

Dear Mr. John M.:

Each of us on Presbytery's Ad Hoc Committee for the appeal of the matter of New Hope Session and Mr. Jason R. received the same letter from you. A representative of the New Hope Session previously requested and received assurances that our Committee would not be in communications separately with Mr. Jason R. or his representatives about the merits of the appeal without providing notice to the New Hope Session. The Committee believes that even-handedness requires that the same approach apply to communications initiated by representatives of New Hope Session.

We recognize that you characterize your letter as private communications unrelated to the substance of the appeal, and each of us ordinarily would be inclined to treat personal correspondence as personal. Your letter, however, questions whether the Presbytery will act impartially in this matter, requests assurances that Presbytery will act impartially, and addresses prospects for an appeal based upon instances of alleged bias in the prior meeting of Presbytery. These matters, of course, relate directly to the merits of the proceeding before the Presbytery and conceivably could determine its outcome. Moreover, the assurances requested fall beyond our remit as an ad hoc committee of Presbytery, no matter how confident we might be that Presbytery will act appropriately.

Accordingly, we have furnished a copy of the text of your letter to the Moderator and Clerk of Presbytery with recommendations as to its disposition. A copy of that correspondence is attached.

Sincerely yours,

Clerk, Ad Hoc Committee