

June 4, 2007

Presbytery Council, Presbytery Executive, and the Presbyters of Central Washington Presbytery:

Attention: Steve Barker

Moderator of the Presbytery Council

301 North 61st Avenue

Yakima, WA 98908-2723

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: I am writing on behalf of the session of First Presbyterian Church Yakima. We have a rich and wonderful heritage as Presbyterians. We are grateful for our Presbytery and its leadership. In recent years (decades) our unity, identity, foundation, and membership within the national Presbyterian Church USA has been in decline and turmoil. As the leaders of First Presbyterian Church of Yakima, along with many others we know in our Presbytery and around the nation, we believe we can no longer ignore the crisis at the core of our national unity and identity. We request that the Presbytery of Central Washington engage our national body in a constructive, prayerful, hopeful, and honoring manner. As part of this engagement we would ask the Presbytery of Central Washington to study, discuss, debate and vote on the Resolution that has come from the Santa Barbara Presbytery (titled: "**Appropriate Response: A Declaration of Theology and Action Approved by the Presbytery of Santa Barbara February 10, 2007**") (resource available at: <http://sbpres.org/res.html>). We would like to see the conversation and active engagement on how to re-establish the unity, identity, foundation, and membership within the Presbyterian Church USA continue, rather than be set aside for a future time. It is our desire to see a response from the Presbytery of Central Washington in time to overture, or add our support for a like-minded overture to, the June 2008 General Assembly of the PCUSA. We believe now is the time to lovingly engage the national denomination to which we are connected. We believe the "Appropriate Response," while not a perfect document, is the most concise and helpful explanation of the crisis we are in, while also offering constructive steps forward to reclaim the essentials of our foundation for the future. We are available to speak to this directly as a resource for the ongoing conversation and discussion we believe must take place.

Submitted humbly, on behalf of the session of First Presbyterian Church of Yakima, in the name of Jesus,

Curt McFarland

Associate Pastor

First Presbyterian Church of Yakima