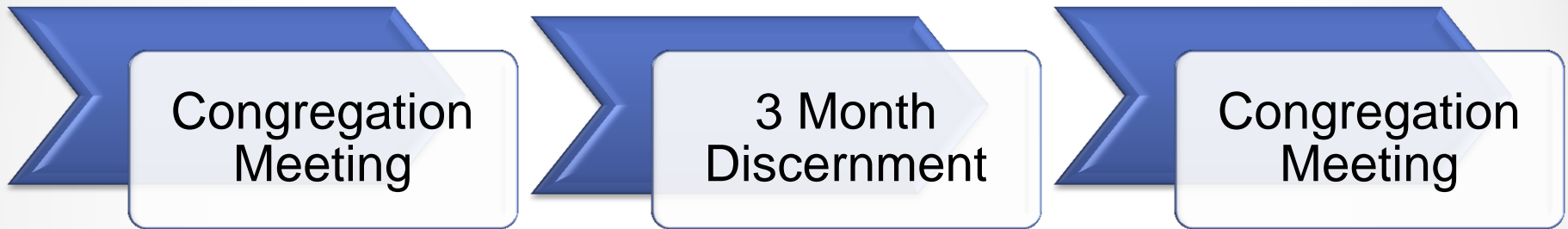


Welcome Members Of The Presbyterian Church

Process for Discernment

The steps and process for discerning a decision to stay or leave the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will take some time.

The Process Includes:



Possible town hall gatherings to discuss the issues or concerns of the congregations.

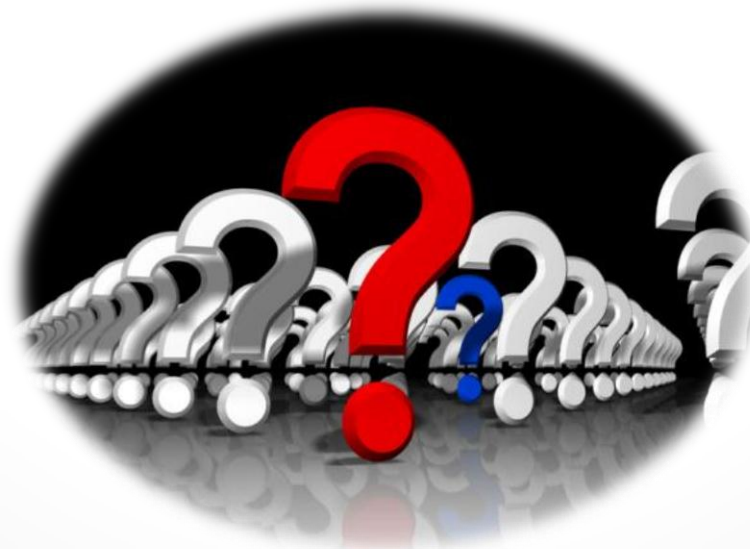
First Congregational Meeting

Members of the Session may present their reasons for requesting dismissal.

The Presbytery members who are part of the Presbytery Response Team (PRT) will answer questions today about process.

First Congregational Meeting:

Questions about specific theological, moral and polity issues will be taken today but answers will be deferred to future town hall and other forums.



First Congregational Meeting:

Questions about the discernment process will be answered today

Calendaring of future meetings will be distributed and the meeting will end in a time of prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the peace, unity and purity of the church.

First Congregational Meeting

There will be no official vote however, a straw vote or survey may be taken.

Required quorum of active membership present.



The Question To Be Considered:

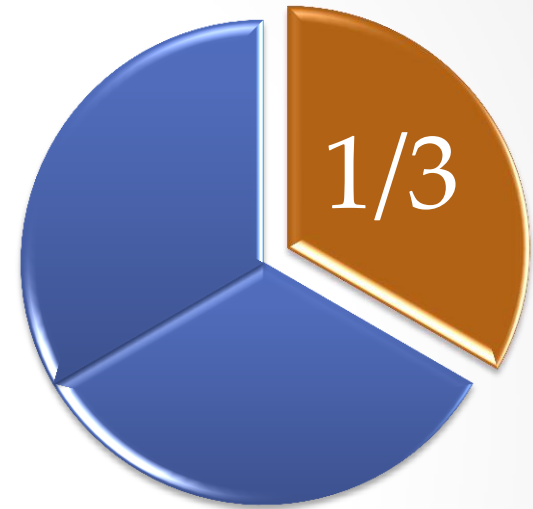
"Shall our congregation request dismissal
from the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
to another
Reformed denomination?"

Discerning Your Decision:

A three-month period of prayer and discernment will separate the first and second congregational meetings.

Second Congregational Meeting

Required quorum of the active membership present.



The PRT along with related Presbytery staff shall be present throughout and shall have the right to speak.

The Question To Be Discussed And Decided:

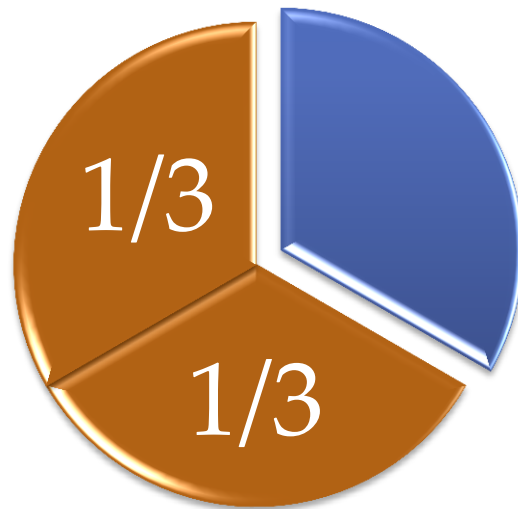
"Shall our congregation request dismissal to another Reformed body of its choice?"

