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Houston Church Planting Network Residency Program Board
c/o Chad Clarkson

To the Members of the Board,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Houston confirmed its commitment to the HCPN Collaborative Church Planting Residency Program as a mission partner for our 2016 fiscal year during the Session's regular meeting on August 11. The Session reviews this and other mission commitments annually. You should receive our fiscal year 2016 payment of \$100,000 in support of the Residency Program in the near future.

When we agreed to serve as an anchor church in founding the Residency Program, it was to further the kingdom of God through training future church planters and to provide us an opportunity to learn how to plant new worship communities successfully in the greater Houston area. First Presbyterian Church, Houston's vision for our church planting efforts is that we plant churches structured in a manner consistent with our denominational distinctives and governance.

We believe that our 175 years of leadership among churches in Houston gives us something to share into the Residency Program, namely, how First Presbyterian Church, Houston has been blessed by the active participation of women in ordained leadership – as teaching elders and ruling elders – both within our church and within our denomination. When the time comes, we will plant churches that are egalitarian in government and in all areas of leadership. It is possible, perhaps even likely, that some of the church planters rising from within our congregation and its friends will be women. We would like to see the Residency Program become a resource and an avenue for training for both men and women who are led to establish these new churches.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that the Board of the HCPN Collaborative Church Planting Residency Program revise its admission policies to permit the admission of women into the Residency Program and to admit into each class of the Residency Program participants who express an intention to plant egalitarian churches as well as those who intend to plant non-egalitarian churches.

It is our hope that the Residency Program Board and its various sustaining partners would recognize and attain the blessings such changes would bring to the program.

We look forward to hearing your response to these requests.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David McCarty".

David McCarty
Clerk of Session
First Presbyterian Church, Houston