



September 2, 2025

Dear Session and Congregation of Bethany Presbyterian Church,

As the Session of the Broad Street Presbyterian Church, we come to you in confession and in hope.

We confess that our church has benefitted from systems of white supremacy, both in the past and in the present. We acknowledge that racism is not just a historical wrong, but a present and painful reality - one that wounds individuals, distorts community, and stands in direct opposition to the love of Christ.

Our church historian found that in our early history, some BSPC members segregated themselves from Black worshippers even during Sunday services. Mixed-race couples were also discouraged from marrying at BSPC. Beyond the sanctuary, restrictive covenants kept Black residents from moving into Columbus suburbs where white residents built property wealth, and some Presbyterian leaders supported segregated schools and the removal of Black teachers from classrooms with white students.

After Bethany was formed, discriminatory practices like redlining persisted, and later the construction of the Interstate displaced some Bethany parishioners, cutting through Bronzeville and disrupting its strong community.

We confess that through the years our comfort, our white privilege and our silence contributed to injustice. We recognize that these discriminatory policies and practices caused harm to Black individuals, families and communities. We grieve the ways our institutions, our ancestors, and we ourselves have caused and continue to cause harm—including to people of color in our own congregation. We repent. We apologize.

Racism is a sin. It is a poison to the body of Christ. We commit ourselves to unlearning its patterns, confronting it with truth, and standing in solidarity with siblings in Christ who have borne its cost for far too long.

We give thanks for your faithfulness and witness, for your gifts to our community, and for your leadership. We do not take lightly the courage it takes to continue in relationship with us.

Healing begins with truth. Reconciliation is not a single moment, but an ongoing journey shared with others. As you're willing, we hope to join you as learners, neighbors in Bronzeville, partners in repairing, seeking justice, and building beloved community.

In Christ's peace and love,
The Session of Broad Street Presbyterian Church

Moderator, Pastor Amy Miracle
Associate Pastor Ann Palmerton

The Session: Amy Baskes, Charlyn Bohland, Jen Bunker, Christiane Buuck, Ellie Carter, Kristy Clay, Jim Curphey, Ashley Etter, Steve Hamilton, Bruce Hill, Phil Johnson, Jim Miller, Lane Rothschild, Tom Reidy, Carrie Sheehan, Bill Talbott, Doug Walstra, Jim Wilson

Clerk of Session, Joanne Kosanke