

Going Forward Background

In 2005, the Session of Hebron voted to join the New Wineskins Association of Churches because we were concerned about some decisions made at our denomination's General Assembly. The main purpose of the Wineskins was to develop a network of churches that would determine ways to serve Christ that would not be subject to the whims of the PCUSA. We closely monitored the actions of the denomination as a whole and the actions of a small but vocal minority that has been pushing the denomination away from its Biblical foundations. We also watched other churches within the New Wineskins Association and monitored their decisions and actions.

In addition to joining the NWAC, Session formed Hebron's own New Wineskin Taskforce and charged them with the responsibility of preparing and disseminating denominational information to the Session and congregation. Throughout the next 2 years numerous meetings were held with Presbytery and other local churches, several congregational gatherings were conducted with representatives of the NWAC and Presbytery, and many hours were spent working and praying together. A number of options were examined in detail – options for the future denominational direction of Hebron. Through it all our commitment was to seek the will of God for Hebron and lead in His direction and not our own.

As a result of many months of prayer and discussion, the Session, voted on Monday, August 18, 2008 to adopt the following resolution: “Although we don't agree with the recent decisions of the General Assembly, after prayerful consideration, we determine not to leave the PCUSA at this time. Our purpose in staying is to protest the doctrinal drift by witnessing to the Truth and the claims of Christ, by rebuking those who seek to propound error, and by radiating the love of Christ in word and deed.”

A specific plan of action was developed that involves the Session and the congregation to make our voice heard both within the larger church and within our own community. We want all to know that Hebron is a scripturally-based church that confesses Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and that upholds the basic tenets of our reformed faith.

Standing firm and witnessing to the truth is and will continue to be a challenge but then being a light for Christ has never been easy in a dark world.