

The Center Steering Committee Report to the Baltimore Presbytery
Funds Disbursement Plan
November 9, 2023

Rationale

The Baltimore Presbytery's Mission as expressed in the Strategic Plan is "to encourage, challenge, support and equip our leaders and congregations". The Center's mission focuses that mission more specifically "to inspire and equip individuals and congregations to engage boldly with their neighborhoods". For both the Presbytery and The Center promoting justice is a core value.

The work of The Center helped people learn about the injustices of red lining – a legacy of racial injustice that continues to impact people and communities today.

In June of 2022, the General Assembly approved an overture making an apology for the sin of slavery. This overture commits the PC(USA) to restorative justice/reparations and for congregations, presbyteries, and synods to enact restorative justice measures in their communities that will close gaps in economics, health, education, environmental well-being, and the criminal justice system created out of the legacy of slavery and white supremacy.

The Center wishes its legacy to enable restorative justice and to equip BIPOC congregations in this work.

Funds Distribution Plan

The balance of "The Center Restricted" funds as of November 3, 2023 is \$180,303.77. The plan for distributing the funds is:

- \$1000 to each of the 3 churches who participated in our new building exploration process in thanks for their work and their willingness to envision new things.
- \$4000 to each of the historically black churches in the Presbytery to immediately enable restorative work.
- The remaining funds will go to the Commission on Reconciliation for the establishment of a Fund for Reparative Actions

The Fund for Reparative Actions (The Fund):

- Distribution of funds will be administered by the Dismantling Racism Team, a special committee of the COR, for the benefit of people and communities of color within the bounds of the Presbytery of Baltimore.
- The Fund will issue grants to support BIPOC-majority congregations for the purposes of working to address areas impacted by structural racism, to include housing, health care, education, environment, and the economy/business.

Although The Fund may receive funding from other sources for the purpose of reparative actions, the funds received from The Center are to be disbursed only in accordance with the guidelines outline above.

The Commission on Reconciliation will report annually to the Presbytery the amount and purpose of grants made from the Fund for Reparative Action.

Attachment for Reference

Presbytery Strategic Plan

Mission

To encourage, challenge, support and equip our leaders and congregations

Vision

- Empowering leaders
- Engaging churches
- Embodying justice and inclusivity in the name of Christ

Core Values

- Promoting Justice
- Practicing Inclusivity
- Prioritizing Churches and Leaders to Thrive

Strategic Priorities

1. Strong, sustainable resourced congregations
2. An inclusive, just organization where all have equal voice and access
3. An energized, adaptive Presbytery ready to witness the movement of the Spirit
4. Healthy pastors with resources for spiritual, mental and emotional health
5. A culture of coaching and learning for clergy and lay leaders

The Center Mission and Vision

Mission Statement: To inspire and equip individuals and congregations to engage boldly with their neighborhoods - to get involved where Christ's love and justice are already at work.

Vision Statement: Just communities and thriving congregations.