

TO: The Presbytery of Grand Canyon, c/o Robert Schulz, Stated Clerk  
FROM: The Administrative Commission for Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church,  
Presbytery of Grand Canyon  
DATE: June 2, 2016  
CC: Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church, c/o John Brockelman, Clerk  
SUBJECT: INTERIM REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

The present document is an interim report of the activities and findings to-date of the Administrative Commission (“the AC”) that has been at work in this Season of Discernment with Fountain Hills Presbyterian Church. The information supplied below was shared with the Session of Fountain Hills on Tuesday, May 31, 2016. Please note that this is an interim report, and no final recommendations or decision(s) are yet taken. The AC sincerely appreciates the time and effort of the congregation that has brought us all to this point, especially the contributions of the Session, and most especially Mr. John Brockelman.

Before we get to the AC’s observations and findings, a few words about the process are in order. The AC first met with Pastor Bill Good and the Session at Fountain Hills on Monday, February 29, 2016. Following that initial meeting, a letter was sent to all members at Fountain Hills, inviting them to participate in a series of small-group meetings. A brief survey was included with that letter. In March and April this year, 12 small-group meetings were held with members at Fountain Hills, and we estimate that approximately 120 members attended these meetings. The purpose of the small-group meetings was for the AC to listen to members’ hopes, dreams and desires for the future of their church, especially whether that future should be with the PC(USA) or another Reformed denomination, such as ECO. Members of the Fountain Hills Session attended almost all of those meetings. The AC collected 107 written surveys, and those survey forms have been shared with the Fountain Hills Session. (Note: it is understood that several couples turned in only one survey form.)

### **Observations and Findings from the Small-Group Meetings**

On the key issue of whether members at Fountain Hills wish dismissal from the PC(USA), 65 survey responses favored dismissal, while 21 responses favored remaining within the PC(USA) and 21 responses were either unsure or did not answer that survey question.

The AC has found that there are significant and deep divisions within the Fountain Hills congregation on the question of whether to leave the PC(USA). Those members wishing to leave the PC(USA) have expressed anger over the actions of the General Assembly in 2014, especially the Authoritative Interpretation (AI) that redefined marriage as between two persons, ordinarily a man and a woman. These folks subscribe to a traditional/conservative theology. They also strongly desire a list of essential tenets of the faith, and generally reject the notion of a