

PSNE TRUSTEES REPORT
Stated Meeting, November 19, 2022

Dear Presbytery of Southern New England,

By the diligence and persistence of our Presbytery staff, it has come to the attention of the Trustees that there are some significant gaps and discrepancies in our Trustees minutes, PSNE minutes, and account reporting during the 2014 fiscal year. The errors pertain specifically to sale of, and proceeds from, our MLK Church's community center.

Our General Presbyter and Stated Clerk have begun to thoroughly comb through our minutes and to interview PSNE leadership from that period in an attempt to fill in these gaps. Our hope is that the issues at hand are the result of simple oversight, rather than being the result of deceptive or nefarious motives. Either way, these gaps in reporting are inconsistent with our espoused values of decency, order, and transparency. Without pointing fingers, this is a staunch reminder that it is our collective responsibility to walk with integrity, to thoroughly review our work, and to hold ourselves to account when missteps are made.

The information we have been able to gather thus far has been reported to the Session at MLK Church, to the PSNE Roundtable Committee, and to our Board of Trustees. We firmly believe an outside and objective investigative team will be essential to resolving this matter with confidence. Thus, a Stated Clerk from a neighboring Presbytery and an outside accounting firm will be engaged as we determine what transpired and what remedies or reparations may be appropriate as a result. Any institutional memories or insight from that period are welcomed and encouraged, in addition to any questions you may have. You may address them to me directly (andre.castillo@fpcg.org), or to our General Presbytery or Stated Clerk.

The Trustees would like to express our gratitude for the diligence and humility of our General Presbytery, Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, and our Stated Clerk, Rev. David Baer. Without their committed attention to both the logistical details and the pastoral concerns involved, we would not have had this opportunity to identify and rectify the mistakes and misinformation we have discovered. Let it also not go unsaid that we are indebted to Rev. Dr. Terrlyn Curry Avery and the Session at MLK Church for their tremendous grace and leadership as we navigate a path forward from a repetitive history of deception and injustice.

As we read in James, 5:26, "Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective."

In faith, hope, and love,



Rev. Andre Castillo, Chair
on behalf of the PSNE Board of Trustees