



Presbyterian Mission
**Compassion,
Peace & Justice**

PC(USA) Advocacy Offices:
Office of Public Witness

&

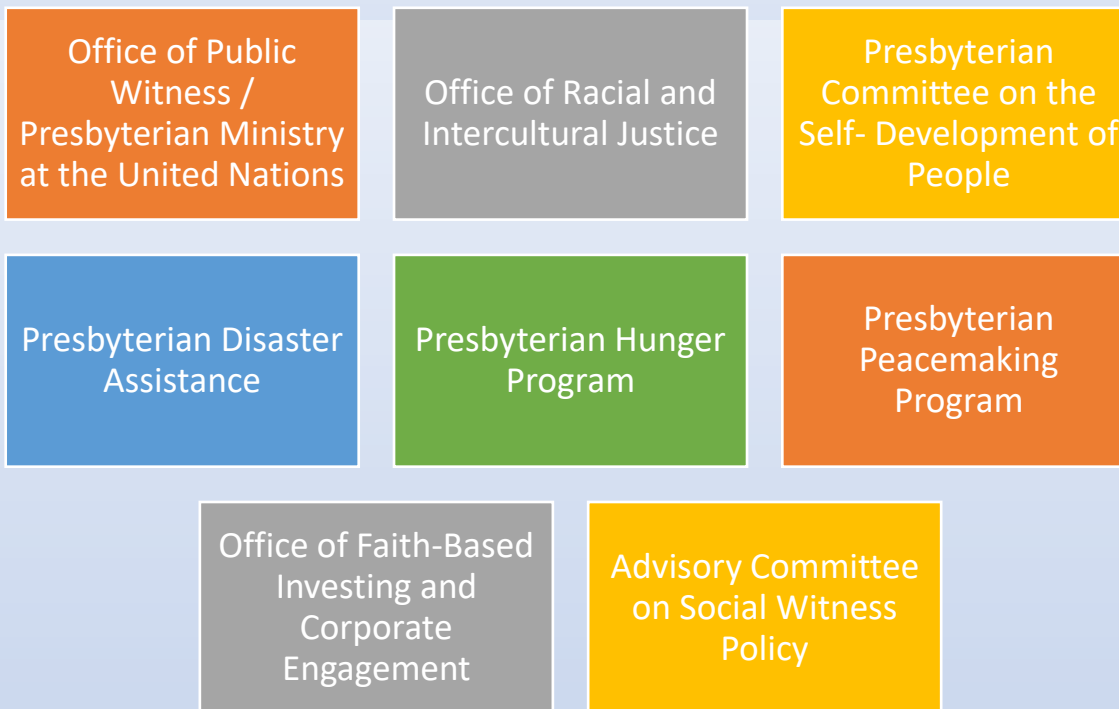
Ministry at the United Nations





Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA)

The Ministries of Compassion, Peace and Justice (CPJ)



Compassion, Peace & Justice is made up of 8 ministries:

- Office of Public Witness (OPW)
- Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP)
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)
- Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)
- Presbyterian Mental Health Ministry
- Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (PMUN)
- Presbyterian Peacemaking Program
- Racial, Gender & Intercultural Justice Ministries

CPJ work is supported by the Pillars of the Church and these Special Offerings:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Peace and Global Witness
- Pentecost Offering

Office of Public Witness & Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations

7:06 AM Mon Jun 12
presbyterianmission.org 38%

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

WHAT WE BELIEVE WHAT WE DO WHO WE ARE MISSION RESOURCES GET INVOLVED **Donate**

Sign up to receive updates and alerts from the Office of Public Witness

Causing Holy Trouble

[Download Gun Violence Resources](#)

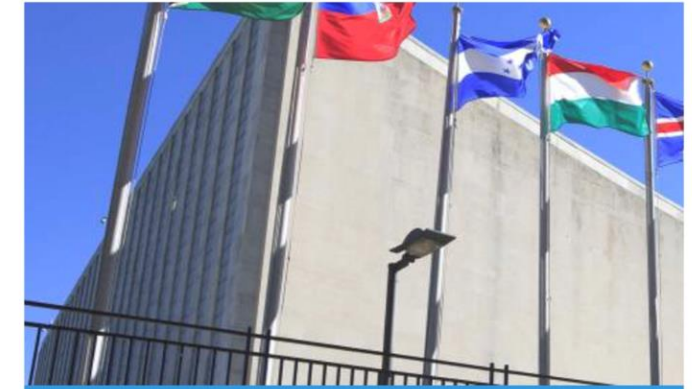
A public policy ministry

The Presbyterian Office of Public Witness is the public policy information and advocacy office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Its task is to advocate, and help the church to advocate, the social witness perspectives and policies of the Presbyterian General Assembly. The church has a long history of applying these biblically and theologically-based insights to issues that affect the public — maintaining a public policy ministry in the nation's capital since 1946.

Reformed theology teaches that because a sovereign God is at work in all the

Learn More

- Advocacy Training Weekend
- Theology
- Read the Office of Public Witness Blog
- Advocacy as Discipleship: A Four-Week Devotional
- Internships
- Young Adult Advocacy Conference Registration
- Young Adult Engagement Report
- Washington Report to Presbyterians
- Grassroots Advocacy Teams



[Make A Donation Click Here >](#)

[Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations >](#)

[Young Adult Advocacy Guide >](#)

[Sustainable Development Goals >](#)

[Country Fact Sheets >](#)

[Sunday School Curriculum >](#)

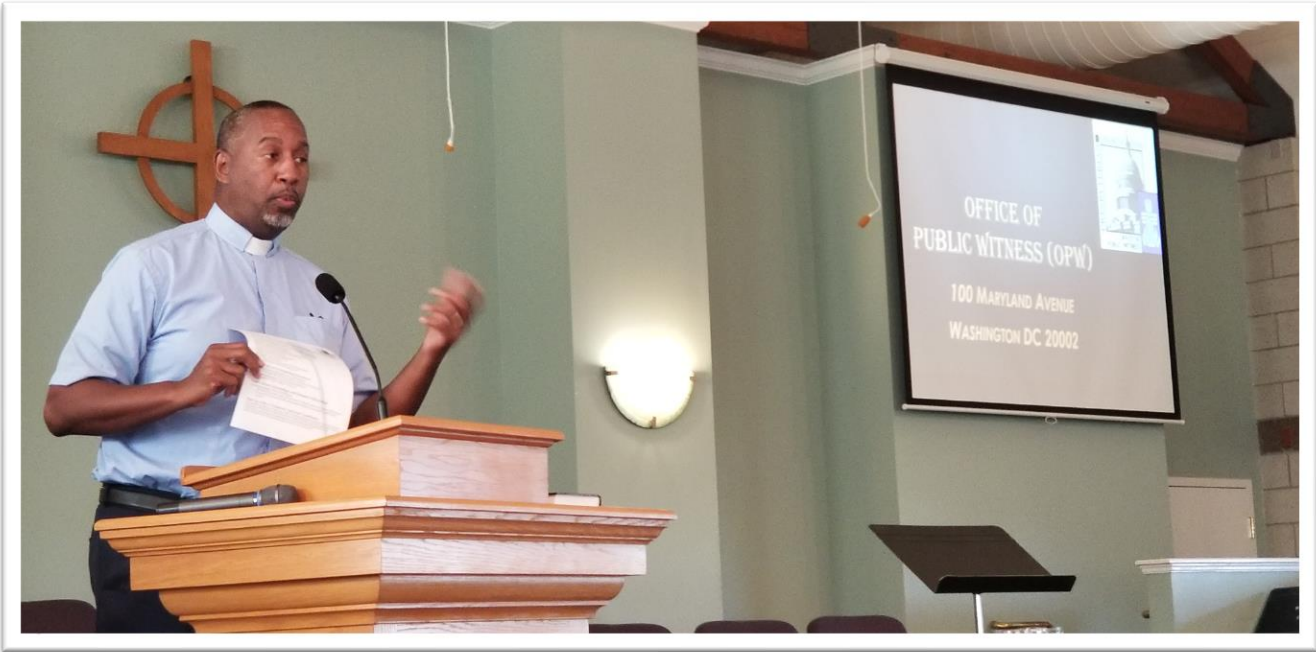
[Home >](#) [Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations](#)

Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations



Workshops for Synods, Presbyteries & Congregations

Federal Government Advocacy





Office of Public Witness

Catherine Gordon
(International)



Christina Cosby
(Domestic & Environmental Justice)



Ivy Lopedito
Mission Associate



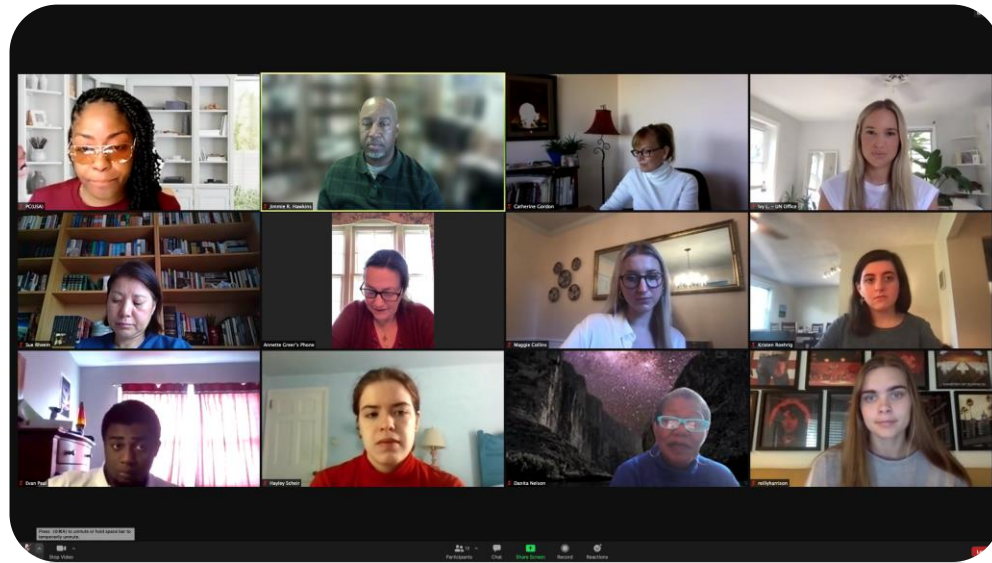
Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations



Sue Rheem
DIRECTOR



Fellows / YAVs / Seminararians / Adult Volunteers

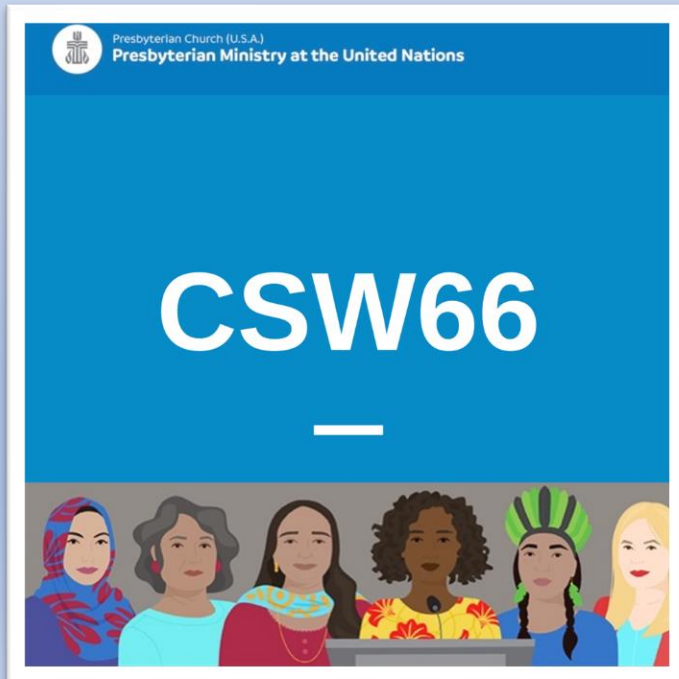


UN Commission on the Status of Women



March 2024

Every year representatives of Member States gather at UNHQ for two weeks in March.



Goals:

- * Evaluate progress on gender equality
- * Identify challenges
- * Set global standards and
- * Formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide.





Ecumenical
Advocacy Days
(EAD)
April 2024



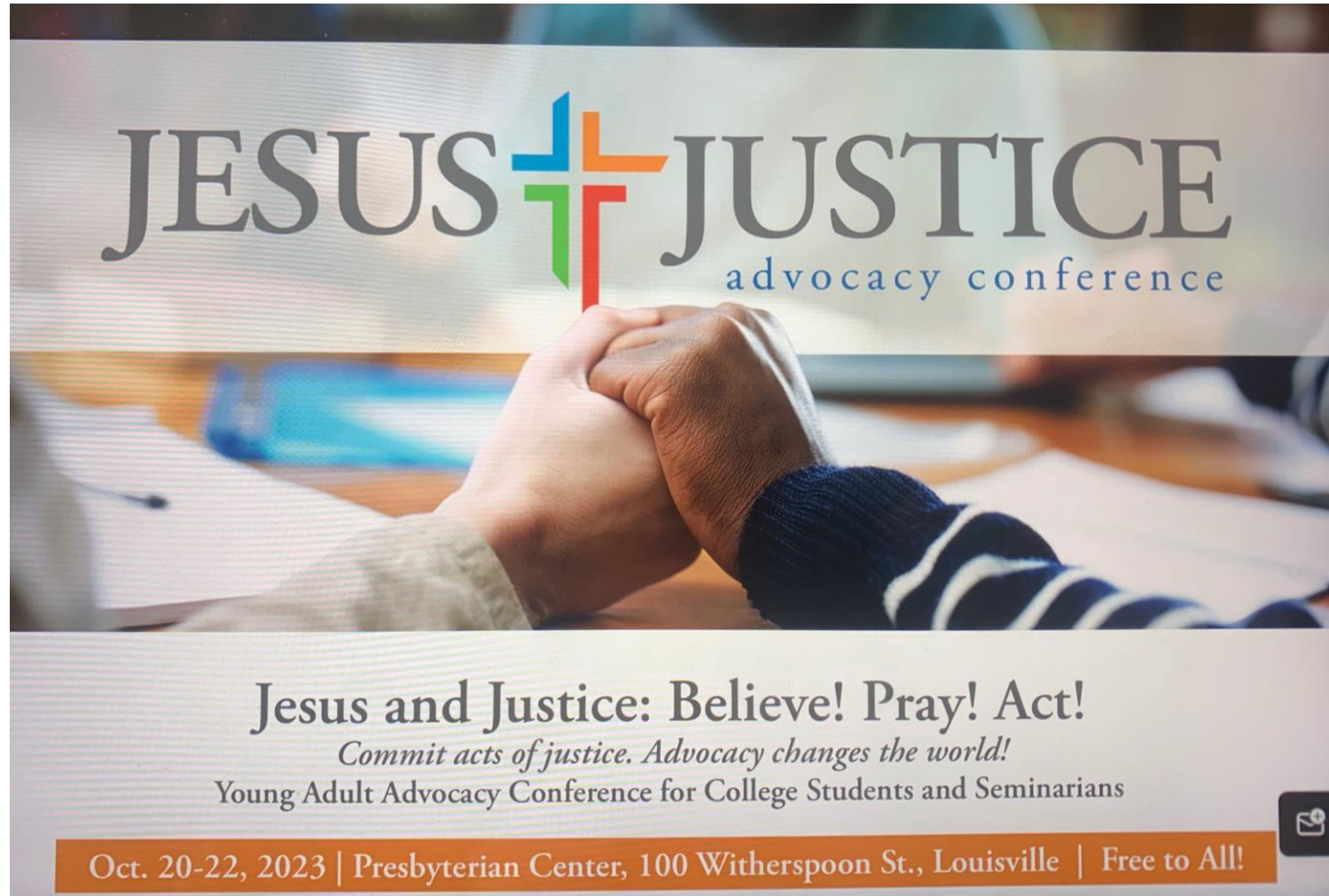
ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS
FOR GLOBAL PEACE WITH JUSTICE

