

To Our Siblings in Christ,

According to our practice, over the course of three years, we, the Presbyteries' Cooperative Committee on Examinations for Candidates (PCC), engaged in a process of discernment that led to a decision to use Judges 19 as the text for the Winter 2023 Biblical Exegesis Exam. While it was not our intention, the choice of Judges 19, in the context of a senior ordination exam, resulted in candidates, exam readers, and others across our denomination feeling fearful, traumatized, and perhaps even victimized.

We believed that our decision was defensible; however, we acknowledge that it caused harm. Therefore, we offer our apology. We are sorry. We ask for your forgiveness.

We also acknowledge that for many, our choice of Judges 19 was a breach of the trust granted to us. In partnership with others across the church and led by the Spirit, it is now our responsibility to take steps forward that move us from this place of anger, pain, and frustration into a grace-filled space, where greater wisdom may guide our future words and deeds.

As a committee, we are committed not only to learning from this experience but also to discerning how we may do things differently in the future. We extend our thanks to those individuals and groups who have reached out to us, who have shared their stories, and who have offered their ideas for moving forward. We ask for your prayers not only now, but in the future. We offer our prayers for those harmed by our choice of Judges 19.

We are committed to our work of crafting exams that integrate critical thinking in the life and work of a pastor, while also partnering with our presbyteries to ensure equitable standards and a uniform basis for preparation.

May God's grace and mercy surround us all today and for all our days to come.

In Christ,
The Members of the PCC