

What is in a Name?

Our first "Letter to the PC(USA)," sent out in early February, referred to the formation of "The Fellowship"; a working name for a new movement that was testing the waters with new ideas, new vision, hope, prayer, and possibilities. *Koinonia* — true "fellowship" deeply rooted in mutually held convictions about Christ and Scripture that nurtures trust and inspires new levels of commitment to evangelistic mission — has always been central to our vision for new ways of "being" church. The original addition of "PC(USA)" identified our starting point.

As we continue to grow in number and begin to clarify our focus, however, it may be confusing to keep "PC(USA)" in our name, as our core commitment is not to renewing the structure and systems of our denominational bureaucracy, nor is our sole focus on congregations remaining within the PC(USA). At the same time, we honor and claim our theological and confessional heritage as Presbyterians. And so, as we complete the final stages of incorporation as a 501(c)3 organization, we officially announce our name: "The Fellowship of Presbyterians."

As part of this evolving identity, our web address has also been modified to www.fellowship-pres.org (please update your bookmarks). We also have a new logo. Central in our logo is the Celtic cross, anchoring every aspect of the Fellowship's identity in our resurrected Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and marking this movement as a contemporary expression of our Presbyterian heritage. Behind the cross is what first appears to be an arrow, a reminder that the movement of our efforts must always be forward and our focus must always be outward. But that portion of the logo also represents an opened Bible, revealing God's plan and purpose, the first and final authority in all matters of life and ministry.

A modified name and a new logo may not seem critically important in these times of denominational crisis and competing values, but they symbolize a deeper reality. To date, more than 1,200 people have indicated their support of this fledgling movement now called "The Fellowship of Presbyterians." We thank God for these people because their support indicates their conviction to uphold orthodox Christian faith and their willingness to do the hard work of discerning together what God is doing in these unpredictable times. As we prayerfully anticipate the Gathering of nearly 2,000 Presbyterians in Minneapolis, we hope this name and logo will also affirm and direct the vision God placed in the hearts of seven pastors over a year ago that is now a growing movement into a new reality.