



July 11, 2016

Dear Friends,

What does it mean to be a member of Fremont? When do we have an annual congregational meeting, and who moderates it? Does Fremont have a board of deacons or a nominating committee? The answers to these questions and more are found in Fremont's Bylaws. Although our denomination's *Book of Order* says a lot about how Fremont must operate, there is also a great deal of latitude given for us to have Bylaws that further organize and support the ministries of our church.

Your Session has determined that Fremont's existing Bylaws would benefit from a few updates. This is for a number of reasons. *First*, we think it makes sense to allow the Session to schedule our annual congregational meetings at any time during the year, including in October when we already meet to elect officers. *Second*, our denomination has recommended that every EPC church add some language to its bylaws to help protect against lawsuits related to the use of church property. *Third*, there are some places where the existing bylaws can be enhanced based on how Fremont has operated over the past few years. These enhancements add clarity. They do not alter the number or service of elders, deacons, or members of the nominating committee.

At its June 28, 2016 meeting, the Session voted to recommend that the congregation adopt the enclosed restatement of the Bylaws, which includes all of the proposed amendments. **The updated Bylaws will be voted on at a called congregational meeting on Sunday, August 14, 2016 at 4:00 pm.** Any other proposed actions relating to the church organization will be included in the official call. Children's programs (through 5<sup>th</sup> grade) will be provided and the meeting will be followed by an ice cream social for the whole church family.

Please read and consider these documents. We welcome your input and questions. You may contact any member of Session about the proposal.

With Great Affection in Christ,

*THE SESSION OF FREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*