

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Dana Cadman, Communications Manager - 734-742-2020 x243
dana.cadman@epc.org

Evangelical Presbyterian Church Responds to PCUSA Report

EPC grateful that Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) finds accusation unsubstantiated

Livonia, Mich. – April 28, 2010 – A task force report from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (PCUSA) has determined that an accusation made by its Presbytery of Peace River against the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) regarding the alleged solicitations of congregations is unsubstantiated.

In 2008, the Presbytery of Peace River, a presbytery of the PCUSA, made an overture accusing the EPC, a Protestant Reformed denomination, of "actively pursuing a strategy to persuade Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches disaffiliate with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and be dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church."

The PCUSA Committee on Ecumenical Relations formed a task force to investigate the accusation. The task force made its report public on Thursday, April 22. The leadership of the EPC is grateful that the task force confirmed that there was no evidence to substantiate the accusations of Peace River Presbytery. The EPC also appreciated the report's call for a better relationship and improved communication between the two Presbyterian denominations.

However, the EPC did have concerns about other findings of the task force's report. For example, the report states "other leaders from within the EPC were also willing to speak to PCUSA congregations, when a session had invited them in, often showing the PCUSA in a less than flattering light." The task force had the opportunity to present this finding to EPC leadership in a meeting on January 15, but chose not to. The task force has also provided no supporting evidence for this assertion.

Even though the task force report has been made public, the PCUSA General Assembly has not yet met to review, vote on, or act on the assessments or recommendations of the report. The EPC has decided it would be inappropriate to make any further responses to the report until it has been reviewed, amended (if necessary), and approved by the PCUSA General Assembly, which won't meet until July.

More than 100,000 people attend 275 EPC churches nationwide. To learn more about the EPC, visit www.EPC.org.

More than 2 million people attend 10,700 PCUSA churches nationwide. To learn more about the PCUSA, visit www.PCUSA.org.

#####