SWORDS
into
PLOWSHARES
ACHIEVING ENOUGH FOR ALL & PURSUING PEACE
APRIL 25-27, 2023
VIRTUAL EVENT

Swords into Plowshares: Achieving
Enough for All & Pursuing Peace

VIRTUAL ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAYS
TAKING PLACE APRIL 25-27, 2023

Advocacy Conference October 2024



JESUS + JUSTICE
advocacy conference

Jesus and Justice: Believe! Pray! Act!
Commit acts of justice. Advocacy changes the world!
Young Adult Advocacy Conference for College Students and Seminarians

Oct. 20-22, 2023 | Presbyterian Center, 100 Witherspoon St., Louisville | Free to All!

The banner features a central image of two hands clasped in prayer, one light-skinned and one dark-skinned, set against a blurred background of a conference room. The text is arranged in a clean, professional layout with a mix of serif and sans-serif fonts. A small icon of a person with a plus sign is located in the bottom right corner of the banner.





Advocacy



What is Advocacy?



*“Speaking Up”
and
“Standing With”*

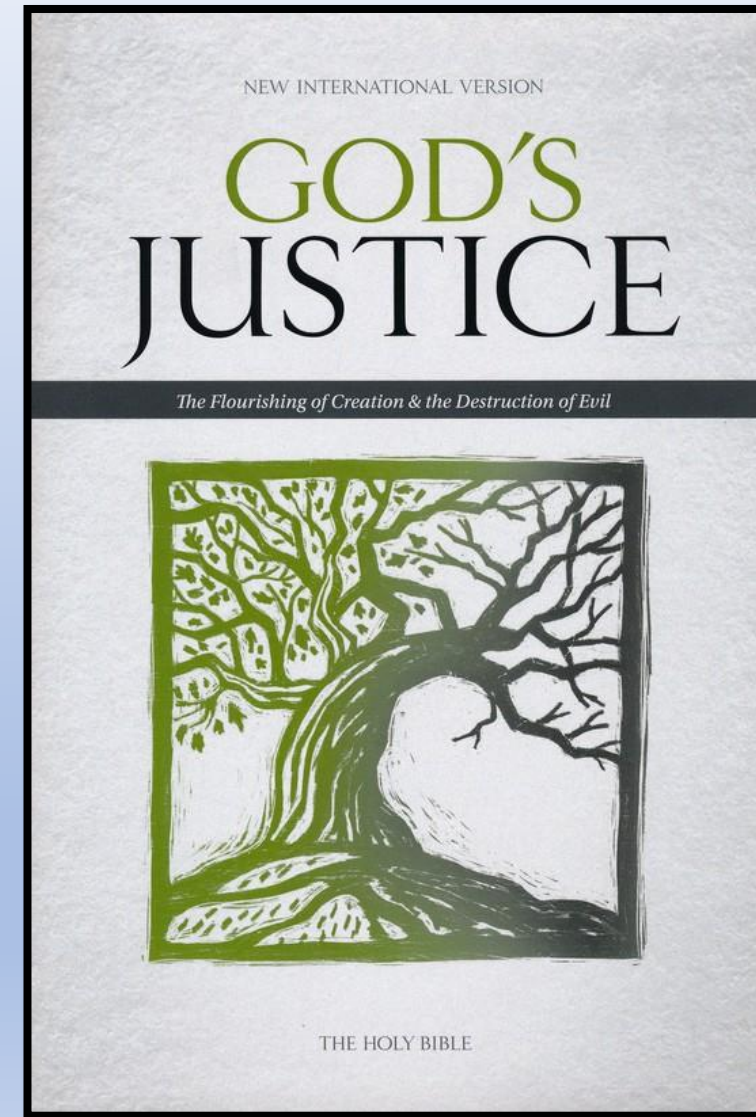
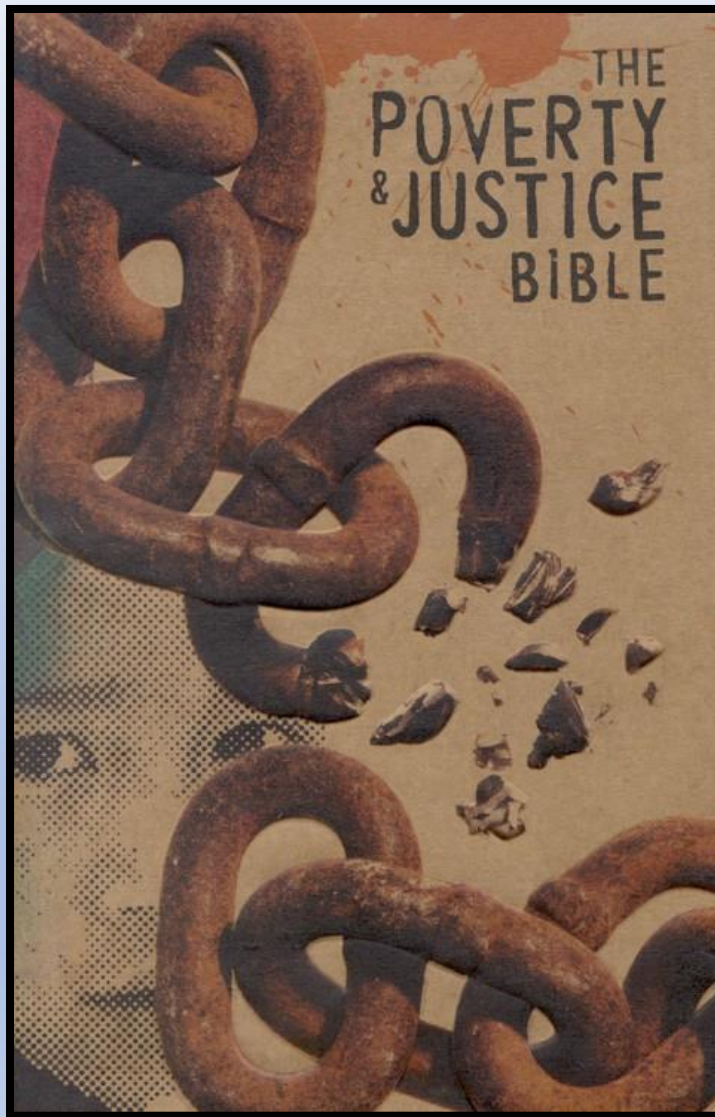
“Social Justice Advocacy has been defined as organized efforts aimed at influencing public attitudes, policies, and laws to create a more socially just society guided by the vision of human rights that may include awareness of socio-economic inequities, protection of social rights as well as racial identity, experiences of oppression, and spirituality”
(Penn State Educational Equity)



Contemporary English Version
2009

Zondervan Publishing
2016

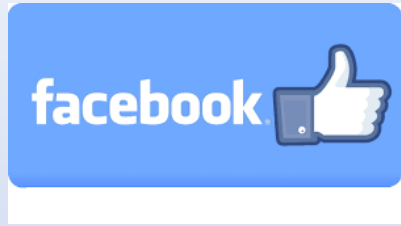
Jesus and Justice Advocacy



Digital Advocacy



Almost every legislator in the House and Senate has a Twitter handle (username).



