



MODERATOR OF THE 146TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Daniel D. Scott, B.A., M.C.S., M.Div., D.Min.

July 28, 2021

To the people and congregations of The Presbyterian Church in Canada,

The 2021 General Assembly appointed a special committee to listen to concerns identified by petitions from the Presbyteries of Eastern Han-Ca and Western Han-Ca. The petitions state “we have experienced treatment at the hands of many in The Presbyterian Church in Canada which has caused us much pain and raises alarm, for we have collectively experienced many instances of slander, ridicule, racism”. The petitions challenge The Presbyterian Church in Canada to reflect on the ways “the dominant culture of the denomination” might again be “following in the hegemonic sins of their ancestors”. The authors of the petitions believe that they, as Koreans, are not alone in these experiences and ask for the General Assembly to confess the mistreatment of “the large ethnic contingent of our denomination” done “by the dominant culture of our denomination”.

In response to these serious words, the Assembly named a nine-member special committee. The members are: the Rev. Sampson Afoakwah, the Rev. Peter Bush, the Rev. Mary Fontaine, the Rev. Joon Ki Kim, the Rev. Stephen Kwon, the Rev. Linda Park, the Rev. Dr. Daniel Scott, the Rev. Frank Szatmari and the Rev. Sean Seungho Lee. At its first meeting, the committee named the Rev. Linda Park and the Rev. Peter Bush as co-conveners.

The purpose of this letter is to do three things.

1. To let the church at large know that we exist and have begun our work. We will be reporting to the 2022 General Assembly.
2. To invite stories about how members of the ethnic contingent of The Presbyterian Church in Canada have been treated by members of the dominant culture of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. We wish to hear from people in “ethnic” congregations. We also wish to hear from people of non-Euro-Canadian descent who are part of congregations whose members are largely from the dominant culture. As well, we would like to hear from clergy of non-Euro-Canadian descent who cross-culturally serve congregations whose members are drawn from the dominant culture.
 - a. We have an e-mail address: special.committee.pcc@gmail.com to which people can submit their stories in writing.
 - b. We also hope that congregations and groups across the church will invite us to come and hear their stories. It is our hope that we will be able to hear those stories in-person.

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Stephen Kendall and The Rev. Donald Muir

However, with COVID-19 restrictions, we may need to use Zoom (or a similar technology).

- c. We anticipate developing ways in which we can gather stories from individuals.

Please contact us through the e-mail address above to invite us to visit your congregation or group to hear stories. Please contact us if you have personal stories you would like to tell us verbally. We will do our best to hear from as many people as possible. We plead for patience and understanding as we set up our processes. As the timelines are very tight to make the deadline of reporting to the 2022 General Assembly, the earlier the invitation is sent to us the more likely that we will be able to accept it.

3. We need your prayers. Please pray for the members of the committee: for resilience and stamina, for sensitivity and discernment. Pray for those telling their stories: for the courage to tell their stories and the comfort of the Holy Spirit even as the stories may be hard to tell. Pray for the church as whole that this process will lead to understanding, hope and a renewed commitment to the vision of the church described in Revelation 7:9: “a great multitude that no one could count from every nation, tribe, people and language”.

We thank the church for the trust it has placed in us. If there are questions or comments, please use our e-mail address.

In Christ

On behalf of the Special Committee



The Rev. Linda Park
Co-convener



The Rev. Peter Bush
Co-convener