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Information for the Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva to be held at The Presbyterian Church in Geneva on June 27, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

This Special Meeting is being called to consider the following motion from the Committee on Ministry:

The Committee on Ministry **moves** that the Presbytery of Geneva create an Administrative Commission with original jurisdiction for Park Presbyterian Church in Newark, New York. The powers of the Administrative Commission shall include, but not be limited to:

- The activities normally administered by the Session
- Providing pulpit supply and pastoral care leaders for the congregation
- Developing leadership within the church
- Developing rules of conduct and a culture of civility
- Working toward reconciliation, as possible, including the use of professionals
- Ending legalistic means of controlling the church
- Consideration of the possible options for Park Presbyterian Church in light of G-3.0303b
- The provision of retreats, workshops, and other healing events for the current Session and congregational members

The membership of the Administrative Commission shall be announced as soon as members are secured. The Administrative Commission would begin on July 1, 2013.

Background Information:

The situation at Park Presbyterian Church has been a growing conflict for many months. The Committee on Ministry has been involved since January of 2013. Several meetings with Session,

including two meetings that included members of the congregation who were unhappy with the current leadership of the church, were moderated with an outside facilitator. Attempts to create a covenant of agreement between the current Session and those members of the congregation failed. Two Town Hall meetings were held at which members of the congregation could ask questions. Information was shared with the congregation about questions that were raised. However, the conflict continued to escalate.

At the Annual Meeting, five (5) new members of Session were elected. These people have been trained. Some of them have been scheduled for examination. No installations have occurred. A petition was also submitted to the Session asking for a meeting of the congregation to consider the dissolution of the call with the current pastor. Session has been responding to these events in compliance with the information provided by the Office of the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). However, the tension within the congregation has risen to a critical level.

The Committee on Ministry is recommending this action to the Presbytery as a means of attempting to lower the tension within the congregation and to seek reconciliation and healing to whatever extent is possible. This is not meant to be an endorsement of one side or another. It is the hope of the Committee on Ministry that the peace, unity, and purity of the church will be considered by the Administrative Commission in taking any further action within Park Presbyterian Church.

Given the nature of this recommended action, the Committee on Ministry further recommends that the Presbytery of Geneva provide for guests to be allowed voice, although not vote, for this meeting. Members of the congregation of the Park Presbyterian Church will be notified of the proposed recommendation in order to allow for their participation. The Committee on Ministry will be preparing further information to be shared on the floor in support of this motion.