



July 20, 2016

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We understand that some of you have received a packet from the former Session (including former Co-Pastors) of First Presbyterian Church of Seattle (FPCS) in the past few days. It includes grievances that the Administrative Commission (AC) asked to review in January 2016 but that were withheld until now. The letter from Elder Gordy Boyd dated December 1, 2015, was also only sent this week.

We write to correct significant issues in the materials they sent.

They claim that the AC interviewed Elder Jack vanHartesvelt. No such interview occurred. Indeed, Elder vanHartesvelt has said in sworn deposition testimony that he has never spoken with the AC.

They lament that they are feeling overwhelmed by being named individually in the lawsuit. The defendants were named because they are the people who claimed to be trustees of the church, and because of their actions which led to schism in the congregation. They failed to follow the constitution. They failed to be truthful and forthcoming with the congregation. They failed to wisely manage the affairs of the church.

They direct disparaging remarks at Scott Lumsden, Executive Presbyter, and Shelley Dahl, former co-moderator of COM. The members of the AC do not see any merit in those assertions.

The defendants have filed a motion for discretionary review and request for direct review in the Washington Supreme Court. This matter will be set on the Court Commissioner's motion calendar for August 18, 2016.

Brothers and sisters, we request your continued prayers for wisdom, peace, and--most of all--God's will with respect to all these issues. Any of us are available to talk with you. The AC, which is now the session of FPCS, is meeting on Tuesday, August 16, at 2:00 p.m. at the Presbytery offices. Anyone is most welcome to come to that meeting with questions and concerns about the packet or anything else. Please let us know of your attendance so we might have a chair for you.

**Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Seattle**  
1544 South Snoqualmie Street, Seattle, WA 98108  
206.762.1991 / [www.seattlepresbytery.org](http://www.seattlepresbytery.org)

Yours in Christ,

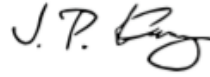
The Administrative Commission/Session of First Presbyterian Church of Seattle



Steve Aeschbacher



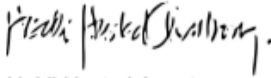
Shelley Dahl



J.P. Kang



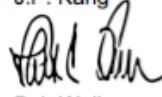
Bill Longbrake



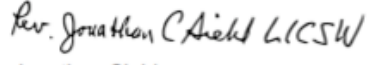
Heidi Husted Armstrong



Kathy Smith



Bob Wallace



Jonathan Siehl

Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Seattle

1544 South Snoqualmie Street, Seattle, WA 98108

206.762.1991 / [www.seattlepresbytery.org](http://www.seattlepresbytery.org)