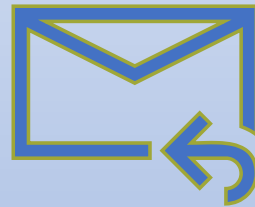
“FB Social Good”

Sign-up to use Facebook charitable giving tools.

Most legislators have a Facebook page, which has a "wall" that can be written on.



Participate in Advocacy through the use of Technology



Advocates can send an email, fax or letter to their legislators.

Letter to the Editor

Op-Eds





- Webpage
 - Alerts
- Webinars
- Facebook
 - Twitter
 - Blog
- Newsletter
 - Articles

The PC(USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC contact information:

PC(USA) Office of Public Witness

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Director: jimmie.hawkins@pcusa.org

Website: <http://www.pcusa.org/washington>

Blog: <http://officeofpublicwitness.blogspot.com>



Urge U.S. to End Sanctions against Cuba and Venezuela to Help Fight COVID-19

The Impact of Economic Sanctions Against Cuba Amid COVID-19

Cuba has been under U.S. economic sanctions for over sixty years, costing the island nation billions of dollars. In the last year, the Trump Administration has dramatically increased economic sanctions against Cuba, leaving them strapped for cash. As the confirmed cases of COVID-19 increase daily within the country, the economic toll resulting from these sanctions has led to a shortage of medicine and medical supplies needed to combat the virus.¹ Despite Cuba's strong healthcare system, their lack of access to the appropriate medical supplies is hindering their ability to treat and contain COVID-19.

The Impact of Economic Sanctions Against Venezuela Amid COVID-19

U.S. economic sanctions in Venezuela had led to a public health crisis prior to the rise of COVID-19. These sanctions negatively impacted Venezuela's economy and have prohibited the importation of essential, lifesaving products, including medicine and medical equipment.² Hospitals throughout the country are suffering from a lack of masks, gloves, and other protective gear essential for the proper treatment of COVID-19 patients and for containing the virus. Additionally, many hospitals lack clean water and soap, further indicating that an outbreak of COVID-19 in Venezuela would likely spread rapidly.

The Fight Against COVID-19 Must Be Global

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights recently called for sectoral sanctions to be reduced or suspended.³ During this crisis, the world must come together to effectively fight it. Any hindering of the medical efforts in one country increases the risk for the entire globe.⁴

Email the Administration and Call Your Senators and Representative Today

Click here to be connected to your 2 Senators and 1 Representative.

Sample Script for House of Representatives:

"Hello. I am a constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and [as a person of faith] I am extremely worried about the impact of U.S. sanctions on the ability of Cuba and Venezuela to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. I'm urging [REPRESENTATIVE] to do 3 things:

1. Issue immediate statements via Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram condemning the sanctions against these two countries.
2. Sign on to Rep. Omar's "Congressional Oversight of Sanctions Act" – H.R. 5879

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-cuba-confirmed/cuba-confirms-its-first-three-cases-of-coronavirus-idUSKBN20Z04G>

² <https://jacobinmag.com/2020/03/sanctions-coronavirus-covid-19-iran-syria-yemen-cuba>

³ <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/covid-19-venezuela-cuba-hail-un-sanctions-easing-call/1779141#>

⁴ *Ibid*



Tell Your Senator to Support the HEROES Act

[CONTACT: first name],

As COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide, there is a need for legislation that protects Americans across the country. On May 15th, the House of Representatives passed the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act ([HEROES Act](#)). The HEROES Act provides support for essential workers, protects voting rights and the census, and provides aid to low-income communities. This legislation was passed by the House over two months ago, the Senate has yet to pass this bill or propose any other meaningful COVID-19 relief legislation. Congress is expected to move an additional COVID-19 relief package forward during the work period from July 20-August 7.

Please join the Office of Public Witness in calling on the Senate to pass the HEROES Act and enacting these necessary measures!

The HEROES Act will require OSHA to issue an emergency temporary standard to protect frontline workers who are at the highest risk of contracting Coronavirus. It provides support to local governments for safe and fair elections. It also provides funding and other resources for an accurate Census count, ensuring everyone has a voice in shaping our democracy during these uncertain times. The HEROES Act provides assistance to low-income families by increasing the SNAP benefit by 15% and increasing the minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30, and expands the Earned Income and the Child tax credits. This bill will provide multiple layers of support so that families harmed by the economic recession will be able to pay their bills and put food on the table.

Join the Office of Public Witness in calling on the Senate to pass the HEROES Act!

The PC(U.S.A.) recognizes [God's call to actively engage in the world](#) around us and care for the most marginalized people in our society. This call is especially important now. Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, director of the Office of Public Witness, says:

"Families need to know that they have leaders who not only care, but who will act to provide needed relief. Children need extra protection to ensure that they are well-fed and given shelter. The elderly, who already carry a disproportionately emotional burden of the virus, need reassurance that their isolation is physical and does not mean that they are alone or forgotten. Our faith informs us to care for the widows and orphans of the world; has there been a time when this commandment is more needed? Support for this bill is necessary as we are reminded that everyone needs help at some time in life, and this is that time."

The situation could not be more urgent. The Senate must pass the HEROES Act to protect essential workers, ensure a fair election and accurate census, and aid low-income communities.

Call your Senators TODAY and urge them to support the HEROES Act!

Click the link below to log in and send your message:
<https://www.voterve.net/PCUSA/Campaigns/74500/Respond>



Presbyterian Church USA

Anti-Asian Racism MUST STOP!!

Since the pandemic began, U.S. cities have experienced an increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans. A 2021 Washington Post article posted a picture of Noel Quintana, who was quoted as saying of an attack he suffered, "Nobody came, nobody helped, nobody made a video."

The United States has a history of racial discrimination, consistently directed towards Asian Americans, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and Japanese Americans' internment during World War II. A racist culture produced slurs and verbal harassment ("yellow peril," "China virus," "Kung Flu," and "coolies"), bullying, racial stereotyping, immigration bans, racial discrimination and xenophobic treatment living in a white supremacy culture. While we may associate these behaviors with past history, negative actions have worsened with the pandemic. Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) called for greater awareness of racism against Asian Americans. He stated, "This sort of bias is latent throughout American society, and it gets worse or less worse depending on the moment."

Stop AAPI Hate documented 2,808 verbal and physical assaults between March-December 2020. Most of the attacks were against the elderly in the states of California and New York (1,900% increase). San Francisco reported that nine hate crimes targeted Asian Americans in 2020, up from six (2019) and four in 2018; the New York Police Department reported at least 28 hate crimes in 2020, compared with three in 2019. San Francisco's Chinatown

Members of Congress (MOC)



A CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN DAVID PRICE

Aug. 5th, 3 pm ET

Live on [facebook.com/
PCUSAWashington/](https://www.facebook.com/PCUSAWashington/)



Join Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), and Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the Office of Public Witness PC(USA), for a conversation with Congressman David Price (D-NC). The discussion will focus on the HEROES Act, the stimulus package, voting, and how people of faith can play a role in protecting the right to vote. We hope you will join us for this very important discussion.

