
(Today's date)

Dear _____, (insert name of your commissioner)

We (I) write in support of San Francisco Theological Seminary's remedial complaint against COTE. The main questions raised in the complaint are whether COTE and the Foundation have power to excommunicate SFTS from the PCUSA; and whether in effectively doing so, they have usurped the General Assembly's power and denied due process to SFTS. We request that key references to the work of seminaries (approval for the administration of the Lord's Supper, approval of Trustees and President, summary of activities) in COTE's Report to the General Assembly which exclude SFTS be removed from the Consent Agenda, discussed and voted on as separate items when the GA convenes in June.

It is our view that COTE's Report commits a grave injustice by violating due process. The materials submitted to GA about SFTS, its merger, and COTE's process are misleading, perhaps intentionally so. Submissions by COTE to the General Assembly, currently live on the GA website, show the use of misdirection and other strategies to conceal the fact that COTE has taken it upon itself to remove SFTS from the list of PCUSA seminaries. Instead of stating that the General Assembly will be deciding whether to cut SFTS off from funding and eject it from membership, COTE fails to inform the General Assembly that the acceptance of its report would result in the removal of SFTS from Institutional Membership. **If COTE's recommendations are approved on the Consent Agenda at GA, SFTS will be removed from Institutional Membership of the PCUSA without discussion, severing the denomination's 150-year-old ties with the only PCUSA seminary in the Western U.S.**

The loss would be a great blow to Presbyterian congregants and pastors, who rely on its resources for preaching, adult education, pastor training, Commissioned Ruling Elder training, and scholarship that has long been important to Presbyterian life. SFTS' commitment to and understanding of the peculiar culture of the West Coast is something that cannot be duplicated by or replicated in other institutions. It provides essential services to Presbyterian congregations in at least a dozen western states and is a source of important contextual theology informing the entire Church.

In reaching its decision to eliminate SFTS from the list of PCUSA seminaries, COTE repeatedly and deliberately flaunted due process—excluding SFTS from participation in broad dialogue and exploration, silencing our voices. This is an historic and unprecedented move in the life of the Presbyterian Church, built on a commitment to transparency and the democratic process of a voting majority.

I am (We are) requesting that GA avoid falling into the trap COTE has set, effectively excommunicating SFTS from the PCUSA. In addition, we request that COTE be instructed to include SFTS in its activities so long as the General Assembly continues to recognize SFTS as a PCUSA seminary, and that COTE's submissions to the 224 General Assembly be withdrawn and/or amended to allow deeper discussion and due process. **We ask you to take every possible action to rectify this wrong and to secure SFTS appropriate place on the list of PCUSA seminaries.**

Sincerely,

(your name and address here, and church you attend)
