

Vitality

from the Office of Theology, Formation & Evangelism

Director's Message

I am inspired by Matthew 9:35-38. Jesus is on the move—"teaching in their synagogues," "proclaiming the good news," and, "healing every disease and sickness." This is a beautiful, stirring portrayal of God's reign and purpose. Immediately following this account of the ministry of Jesus, we encounter him calling and equipping the disciples for the same ministry: teaching, proclaiming the good news, and healing every disease and sickness. In other words, this is the purpose of the church; this is our work!

As wonderful as the church can be, I believe we have lost our way. We do not look with the compassion of Jesus when seeing the people around us; the church has been sidetracked from its original purpose by pursuing the world's power and engaging in activities that primarily support the church. Instead of teaching, proclaiming, and healing, we have been consumed with membership loss and techniques to attract more people inside our doors. We have centered our attention on a person's soul and have neglected people's physical needs. We have been content to function as a club of people caring mostly for the needs of our own club members. And I am convinced that God is calling the church to change by reclaiming the way of Jesus.

Therefore, I'm excited to invite you to this year's Evangelism Conference, Oct. 3-5, held in person in Louisville, and online via Zoom. We'll explore our theme, "A Lifestyle that Exudes Justice," through dynamic and thoughtful worship and plenary sessions, and learn from gifted workshop leaders focusing on 5 areas of Jesus' ministry presented in Matthew 9:35-38. I am praying that this time together will inspire and help equip us to shift from operating in survival mode to

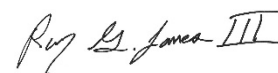
truly experiencing and sharing renewal through gospel ministry. I hope you will join us as we seek to recover what it means to be a follower of Jesus!

Register & find conference information here:

<https://app.groupize.com/e/evangelism-conference-2024>



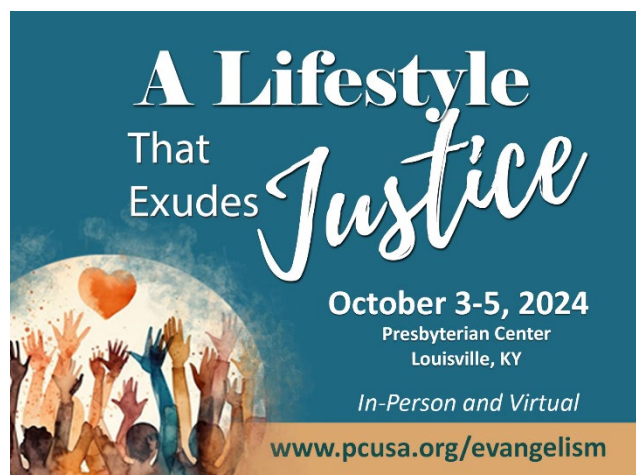
Grace,



Ray G. Jones III

Director

Theology, Formation & Evangelism



**A Lifestyle
That
Exudes Justice**

October 3-5, 2024
Presbyterian Center
Louisville, KY

In-Person and Virtual

www.pcusa.org/evangelism



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Presbyterian Mission
**Theology, Formation
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