After discussion and prayer, a secret written ballot shall be taken on this question, the only choices being:

Request Dismissal

Do Not Request Dismissal

If two-thirds ($2/3$) of those active members present and voting, vote to request dismissal, the request shall go to the Presbytery.



Congregational Concerns

A congregation that is convinced that to be faithful to the Lord Jesus they must disassociate from the PC(U.S.A.) and Tropical Florida Presbytery should do so in a way that seeks to promote the unity of that congregation.

Closely divided congregations should remain as they are, and where they are, as a consensus has not yet been achieved.

The Church Property

At the 2nd Congregational meeting, if the voting results in at least 80% of the gathered congregation favoring dismissal from the PC(U.S.A.), the PRT will recommend that the congregation be allowed to depart with their property.



Congregations who cannot achieve a high level of unity but still demonstrate high majorities desiring to depart (at least 66%) can still do so with their property.

However, a property settlement must be arranged with the PRT that provides an appropriate settlement for the worship needs of those who wish to remain in the PC(U.S.A.)

Status of Members of the Congregation

Once the congregation has discerned this decision and has voted their choice to stay or leave the PC(U.S.A.)

Then each member will be contacted regarding their membership status by the Clerk of the Session, who will notify the office of the Presbytery.

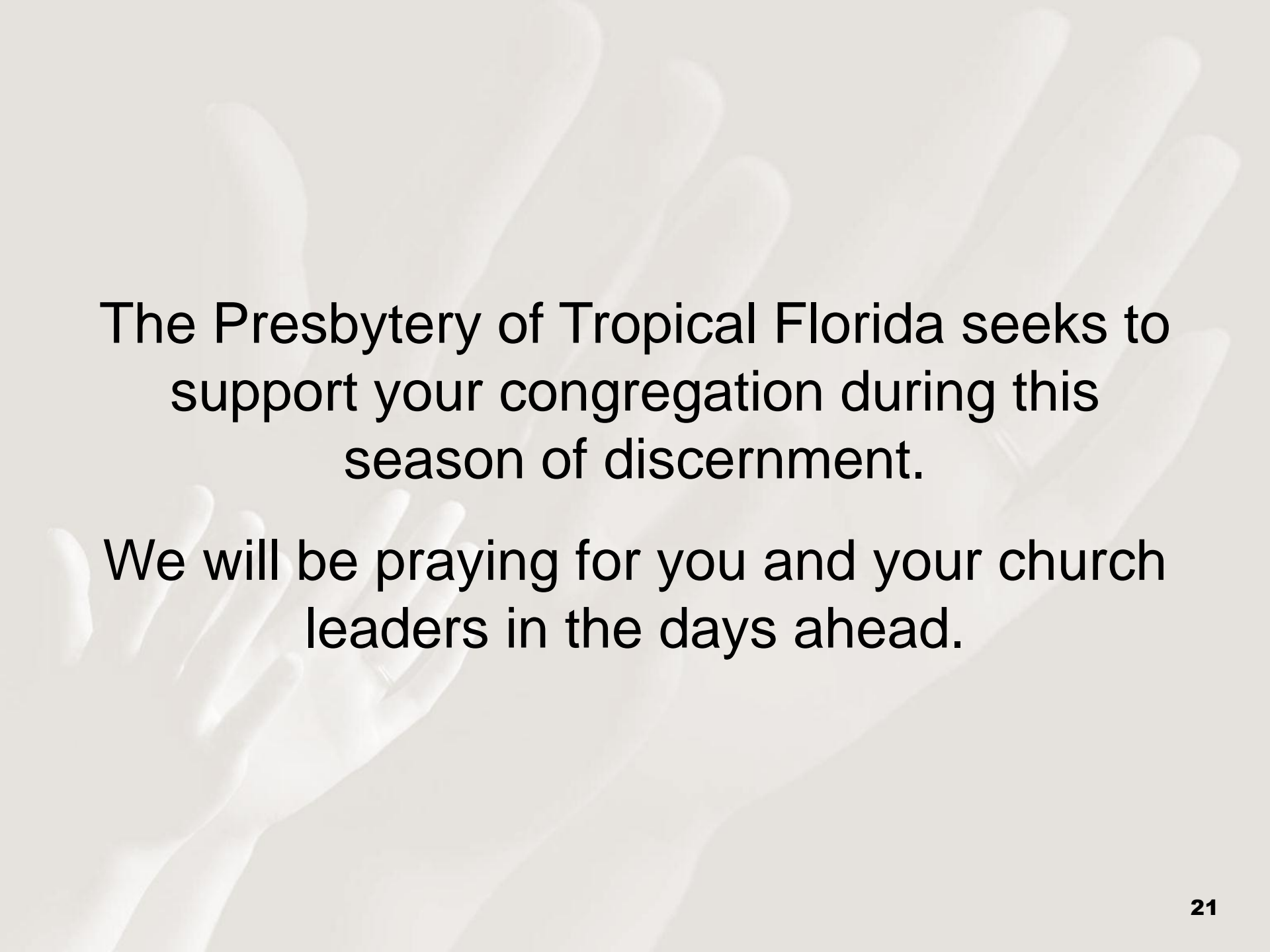
Departure

A final worship service will be conducted in which representatives of the Presbytery, the congregation and the new Reformed denomination will meet, worship, and transfer the congregation to its new denominational home.



As part of this worship gathering, both representatives of the Presbytery and the departing congregation will:

- offer prayers on each other's behalf
- give thanks for the years of ministry shared together
- share words of blessing even as we go separate ways



The Presbytery of Tropical Florida seeks to support your congregation during this season of discernment.

We will be praying for you and your church leaders in the days ahead.