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*That all may come to know and enjoy God, His world and each other through Jesus Christ.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Yellowstone Presbytery

For more than a year the congregation of Springhill Presbyterian Church has felt the calling by God to consider leaving the Presbyterian Church (USA) and joining the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. After much prayer, many meetings, informational talks, presentations by the presbytery staff, Pastoral Team and Co-Presbyters of the Yellowstone Presbytery, other members of Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Stated Clerk and other members of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church a vote of our congregation was held on August 30, 2009.

Our decision was governed by prayerful discernment, deep thought and examination by each member of their own conscience, and thorough consideration of all options and consequences and above all where we felt God was leading us. Of 116 active members present who were eligible to vote, 114 voted YES to leaving the PCUSA and joining the EPC, 2 voted NO.

Please understand that we are, and will remain Presbyterians, and like you will continue to worship our Lord Jesus Christ as the Head of our church. You may ask why we are leaving and why we chose the EPC. Extensive research and study of various Presbyterian denominations, their beliefs, sacraments, polity, views on ordination and above all the fact that they believed in the Bible as the infallible word of God led us to the conclusion that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church best suited our congregation. This is the right decision for us alone.

We have the greatest respect and love for all of you and the Yellowstone Presbytery and this decision does not represent any dissatisfaction or unhappiness with any one in the Yellowstone Presbytery. The Co-Presbyters, staff, and elected Pastoral Team have "walked" with us through this prayerful discernment and we thank them all for their guidance, respect and understanding. We are committed to follow the "letter" and "spirit" of the Process for Dismissal approved by the Yellowstone Presbytery in the March 2009 meeting.

It is our prayer and hope that the Pastoral Team will submit a recommendation for Dismissal with property at the next meeting of the Presbytery on November 6-7, 2009 in Butte. We respectfully ask for your support and acceptance of the Pastoral Team recommendation in November so that Springhill Church can follow the will of God.

We will always consider you as "family" and wish you God's blessings. We continue to pray for the Yellowstone Presbytery and all of you and ask for your prayers for the future of Springhill Presbyterian Church.

In the grace of Christ,  
The Session of Springhill Presbyterian Church