A CONVERSATION WITH CONGRESSMAN CHRIS COONS

AUG 13, 4:30-5 PM ET

Join Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the Office of Public Witness, for a conversation with Congressman Chris Coons (D-DE). The discussion will focus on the HEROES Act, the stimulus package, voting and how people of faith can play a role in protecting their rights. We hope you will join us for this very important discussion.

Live on
[facebook.com/PCAWashington](https://www.facebook.com/PCAWashington)



Webinars

COVID AT THE MARGINS

A Discussion Series by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
 As the coronavirus sweeps across the United States, it is unveiling the ways our systems fail to protect the most marginalized. Join the PC(U.S.A.) as we discuss the disproportionate impacts COVID-19 is having on communities of color, and what people of faith can do to respond.
 The series will be streamed on Facebook.



UPCOMING WEBINARS:

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| Black Communities' Experience with COVID-19 May 11 12:30 p.m. ET | Asian American Impact May 18 12:30 pm ET | LGBTQIA+ Impact June 1 12:30 pm ET | Indigenous Impact June 8 12:30 pm ET | Latinx Impact June 15 12:30 pm ET | Immigrant and Farm Worker Impact June 22 12:30 pm ET |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|

CONNECTING THE DOTS

MILITARISM AND THE ECONOMY

SHINING THE LIGHT IN THE SHADOWS

To register: pcusa.info/shiningthelight

Presented by: Presbyterian Mission Agency Militarism Working Group | Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

Spanish interpretation available



PC(USA) Resources

Matthew 25 in the PC(USA): *Join the Movement*

ESPAÑOL | 한국어

A Introduction to Matthew 25



Welcome to the Matthew 25 movement, where as of today, **1,116 congregations** have embraced the vision. In addition, **93 mid councils**, and **61 groups** have



Building Congregational Vitality

By challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world.

Dismantling Structural Racism

By advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.

Eradicating Systemic Poverty

By working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



Presbyterian Social Witness Policy Statements

- Library
 - All Books
 - Books
 - Audiobooks
 - PDFs
 - Authors
 - Categories
- Collections
 - My Books
 - CWS
 - 2016 NHP March Mtg
 - Sermons
 - PC(USA) Social Witen...
 - NHP
 - UPS
 - CPC
 - NAACP
 - COM
 - PCUSA AA Church Dire...
 - Lego Manuals
 - Office Of Public Witness
 - 2016 CWS Oct Mtg
 - Nov2016 UPSem Brd M...
 - 223rd PC(USA) Genera...
 - JRH Workshops
 - 2018 General Assembly
 - Policing BK Community
 - Sacramento Presby Eth...
 - ECC Materials
 - Presbytery Of western...
 - HOR Edu & Labor Comm
 - African American



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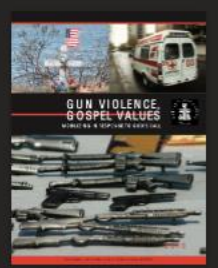
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The Advisory Committee on



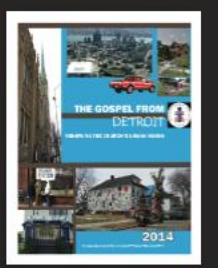
2010 Gun Violence Gospel
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Voter-Suppression-Discussion-
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2008 Voting Rights.pdf
The Advisory Committee on



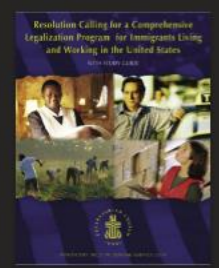
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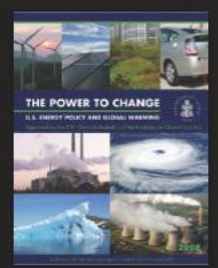
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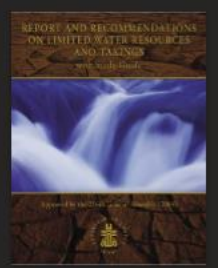
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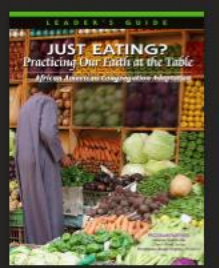
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ACSWP PC(USA)



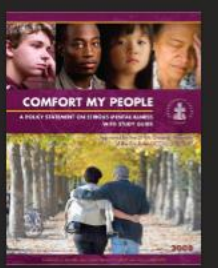
2-water-resources-2004.pdf
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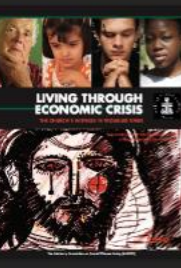
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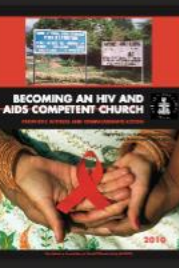
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PC(USA)



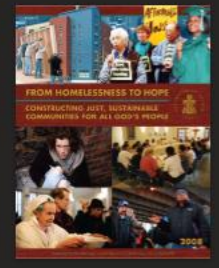
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PC(USA)



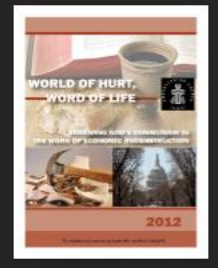
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PC(USA)



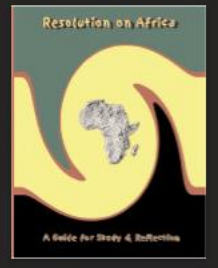
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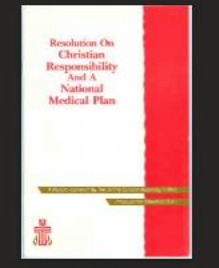
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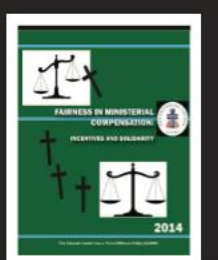
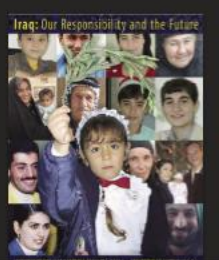
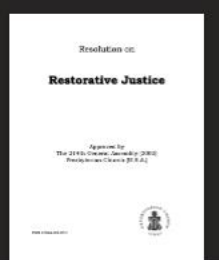
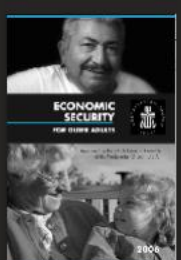
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PC(USA)



3-acswppayequity-2008.pdf
The Advisory Committee on



Presbyterian News Service


Subscribe to free PC(USA) e-newsletters: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/newsletter-subscribe/>




PC(USA) Web Resources

BREAKING NEWS
Building a Life of Faith. Support the Pentecost Offering. ✕

PC(USA) Agencies ▾ Events Popular Links ▾ PC(USA) Store Payer Express Contact Us 한국어 / Español

 "There was not a needy person among them." — Acts 4:34
Follow the Lectionary GIVE NOW

Mission What We Believe How We Serve ▾ News & Media ▾ Resources Search 

Racial Justice Resources

Updated September 24, 2020 10:31 a.m. ET

All resources are from PC(USA) agencies unless otherwise noted.

