

We, the undersigned members of the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates (PCC), express our gratitude for the recent conversation with partners in ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

After the controversy that arose around the Winter 2023 Bible Exegesis Exam, several groups reached out to the PCC asking for an opportunity to talk with the committee about their concerns. The PCC appointed a task force to plan a day of consultation with these groups. On October 18, 2023, representatives of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice, the Association of Mid Council Leaders, the Committee on Theological Education, and the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee met with the task force and members of the PCC's Executive Committee to discuss shared concerns, experiences, understanding, hopes, and ideas related to the standard ordination exams. Through worship and conversation, we all were able to listen and to be heard.

The members of the PCC that were at the meeting are grateful for the people who joined us in this conversation. What we heard has given us insight and direction that will have a powerful impact on our work going forward. We thank these groups who share a common commitment to the well-being of the Church of Jesus Christ.

We look forward to future opportunities to create not only understanding but also strengthen our common commitment to Christ through the PC(USA). We offer our experience as a sign to the church of what is possible when people are willing to listen to each other. This consultation is a first step, and we look forward to further conversation with our partners in ministry.

*--Dave Bush, Robert Keefer, Robert Lowry, Steve Ranney, Leeann Scarbrough, Connie Weaver, Julie MacLemore Wells*