

Move to approve in principle a “Joint Congregational Witness” between First Presbyterian Church of Bushnell and the Bushnell Methodist Church (G-5.05). The following key elements agree upon by the two congregations are

1. To use both buildings and alternate worship site every three months.
2. To have the present Methodist pastor become the pastor of the federate/union congregation.

Move to form an Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Bushnell

1. To assist in finalizing a plan for a Joint Congregational Witness that confirms with (G-5.05).
2. To exercise the Presbytery’s authority to approve “control the location of new congregations and of congregations desiring to move as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve the congregation in consultation with their members;” (G-3.0303b) and to approve a shared ministry agreement with another congregation.
3. To have Presbytery authority in forming a union or federated congregation. (G-3.0109 b. 4)
4. To report its work and all actions to the Presbytery for ratification.
5. To have Presbytery authority in executing the plan.
6. To assist the congregation in discerning its future if this plan for Joint Congregational Witness does not go through.

. The Presbytery Moderator nominates to serve on this Administrative Commission:

Background Information:

1. Conversations with the Methodist congregation began in November, 2021.
2. Both Methodist and Presbyterian congregations’ leadership has approved the movement to a “Joint Congregational Witness”
3. The Methodist District Superintendent has approved the Joint Witness.
4. The pastor at the Methodist Church is willing to be pastor for the Joint Witness and both leadership groups have approved having him serve the Joint Congregation.
5. The congregation of First Presbyterian has approved the movement to a Joint witness with the Methodist.
6. The Methodist Congregation votes the third week of February.
7. Complicating working out an agreement is the likely split in the Methodist denomination.
8. An administrative commission can move more quickly than the Presbytery in establishing a union/federated congregation.