

CHURCH PROPERTY

Selling
Encumbering
Leasing

Questions about how to sell, mortgage or lease property are the most common ones addressed to this stated clerk. Most Presbyterians are aware that permission is needed before church property is bought, sold or mortgaged. Uncertainty regarding the exact process seems to be the question. (G-0501)

The process for the Presbytery of Arkansas is this:

- Session of local congregation decides to sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise encumber any of its real property;
- Session calls a congregational meeting to vote on this decision, clearly stating and explaining the item to be voted and giving public notice of the meeting on two successive Sundays;
- After a duly called congregational meeting and an affirmative vote of the congregation, the session contacts the stated clerk asking the permission of the presbytery, stating clearly the date and vote of the congregation, and the request being made;
- Upon receiving the communication from the session the presbytery will take action upon the request at the next presbytery meeting and will notify the session of that action.

Our property is one of our best mission tools. We look upon this action of presbytery as a gift of stewardship. Our polity understands that all property is held in trust for the use and benefit of the larger church in order to glorify God and to build up the body of Christ. (G-8.0201)