Black Lives Matter — Get Involved

Join the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) August 24–30 for a [Week of Action](#) to provide a public witness acknowledging that God loves all Black lives.


[Bearing Witness](#) is an ongoing collaborative effort of the PC(USA) to dismantle structural racism.


[Download yard signs: "Presbyterians affirm Black Lives Matter"](#)

["Trouble the Water: Conversations to Disrupt Racism and Dominance"](#) is a documentary series resource produced by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for communities and congregations to facilitate conversation and engagement around the issues of race and racism. As we struggle as a nation with these deep systemic and structural issues on a daily basis, we hope this series can be a resource to listen to one another, have difficult but honest conversations and collectively work together to disrupt systemic racism.


Statements from the PC(USA)

Share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world through One Great Hour of Sharing.

 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

NEWS & COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMS & SERVICES STORE  ES 한국어

WHAT WE BELIEVE WHAT WE DO WHO WE ARE MISSION RESOURCES GET INVOLVED Donate



[Home](#) ▸ [Presbyterian Peacemaking Program](#) ▸ [Gun Violence Policies, Studies and Resources](#)

Gun Violence Policies, Studies and Resources

[Download Gun Violence Resources](#)

Gun Violence Policy

The PC(USA) and its predecessor bodies have addressed gun violence through the actions of many General Assemblies in the last fifty years. Beginning in the late 1960's, in response to the assassinations of public leaders, the General Assembly called for "...control [of] the sale and possession of firearms of all kinds." Similar resolutions were passed again in 1976, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1996 and 1998.

Each resolution reflected a sense of moral urgency in response to rising gun violence and the cultural trends that contributed to it. These resolutions have called on the church to ...advocate for legislation and advocacy at the federal, state, and community level to prevent gun violence. In 1991 and 1996, these resolutions were backed up with strong ...comprehensive strategies for advocacy.

...and facilitations of caring for members of our community who have experienced the

Give Now

[Building A Culture Of Peace & Nonviolence](#) 

Learn More

[International Peacemakers](#) 

[Season of Peace](#) 

[Peace and Global Witness Offering](#)



Roll Call

Daily



The Washington Post | LIVE

Race in America

History Matters

Carla Hayden
Librarian of Congress

Friday, Feb. 5 at 1:00 p.m. ET/
10:00 a.m. PT / 6:00 p.m. GMT





Interfaith/Ecumenical Coalitions



Washington Interreligious Staff Community (WISC)





Heads of Washington Office (HOWO)

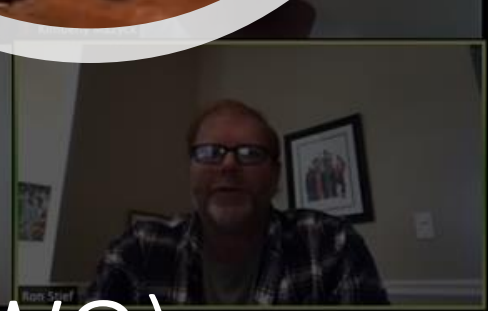
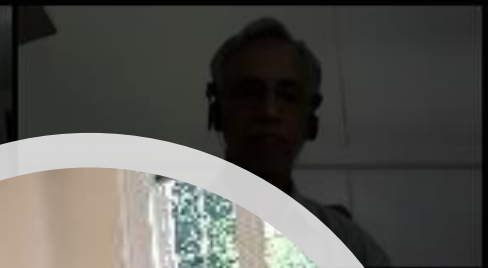
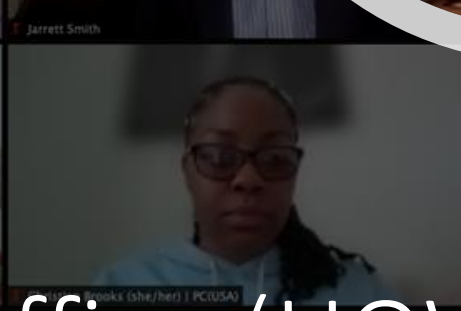
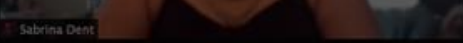
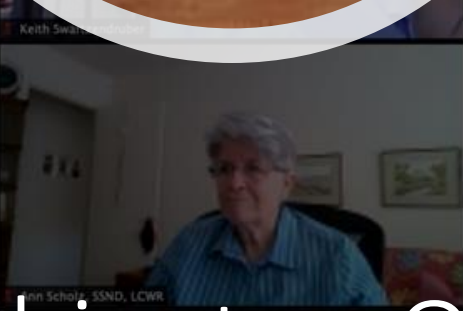
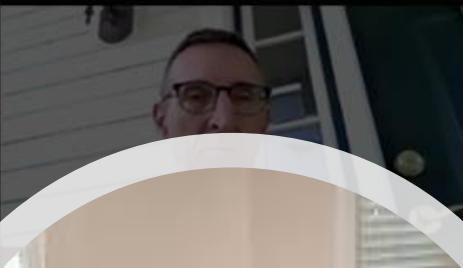
Lawrence Couch

Mary

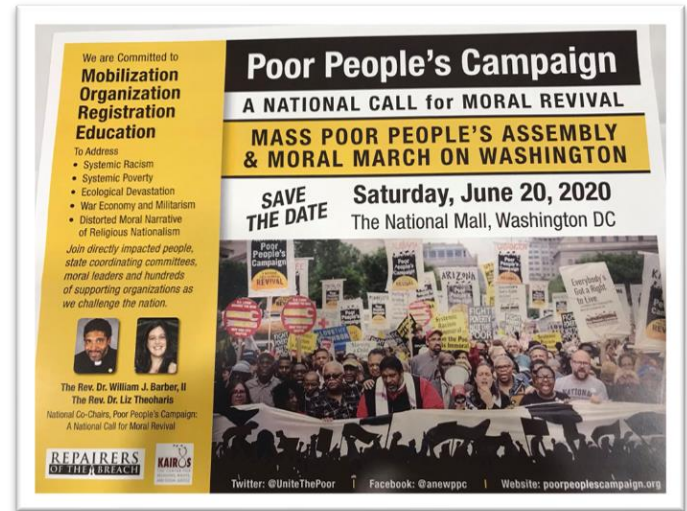
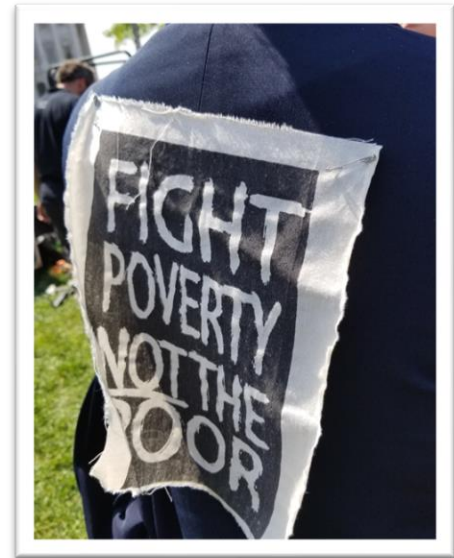
Victoria Strang

