conflict with Biblical standards our previous Form of Government upheld.

In response to the direction our denomination has moved toward we feel it is necessary to stand up for the mission and ministry God calls us to in our personal lives and in the life of our community. In so doing we have faithfully sought to reflect upon the resources available to us at this time. As with many other churches we are presented with several opportunities, they are as follows.

1) Remain in the **PCUSA** and continue to work toward reconciliation with those on both sides of the polarizing issues.

2) Remain in the PCUSA and differentiate our particular church along with other theologically conservative churches by affiliating Providence Presbyterian Church with the **Fellowship of Presbyterians**. This organization is solely comprised of theologically conservative / evangelical churches seeking to maintain a wholly authentic relationship in God's church while remaining Biblically centered and seeking our Lord's guidance through scripture as an authentic and still relevant witness to the today.

3) Leave the PCUSA altogether and join another Presbyterian denomination. There are many Presbyterian denominations to choose from such as: **ECO**, EPC, PCA, and many others. Currently the denominations that are theologically similar to PCUSA prior to the changes of 2011 are ECO and EPC. There are changes currently occurring in these two denominations associated with how to better serve those PCUSA churches wishing to leave.

We, the Session of Providence Presbyterian Church, feel God calling us to take a stand (firm in our convictions, traditions, and scripture) by affiliating our church with The Fellowship of Presbyterians. You can find out more at the following link: <http://www.fellowship-pres.org>. Our hearts have been convicted to not sit idly by while our denomination is led counter to what scripture proclaims. Therefore we call upon each and every member of Providence Presbyterian Church to be committed to Christ and His vision for our congregation as stated in our own mission statement:

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*To disciple others in Christ by sharing the gospel through our words and actions;
To nurture existing Christians into a mature faith by worship, fellowship and Christian education; To
prayerfully serve God by worshipping Him through Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit; To
serve our neighbor as Jesus taught us.*

We believe, the Bible teaches us that while we are all sinners, we are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, called to repent of our sins, and be transformed by the Holy Spirit as we live out our faith journey. We believe that all are welcome in the church of Jesus Christ and that the church's leadership is called by God to the higher standard of God's love, the repentance of sin, and to stand up for God's Truth in a world that continues to redefine truth as it pleases.

Our Lord Jesus Christ always has and always will be the Head of His Church here at Providence Presbyterian Church. As we continue in our mission to bring the Gospel to a hurt and broken world, encourage one another in the Holy Spirit, live for Christ in all things, and proclaim the Gospel message in our worship of God the Father and in the world, we seek to do so together as a Family of Faith. As was true yesterday, today and tomorrow only God knows what is in store for any of us in the future. In all things we remain trusting in Him for our lives as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Session of Providence Presbyterian Church 2012

Stephanie Bagley – Elder of Worship
Nathan Dry – Elder of Long Range Planning
Wayne Lamm – Elder of Congregational Care
John Kopanski – Elder of Mission and Outreach
Laura McLamb – Elder of Personnel and Clerk of Session
Gary Phillips – Elder of Christian Education
Atlee Roberts – Elder of Property
Kristy Stephenson – Elder of Finance
Kent Walton - Elder of Fellowship

Rev. Jim Davis- Moderator