

WHPC Session Response to the General Assembly, 2008

September 23, 2008

The Session of Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church objects to certain actions of the recent 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); especially those reflecting changes in ordination standards, movement toward interfaith relativism, and disregard for our church's constitutional due process.

In response to the decisions of the recent General Assembly, we choose to look to the future and affirm our commitment to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, who calls the Church into being, gives the Church its faith and life by gifts of Word and Spirit, and who alone is the Savior of the world and the Church's Head.

We recognize that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is in crisis in part because our denomination has often lost sight of its apostolic calling to bear witness to Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth, a calling that was the central focus of the New Testament Church. While we expect to remain in our denomination, we intend to refocus on our true calling. We expect to join with other churches in PCUSA in that endeavor through organizations such as Presbyterians for Renewal and the Presbyterian Global Fellowship, whose purposes are to encourage spiritual renewal and engagement with God on mission in the places God has called us.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is moving in our generation, renewing our minds and hearts to our true calling, and creating new communities and networks of faithful disciples of Jesus Christ engaged in the mission of God.

We undertake our calling joyfully, believing that *God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. To him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generation, for ever and ever!* [Ephesians 3:20-21]

Sarah H. Wehner, Clerk of Session

Joseph B. Rightmyer, Interim Senior Pastor