

October 8, 2009

The pastoral team and the dismissal team appointed by the session of Springhill Presbyterian Church met on October 1, 2009, at the Christus Collegium (Center for Campus Ministry) in Bozeman. The meeting was co-moderated by Phil Maxwell of the pastoral team and Chuck Raches of the dismissal team. Other pastoral team members present were Freeman McCall, Jody McDevitt, and Sally Ralston. Other dismissal team members present were Debbie Blackburn, John Grossenbacher, Rick Ramler, and B.J. Otey. Zane Buxton was present as a process observer.

After agreeing to common goals, the group negotiated terms of dismissal of SPC from the Presbytery of Yellowstone to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. An agreement was reached which includes dismissal with property and cash payments to the presbytery. The terms of the settlement also include a covenant not to sue, no recruitment of other PC(USA) congregations, mutual upbuilding (no slander or libel), joint public statements, and submission of original session and congregational minutes to the PC(USA).

Exact terms of the agreement will be made available shortly, along with supportive materials explaining the rationale behind the settlement. This agreement will be presented as a recommendation to the Presbytery by the pastoral team at its November 6-7 meeting in Butte. If the presbytery approves the recommendation, an administrative commission will be elected to complete the legal and ecclesiastical process of dismissal.