Jessica Quinn (she/her), UCC

Sandra Sorensen DC



Gary Mulder



Closing Prayer



Office of Public
Witness
&
Presbyterian Ministry
at the United Nations

ADVOCACY OFFICES

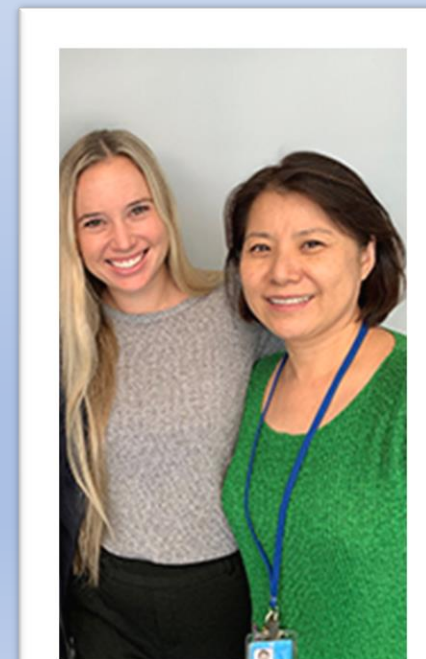


Office of Public Witness

Catherine Gordon (Int'l)
Annette Greer (Office)
Christian Brooks (Domestic & Ecumenical)
Jimmie Hawkins (Domestic)

Ministry at the United Nations

Julie Rheem (Coordinator)
Stephanie Lopedito (Mission Specialist)





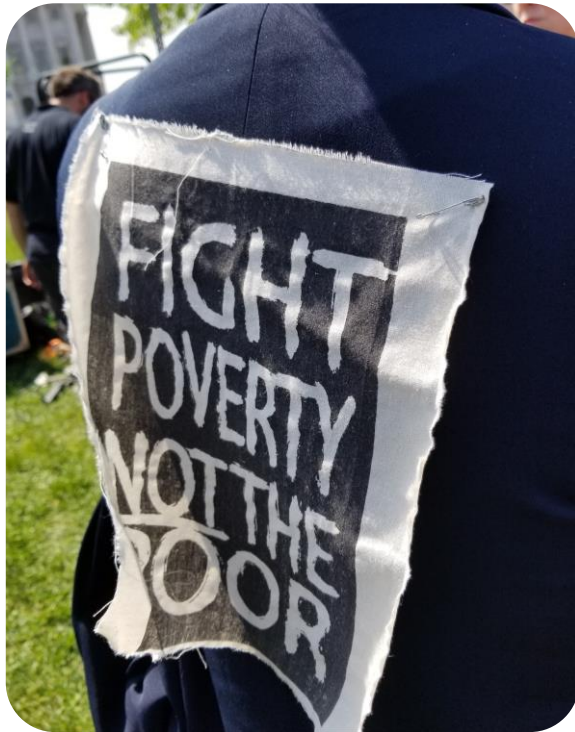
Jesus:
Teaching,
Preaching
and Healing

What is Healing?

***1. Mission &
Charity***

2. Advocacy

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN



We are Committed to
Mobilization
Organization
Registration
Education

To Address

- Systemic Racism
- Systemic Poverty
- Ecological Devastation
- War Economy and Militarism
- Distorted Moral Narrative of Religious Nationalism

Join directly impacted people, state coordinating committees, moral leaders and hundreds of supporting organizations as we challenge the nation.



The Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
The Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis

National Co-Chairs, Poor People's Campaign:
A National Call for Moral Revival



Poor People's Campaign

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

MASS POOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
& MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON

SAVE
THE DATE

Saturday, June 20, 2020
The National Mall, Washington DC



Twitter: @UniteThePoor

Facebook: @anewppc

Website: poorpeoplescampaign.org

John Calvin on Civil Government: Christian Institutes: Book four, Chapter twenty



For John Calvin, justice is not an abstraction to the Christian faith but is integral to it. He believed that **we must act justly in order to live piously**. Justice *reveals* personal piety and is a *means* of living thusly. What is more, justice is the meat and potatoes of what it means to love others. **worship, piety, neighborly love, and justice are inextricably connected.**

He wrote that scripture has a lot to say about living as a citizen in civil jurisdictions. We are called to live submissive lives with a **perpetual cross**. There is a **counterbalancing existence** in that we need to endure insults and hardships, but we also need to be **zealous for the public welfare**. We are to speak up when there is injustice.

Obedience to government must never become disobedience to God. Acts 5:29: “*We must obey God rather than men.*” If laws or governments require us to do something that is clearly against God’s Word, **we should not compromise, we should not cower, we should not cave**. We are required to render obedience to God and that we ought to suffer before ever turning away from our piety and from our commitment.



Sign-on Letters

November 19, 2020 Dear Transition Team:

Thank you for the essential work you are doing to prepare for a peaceful and productive transfer of power. We look forward to working with President Biden, Vice President Harris, and their administration to uphold religious freedom in the United States and around the world.

Guaranteed by the United States Constitution's First Amendment, religious freedom both protects the free exercise of religion and bars government-established religion. This core American value touches nearly every area of public policy.

Yet our nation has not always upheld these obligations. The Trump administration has taken many actions that undermine religious freedom. It enacted a Muslim ban. In the name of religious freedom, it has improperly allowed discrimination and dismissed the importance of other human rights. President Trump and some of his appointees have sowed fear and division among religious communities. And the Trump administration has sought to abolish religious liberty protections for beneficiaries of federally funded social services.

The **Biden administration must move quickly to correct these actions and reclaim a positive vision of religious freedom that protects all Americans.** The following key principles are among those that should guide the Biden administration's work on these issues:

1. America is made up of diverse religious and nonreligious communities, and every American is equal under the law. There is no religious litmus test for being an American. We urge President Biden to demonstrate leadership in protecting the First Amendment rights of all Americans. We also encourage the Biden administration to affirm and celebrate our nation's religious diversity and, whenever possible, use language, hire staff, develop partnerships, and advance policies that are inclusive of all people. The Biden administration must immediately work to undo the harms of the previous four years, starting by repealing the Muslim ban on Day One and prioritizing efforts to prevent and prosecute hate crimes.

2. The separation of church and state is necessary to protect religious freedom and promote a pluralistic society. 3. Religious freedom is intended to serve as a shield, not a sword. Religious freedom is a fundamental constitutional right that protects everyone's right to practice religion, or not to practice religion at all. But free exercise is not without its limits. And over the past four years the federal government has overreached in the name of free exercise, ignoring the harms that certain religious exemptions impose on other rights. For example, these exemptions have been used to undermine LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections and deny access to healthcare, particularly sexual and reproductive healthcare, with disproportionate impacts on people of color. These exemptions have even been used to discriminate against religious minorities and the nonreligious, using inconsistent standards to evaluate free exercise claims. These errors must be corrected. One critical way to do so is to restore the original intent of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) to protect religious freedom and also clarify the Act so that the statute is not misused.

4. Advance religious freedom around the world as a key foreign policy objective and as part of a larger agenda of promoting human rights. We applaud President-elect Biden for calling the Chinese government's oppression of Uighur Muslims and other ethnic minorities in the northwest region of Xinjiang what it is – genocide. We urge the Biden administration to promote religious freedom as part of a comprehensive human rights agenda that recognizes the equal importance and interdependence of all universal human rights.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We look forward to working with you and the incoming administration to protect religious freedom for all.



Statement

Since the pandemic began, U.S. cities have experienced an increase in hate crimes against Asian Americans. A 2021 Washington Post article posted a picture of Noel Quintana, who was quoted as saying of an attack he suffered, [“Nobody came, nobody helped, nobody made a video.”](#)

The United States has a history of racial discrimination, consistently directed towards Asian Americans, including the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and Japanese Americans' internment during World War II. A racist culture produced slurs and verbal harassment (“yellow peril,” [“China virus,”](#) [“Kung Flu,”](#) and “coolies”), bullying, racial stereotyping, immigration bans, racial discrimination and xenophobic treatment living in a white supremacy culture. While we may associate these behaviors with past history, negative actions have worsened with the pandemic. Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) called for greater awareness of racism against Asian Americans. He stated, “This sort of bias is latent throughout American society, and it gets worse or less worse depending on the moment.”

