



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

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**Statement by John Detterick, outgoing Executive Director, General Assembly Council, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to the 217th General Assembly (2006), regarding the gift by Stanley Anderson**

June 21, 2006, Birmingham, AL – As many of you know, there was an article this morning in the *Denver Post*, with part of it carried in the Birmingham paper that cast serious doubt on Stan Anderson’s ability to fulfill the \$150 million pledge he’s made to the church.

I spoke with the [*Post*] reporter yesterday, who began the conversation by saying, “Have you checked out Stan’s ability to make the gift?” I said, “No, I know him to be a man of integrity.” He said, “Well, you know that he lives in a very modest house in a modest neighborhood.” I said, “Yes, that’s Stan Anderson.”

Then the article does go on to talk about serious financial concerns. Following my conversation with the reporter, I talked to Stan yesterday afternoon and again about 30 minutes ago this morning. Stan has said to me what he said to the newspaper reporter, which was that “I would not make a promise to my church that I am not able to fulfill.” Stan has assured me again that he will keep his promise.

I know that the news article is of great disappointment to many people who have been excited about that prospect. The agreement provides that the funds will be in place by the end of this November, and that’s before any processing of applications start. I’m quite confident that, this fall, those who are disappointed now, when they see there are funds in the account—that the money is there—they will regain the excitement many of us have about this gift.

In the church, unlike a business that oftentimes requires verification of capability when people make a pledge of a gift to the church, we accept that gift, we accept that pledge, with gratitude and grace. And I pray that we will continue to accept Stan’s promise with gratitude and grace as we move forward in this process.