

To: Pastor Paul Hahn and the Session of Pacific Crossroads Church
From: The Brothers of the Pacific Presbytery

August 7, 2021

Dear Session of Pacific Crossroads Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your letter of August 5, 2021 to Pacific Presbytery informing us about the congregational meetings regarding TE Rankin Wilbourne's discipline by presbytery and departure from PCC. We are grieved to learn of the pain that you and many in your congregation have suffered, and regret that it was prolonged due to the pandemic that arose at the same time. We sympathize with the frustration that you must feel at the loss of a beloved pastor and understand why you would question our love for you. But while PCC has the right to withdraw from associating with us, your departure would break our hearts--and our hope is that you would consider us as family in the same way as we do you, and so be willing to stay and work through the problems that have been exposed over the past several months.

We are humbled by your request for our forgiveness and readily grant your request. We hope that your acknowledgement of issues from the past will incline you to believe that our actions with regard to TE Wilbourne were done out of love both for him and for you. We did not initiate an investigation of TE Wilbourne on our own but only in response to a request from you--from current and former members and staff of PCC. And by disciplining TE Wilbourne and dissolving his pastoral relationship with PCC for sins that he confessed, we were endeavoring to care for you by maintaining the peace and purity of the church.

In light of the recent ruling by the Standing Judicial Commission of the Presbyterian Church in America, however, we now realize that we erred in how we conducted our investigation of TE Wilbourne and how we handled his confession. We are grieved to learn that, in the process of pursuing justice for some, we have committed injustices of our own. We are committed to reflecting deeply on and identifying specifically all our mistakes--not only so that we can avoid committing them in the future, but so that we can make a full confession and seek forgiveness from those we harmed. Meanwhile, we sincerely apologize for the hurt that we know we have caused you. Though our actions were well-intended and done for the sake of purity, our mistakes made it difficult to keep the peace. It would give us some solace if this correction could lead PCC to appreciate the blessings of being part of a denomination that believes in accountability and benefits from wisdom in numbers.

We long to reconcile with you and look forward to the help that a professional, skilled conciliator can provide. We hope that PCC can extend to us the grace of Christ, and will choose to walk with us through the process of rebuilding unity and trust. We pray for a future together in which we more fully reflect our fellowship in Christ as we rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, for the glory of God.