

**North Alabama Presbytery  
Administrative Commission  
for  
Central Presbyterian Church**

May 29, 2007

**Final Report to North Alabama Presbytery:**

As you know, on March 10, 2007, North Alabama Presbytery erected this Administrative Commission to manage the lawsuit that had been filed by the trustees of Central Presbyterian Church and to otherwise deal with attempts by the leadership of that congregation to sever ties with our presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

In his letter of March 21, Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell recounted well the formation of the commission and developments in this situation to that date. And on May 10, the Commission gave an update of subsequent events as we sought the presbytery's approval for the Commission to enter mediation to attempt to settle the lawsuit and the underlying dispute.

To some extent, this report will restate some of the matters that were mentioned at the May 10 meeting; but the Commission is pleased to report that mediation process concluded in a settlement, as will be detailed herein.

Subsequent to March 10, the Commission met regularly and attempted to fulfill the mandate of its charge, following the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). There were several, direct, written communications to the congregation and leadership of Central Presbyterian and other indirect communications, too numerous to count, through the attorneys for the respective parties.

Without rehearsing all of these communications, the Commission took the following actions:

- Throughout the course of this matter the Commission has consistently taken the position that, notwithstanding efforts by the leadership of the congregation, the Central Presbyterian Church In the United States of America of Huntsville, Ala. has remained a congregation of the North Alabama Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); those leaders, however, and apparently the majority of the members of the congregation have taken the position that they have disaffiliated from the presbytery and the denomination.
- Prior to taking any other action, the Commission attempted to approach this matter pastorally and with concern for the members of the congregation. Our first action was to contact the membership and invite them to meet with representatives of the Commission to discuss any dissatisfaction with the processes which were followed in the calling of the congregational meeting and the vote to disaffiliate from the denomination, or dissatisfaction with the stated purposes of said meeting and vote. Only a few members came to these meetings, however; and subsequently the commission dissolved the session and assumed original jurisdiction.