

Presbytery Policy on Uses of Proceeds of Real Property Sales

Trustees of the Presbytery of the James, Inc. ("Trustees") establish this policy to guide the presbytery's use of funds generated from the sale of real property.

BACKGROUND: At the 108th stated meeting on June 18, 2021, the presbytery decided to rename the net asset fund formerly called "Church Development Fund" as the "Church and Ministries Development Fund," and to redesignate its use to provide resources for the presbytery's budget in support of the growth and development of the life of our particular churches and ministries. Unless the presbytery decides otherwise in response to the proposal of an administrative commission, the proceeds of the sale of real property of dissolved churches is deposited into the Church and Ministries Development Fund for use consistent with presbytery's authorization. This is also the practice with proceeds of the sale of other real property that the Trustees own.

POLICY: Trustees establish the following uses of real property sale proceeds to live into God's call to our presbytery to support and grow vibrant congregations and healthy ministers.

STEWARDSHIP (50%) - To be responsibly invested, for further investment into the life of the presbytery.

RESURRECTION (25%) - Supporting existing and launching new worshipping initiatives

- Funding for grants (a) to support existing new worshipping communities and (b) to launch new programming initiatives with an impact on the local community, in accordance with the three focus areas (*building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty*) and three intersectional priorities (*climate change, gender justice and heteropatriarchy, militarism*) of Matthew 25 and (c) to support small churches.

REPARATIVE ACTION (15%)

Recognizing our presbytery's history of complicity in actions that have favored certain communities over others, establish a fund that would use the interest or principal for reparative action efforts.¹

1. Reparative action within the Presbytery community
2. Reparative action beyond the Presbytery community
3. Matching grants for congregations doing reparative action.

TITHING (10%)

- 10% to local partnering agencies (if any) that a dissolved congregation previously supported in its active ministry
- In the event a previously supported agency is not identified, the tithe of the proceeds of the sale of church properties shall be distributed in this manner: 50% to RESURRECTION and 50% to REPARATIVE ACTION. The timeline for this will be six months after the official closing date of the sale of the property.

¹ Denominational support for such efforts includes:

From: [RGJ-10] Resolution on Race, Reparative Justice, and the PCUSA—From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (2020) 5. *"Encourage presbyteries to account for histories of race-based injustice when making choices about the disposition of properties when they are being sold or reallocated, attending to the wisdom of reparative justice and questions about, e.g., the origins of those properties, the means by which they were maintained, their potential use, the presence of historically marginalized communities in the area, and the impact of those properties on those communities."*

From: [RGJ-12] Special Committee on Racism Truth & Reconciliation (2022) "9. Direct Mid Council Ministries of the Office of the General Assembly to create a model policy for mid councils that designates a specified percentage of any property sales/acquisitions for local reparative actions, and work with presbyteries to establish such policies."

From: [RGJ-08] "On Offering an Apology to African Americans for the Sin of Slavery and Its Legacy" (2022) *"A first step to healing and reconciliation can only be done by acknowledging that slavery, and the justification of and financial benefit thereof, is inseparable from the economic, artistic, and religious foundations on which this country is built."*