

July 16, 2009

Two Town Hall meetings have been held in recent weeks for informational purposes as the congregation of Springhill Presbyterian Church prepares for a vote on **August 30** regarding denominational affiliation.

- On June 28, the Rev. Dr. James Edwards of Whitworth University was present to share his perspective on staying with the PC(U.S.A.). At www.yellowstonepcusa.org, you can listen to what he had to say.
- On July 12, the Rev. Jeff Jeremiah, stated clerk of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, was present to share information about the EPC and answer congregational questions. He encouraged people to learn more about the denomination through the website, www.epc.org.

Upcoming Town Hall meetings are:

- August 2, when speakers from the EPC will be Ruth Bair (addressing women's leadership) and Doug Brown, pastor from Greeley, CO.
- August 16, a meeting requested by the pastoral team for local Presbyterians (speakers and format to be finalized)

The session has elected a "Dismissal Team" to work with the pastoral team on details. This team has affirmed their commitment to an open process of congregational discernment in which minority voices are heard and respected. Their intention is to present several documents and proposals to the pastoral team by August 1.

- a plan of mission including specific intention of joining the EPC and a letter from EPC showing potential for receptivity
- a plan to minister to any minority constituency after the congregational vote is taken, including invitations for these members to join other PC(U.S.A.) churches
- an appraisal report for the property prepared by an independent appraisal firm
- a docket for the August 30 meeting
- a plan for a voting procedure and instruction, including secret ballots
- an assessment and projection as to the effect that Springhill's departure might have on the life and mission of the presbytery.

The next meeting of the Session will be on **Monday, August 10**, at which time the above documents will be on the docket.