

Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church  
Covenant of Gracious Separation and Dismissal

Requesting the Presbytery of Carlisle to amend/replace the INTRODUCTION paragraphs.

From Brad Bradburn, TE

I am troubled by the INTRODUCTION as presented. It appears to label our Presbytery and the PCUSA as illegitimate with regard to our biblical interpretation and our responses to contemporary challenges received through the Holy Spirit.

I am in favor of dismissing the Warfordsburg church as requested. I do ask that approval be withheld until the INTRODUCTION is written without prejudice against the Presbytery of Carlisle and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) I offer the following replacement paragraphs for consideration:

## INTRODUCTION

For more than a decade the congregation of the Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church has found itself at odds with the Presbytery of Carlisle and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. Some actions of these church councils regarding biblical interpretation and the application of scriptural principles to social issues and church polity were seen as misguided. In particular, the 2011 Presbytery action permitting same gender marriages, subject to Session approval, to be performed in Presbyterian Churches was found unacceptable. (Footnote: See Denominational Discernment Timeline below)

Beginning in March 2021 conversations were held within the congregation and within the Session in order to discern a way forward. Starting in December 2021 various meetings were held within the Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church and with Presbytery representatives in a discernment process. Information was shared within the congregation. Ultimately the option of affiliation with another reformed denomination was felt to be the faithful theological and biblical path forward. In March 2023 the congregation voted in favor of dismissal from Presbyterian Church USA. Therefore the Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of Carlisle enter into this Covenant of Gracious Separation and Dismissal, marking the end of our denominational affiliation and covenanting as set forth below.

ARTICLE 1 .....etc.