

From the Session at First Presbyterian Church, Santa Barbara  
January 22, 2013

Policy for a Process for Reconciliation or Gracious Separation of a Congregation from  
the PCUSA

1. The underlined portion of **Line 121** should be deleted.
2. The document is not finished. Clearly the financial guidelines are not there so the document is unclear. The financial guidelines need to be added before the document can be voted on.
3. We support St. Andrews belief that the PRT be made up of 3 people who are **remaining** in PCUSA and that they be **advocates** for PCUSA.
4. **Line 138** will assume that the PRT will be trained **in mediation skills**.
5. **Line 145**: Please insert the following taken from the Presbytery of San Francisco:  
Content of Consultations
  - a. Discussion of the history and significance of the covenant relationship between the PCUSA and its congregations.
  - b. Discussion of the history of the relationship between the specific congregation, the PCUSA and the Presbytery.
  - c. Discussion of special ministries that have been undertaken by the congregation, the Presbytery's appreciation of these ministries, and possible collaboration in these ministries by the Presbytery and/or other congregations.
  - d. Discussion of the practical consequences dismissal would have for the congregation and its pastors.
  - e. Candid and considerate discussion of actions by the Presbytery and the PCUSA that have been disturbing to the congregation, the rationale for these actions, and any possible ways to mitigate the dissatisfaction.
  - f. Discussion of how members can hold true to their deeply and honestly held convictions and still work with members with other views in furtherance of the great ends of the church. This discussion should also include how conflicts over other deeply held convictions have been ameliorated in the past and how future generations of Christians might view present controversies.
6. **Line 204** The final vote of the congregation should be an affirmative vote by **secret ballot**.
7. **Line 248** This line needs clarification. It implies Presbytery's approval of the congregation's decision. There is an implication that the Presbytery has to vote "yes." What would invalidate the request for dismissal?