



## **EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY**

Synod of the Covenant-Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
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DAN K. SCHOMER  
*General Presbyter*

META S. CRAMER  
*Stated Clerk*

May 14, 2008

Dear Collette Jenkins:

Below please find a press release reporting action of Eastminster Presbytery at its May 13, 2008, stated meeting. I request that you consider reporting this information in the Akron Beacon Journal.

Sincerely yours,  
The Rev. Dr. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter

### **Press Release**

Following eighteen months of discussion with the Stow Presbyterian Church, Eastminster Presbytery approved a covenant between the presbytery and the church that ends the church's relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and permits the congregation to continue its ministry in its present building. Eastminster Presbytery, a regional governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), took action to approve the covenant at its May 13 stated meeting held at the First Presbyterian Church in Hubbard. The action to "dissolve" the congregation effectively severs the ties of the church to the denomination and permits it to continue its ministry as an independent congregation. The presbytery agreed not to pursue property rights to the church facility that is held in trust for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Stow Church agreed to provide a minimum of \$40,000 in direct support to mission causes and projects of Eastminster Presbytery over a five-year period. The spirit of the covenant is revealed in its opening statement: "In recognition of our mutual desires to further the peace, unity, and purity of the larger church, the living body of Christ...."

During the May 13 meeting, questions were raised by presbytery commissioners concerning the different approaches the presbytery has taken in dealing with the Stow and Hudson congregations. Currently a court case continues in Summit County Common Pleas Court in which Eastminster Presbytery claims rights to the Hudson Church property on behalf of the portion of the congregation wishing to remain with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The displaced PC(USA) congregation of 50+ members currently worships at the historic Church on the Green in Hudson. General Presbyter Dan Schomer explains: "There are numerous differences between the two disputes. The Stow Church has no loyal faction. The Hudson Church has a strong core group loyal to the denomination that has formed a vibrant congregation under new pastoral leadership. The Stow Church did not choose the courts to advocate its position. The Hudson Church slapped the presbytery with a temporary restraining order even before the presbytery had an opportunity to discuss a response to the church's vote to disaffiliate with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Given these differences, we seek different outcomes. Our goal for the Presbyterian Church of Hudson, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is that it will someday resume its ministry in its building at 'the point.'"