



WE HAVE A VISION TO SHARE!

Dear Clerk of Session,

At the January 16, 2010 Presbytery meeting at Faith Presbyterian Church, Sun City, you will get a chance to help shape and vote on a vision for our denomination. Desert Hills' vision is contained in the four overtures we sent to the Presbytery and if approved will be sent on to the General Assembly. We would like to discuss these overtures with your session or church representatives.

Enclosed you will find the "Social Creed for the Twenty-First Century" that was approved by the 2008 General Assembly. There is brief background information on the back and a list of some websites for you to find additional information. We believe that our church and the denomination need to be a place where diversity of opinion and perspective on social and political issues are appreciated. We want a denomination where we strive to live together with different social and political views rather than making members feel they must conform to, or financially support, a particular "Social Creed" in order to be Presbyterian.

The way we can influence the trend in our denomination is through the process called "overture." We sent four overtures on October 8th to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Grand Canyon. They were referred to the Bills and Overtures Committee of the presbytery and officially presented to the Presbytery at the November 14th meeting in Gilbert. Our overtures contain our vision for the PCUSA and for our presbytery.

- A vision that enables us all to be "responsive to the diversity within the church and world" on political views.
- A vision that ensures greater participation in, and ownership of, the denomination's political and social proclamations to the world
- A vision that is built around key Christian principles that have historically shaped our Reformed Faith and Social Witness.
- A vision that strives to reduce bureaucracy and empower local congregations to play a greater role in starting new churches, supporting each other in redeveloping and revitalizing ministries, and partnering for social witness.

We would like to engage in a conversation with you and explain why we are casting this vision and what it looks like. We would like to meet with you and representatives from your church to hear your thoughts and opinions as well. We are willing to meet in person, via conference call, or through email discussion. Perhaps you may be willing to host a presentation and time of sharing for churches in your area from our presbytery?

We thank you for carefully considering these overtures. We will be contacting you to answer questions and set up a possible time to discuss our vision.

Peace in Christ,
The Session of Desert Hills Pres. Church

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