

The Dismantling Racism Team of the Presbytery of Baltimore with endorsement by the Commission on Reconciliation propose:

MOTIONS

- 5. THAT the Presbytery of Baltimore create a Reparative Justice Fund (The Fund) for the purpose of repairing historic harms through financial support for the self-development of Black congregations and communities. The fund will prioritize the six historically and majority Black churches of the Presbytery of Baltimore¹, while also extending to Black neighborhoods and communities within the geographic boundaries of the Presbytery of Baltimore. At least 25% and up to one third of the Fund will be designated in support of the six PCUSA congregations.**
and
That the Reparative Justice Fund be separately incorporated and directed by an independent Board of Directors composed of leaders from among the Presbytery of Baltimore churches and within the impacted communities. The articles of incorporation and founding board members to be approved by the presbytery. The Board² will have sole authority for directing the distribution of funds within the stated purposes of the initiative.
- 6. THAT the Presbytery of Baltimore commit and release 15% of the net assets without donor restrictions or designations held by the Trustees of the Presbytery of Baltimore, Inc. to establish the Reparative Justice Fund. In addition, 15% of the Mission/Abbott and Urban/Arlington designated funds will be released, in keeping with their initial stated purpose. The actual amount to be determined based on the reconciled balances of these net assets as of December 31, 2025³ as stated on the Trustee Fund Reconciliation report.**
and
That these funds shall be distributed in two equal installments: the first on June 1, 2026, and the second on June 1, 2027. These funds will continue to be invested and managed by the Trustees of the Presbytery of Baltimore, Inc. until such time as the newly established corporation is able to lawfully receive them.
- 7. THAT the Presbytery of Baltimore commit and release the Reparative Actions Fund Reserve⁴ created by the legacy of The Center, and including any subsequent contributions, to the Reparative Justice Fund.**

¹ The six churches are: Cherry Hill Community Presbyterian, Grace Presbyterian, Knox Presbyterian, Lochearn Presbyterian, Madison Avenue Presbyterian, and Trinity Presbyterian.

² The current thinking is to have a Board with 9 members: 4 from within the Presbytery and 5 from the wider Black/African American community within the geographical bounds of the Presbytery.

³ For illustration: **as of June 30, 2025**, the sum of the unrestricted net assets without designations (\$12,755,409) and the Mission Abbot & Urban Arlington Funds totaled \$14,724,368. Therefore, 15% would have been \$ 2,208,655.

⁴ As of July 31, 2025 there was \$153,413.77 in the Reparative Actions Fund.

8. That the Manual of the Presbytery of Baltimore section 9.6.5, be amended effective December 31, 2025, to read: (requires at 2/3 vote)

*After the obligations as required by each particular sale have been met, the Trustees are to place 45% of the net proceeds into the Enduring Witness Fund, ~~and~~ 15% into The Emergency Assistance Grant Fund, **and transfer 10% to the Reparative Justice Fund.** The Trustees shall invest and manage the remaining monies in accordance with their duties⁵. Any expenditure of these remaining funds requires approval of the Presbytery, upon receipt of the advice of the Trustees and the Steering Cabinet.*

9. THAT the Dismantling Racism Team, working with the Commission on Reconciliation, be directed to organize working groups to draft Articles of Incorporation and relevant guidelines, the incorporating board composition, and nominees to the incorporating Board for approval by the Presbytery at the 911th Meeting of the Presbytery of Baltimore in May 2026.

and

THAT the Dismantling Racism Team, working with others as appropriate, provide educational materials and outreach to churches and individuals, encouraging them to contribute to the Reparative Justice Fund and supporting their own efforts toward racial justice.

Additional Notes:

A timeline of the future work to be done is included in the meeting papers. This includes: consulting with attorneys, the Maryland Association of Nonprofits and others with relevant experience in establishing a Charitable Trust or similar charitable entity, the drafting of the articles of incorporation, and the nomination of incorporating board members.

The work to repair historic harms is iterative and ongoing. Therefore, we call on individual congregations and the Presbytery of Baltimore to continue this difficult but vital work to recover historical memory, repent of wrongdoing, repair harm done, and seek reconciliation. We invite congregations and individuals to contribute a portion of their wealth toward this important work of repair.

⁵ The Manual currently designates 45% to Enduring Witness Fund and 15% to the Emergency Assistance Property Fund. The remaining 40% is undesignated.