

April 6, 2014

Dear Congregation of Centreville Presbyterian Church,

Two words that are used to describe Jesus is he was, and is, full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Jesus did not come to strike a balance between grace and truth. He brought a full measure of both. We see these traits as he deals with an array of people during his ministry whether it was with a woman caught in adultery (John 8) or a despised chief tax collector (Luke 19).

The church, as Christ's body, is also to embody this fullness of grace and truth. We believe that if we really care for people we must approach them with grace, affirm their importance to God, and then tell them the truth of God's word. Grace and truth are important for us as a congregation to keep in mind as we respond to some difficult issues that our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), is dealing with.

The session, your elected spiritual leaders, would like to begin a church-wide dialogue as our denomination moves toward the 221st General Assembly this summer and considers proposals to redefine marriage. It is our desire to know and obey God's will for us as individuals and for Centreville Presbyterian Church.

Our plan is to begin a dialogue with a discussion of CPC's history related to this topic (History White Paper) and what the bible says (Theology White Paper). We will also provide a resource to explain our denomination, our constitution, and how changes are made (Polity White Paper).

We know you must have questions like we do. We don't have all the answers. We are praying, reading the bible, asking God to help us love others, and asking for wisdom to know and speak truth. We ask that you join us as we pray for and seek to discern God's will.

We will be continuing our dialogue in May with a sermon series on what the bible says about marriage along with a related class during the Sunday School hour. If you have questions or comments, the elders are eager to listen. If you'd like to communicate by email, please email clerk@centrevillepres.com.

Your 2014 Session,

Sharon Barfield, Teri Bishop (clerk), Steve Boyles, Jim Bruton, Glenn Downer, John Evans, Brad Gardner, Jean Hartman, Bill Hudspeth, Willie McIntosh, Tony Polizzi, Rev. J. Robin Bromhead and Rev. Dr. Jesse Mabanglo