[Stop AAPI Hate](#) documented 2,808 verbal and physical assaults between March-December 2020. Most of the attacks were against the elderly in the states of California and [New York](#) (1,900% increase). San Francisco reported that nine hate crimes targeted Asian Americans in 2020, up from six (2019) and four in 2018; the New York Police Department reported at least 28 hate crimes in 2020, compared with three in 2019. San Francisco’s Dragon Gate community is on edge from attacks and urges residents to report crimes to police. Neighborhood patrols have been created in Oakland, Los Angeles and New York City to respond to a wave of racist violence and harassment since the onset of COVID-19. These numbers belie the dangerous climate Asian Americans are facing. Hate crimes targeting Asian Americans have [spiked by 150%](#) in major US cities in 2020. Majority of incidents, over 90% in New York City, have gone [unreported](#).

Attacks include a 52-year-old woman in Flushing, Queens and a mother punched in the face on a subway platform. In NYC, an 89-year-old woman was slapped in the face and her shirt set on fire. A Brooklyn woman was doused with chemicals. Noel Quintana’s face was slashed, requiring over 100 stitches. In California, a Los Angeles man was beaten with his own cane at a bus stop. Vicha Ratanapakdee (84 years), died after being pushed to the ground violently. His daughter, Amy, described it as a hate crime and shared that her children had been called racial epithets over the past year.

What can we do?

- Be an ally in the fight against Asian American racism.
- When we discuss racial injustice, include issues confronting Asian Americans.
- Advocate for law enforcement to create task forces and liaisons to address concerns emanating from the Asian American community. [Andrew Yang suggested funding for an NYC Asian-American Hate Crime Task Force.](#)
- Historically there have been incidents of [tension between African Americans and Asian Americans](#) and the need for increased engagement between these two marginalized communities. Challenge attempts to generate conflict between them.
- Challenge Asian American stereotypes that downplay the issues confronting that community. Particularly the “model minority” myth that downplays the important problems the community faces. Asians are often touted as possessing greater intelligence and success, especially compared to other racial-ethnic communities, while downplaying important problems the community faces.
- Write letters of outrage to politicians who make anti-Asian statements or express prejudicial sentiments. Write op-eds and letters to the editor in local papers.
- When an incident occurs in your community, publicly advocate for prosecutors to charge hate crimes in violent attacks against Asian Americans.
- Attend rallies and protests in support of the Asian community. Advocate for investment in education and community resources to get at the root causes of Anti-Asian xenophobia in the ongoing conversation on race.

Rev. Jimmie R. Hawkins. Associate Director of Advocacy, Presbyterian Church (USA)

Promotion of Social Righteousness

The sixth secondary end is: *Fostering conversation and action for the promotion of social righteousness.*

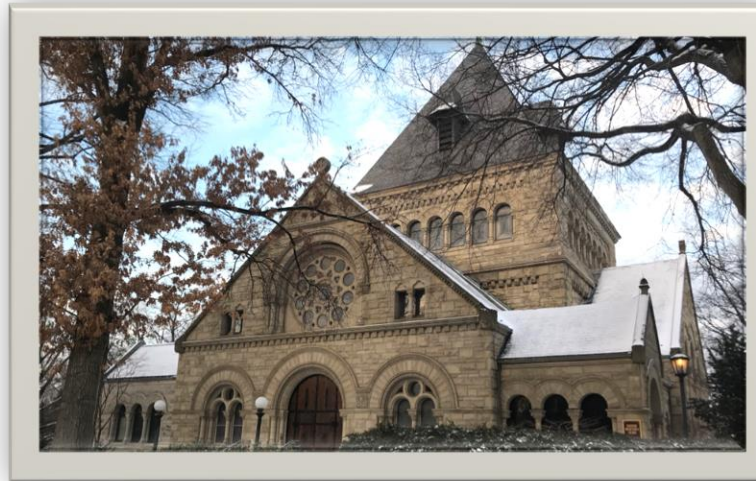
The recommendation is to change it to: *Fostering conversation and action for the promotion of covenantal righteousness and (social) justice.*

The **Promotion of Social Righteousness** focuses on living according to how God orders the world. It is concerned about the things that God is concerned about and seeks out what is just and right. Following God's laws, to live honorably, to seek to live by what God would have us be and do in God's world.

It is a collective righteousness we achieve together as a society, not just as individuals. It means that one part affects every other part and that our lives are inextricably bound up in such a way that we succeed or fail together.



SEMINARY SUPERVISED FIELD EDUCATION





God is Just

- **Deuteronomy 32:4** *"The Rock, His work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he."*
- **Psalm 89:14** *"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you."*
- **Psalm 82:3** *"Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute".*
- **Isaiah 1:17** *"Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, and please the widow's cause."*
- **Micah 6:8** *"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*
- **Luke 11:42** *"But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others,"*
- **James 2:14-17:** ¹⁴ *What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵ If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶ and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷ So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*
- **1 John 4:19-20:** ¹⁹ *We love because he first loved us. ²⁰ Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹ The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.*



Jesus:
Teaching,
Preaching
and Healing

Mark 1: 14-45 (Luke 4:14-44)

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, **proclaiming** the gospel of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

²¹ And they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was **teaching**. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.

³⁴ And he **healed** many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons.

Matthew 4:23

²³ And he went throughout *all Galilee*, **teaching** in their synagogues and **proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom and **healing** every disease and every affliction among the people.

Matthew 9:35

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, **teaching** in their synagogues and **proclaiming** the gospel of the kingdom and **healing** every disease and every affliction.



²³ *“Woe to you, scribes (teachers of the law) and Pharisees, you hypocrites! For you tithe (give a tenth of your spices) — mint, dill and cumin.*

*And have neglected the weightier (more important) matters of the law — **justice, mercy and faithfulness.***

These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others.”

Jesus: Matthew

23:23

NRSV & LIVING BIBLE

John Calvin: “*Civil magistracy is a calling not only holy and legitimate, but by far the most sacred and honorable in human life.*”

John Calvin



“To do judgment and justice is nothing else than to abstain from all injury by cultivating good faith and equity with our neighbors: *then* to defend all good causes, and to take the innocent under our patronage when we see them unjustly injured and oppressed” .

“Separation of Church and State”

The first clause in the Bill of Rights states that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion.” **Establishment clause of First Amendment often interpreted to require separation of church and state.** Though not explicitly stated in the First Amendment, the clause is often interpreted to mean that the Constitution requires the separation of church and state.



Johnson Amendment

A 1954 provision in the U.S. tax code that prohibits all 501 non-profit organizations from endorsing or opposing political candidates. It regulates what tax-exempt organizations, such as churches, can do in the political arena. Under terms of the 1954 legislation (named for then Sen. Lyndon Johnson), churches and other nonprofit organizations that are exempt from taxation "are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office," according to the IRS website. Organizations claiming tax-exempt status cannot collect contributions on behalf of political campaigns or make any statement for or against a particular candidate. Clergy are not allowed to endorse candidates from the pulpit. The law is fairly narrow in scope. Nonpartisan voter education activities and church-organized voter registration drives are *legal*. Pastors are free to preach on social and political issues of concern. Churches can publish "issue guides" for voters. (Wikipedia & NPR)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Sustainable Development Goals Study and Devotional Guide

