We declare that “We Presbyterians evaluate any economic system not simply on the basis of the material goods and services it provides, but especially on the basis of its human consequences: what it is doing to, with and for people, particularly the most vulnerable among us. In our tradition, economic behavior, like all behavior, must be subject to moral scrutiny. For this reason, the church must speak to the present economic crisis, to the devastation it has brought, and to the hope to which we bear witness: that, in Christ, a more just order is arising.” (“Living Through Economic Crisis,” 219th General Assembly (2010))

We repent that Christians have misunderstood or been misled by biblical passages taken out of context or by theological interpretations that distort the gospel’s original intention. We repent that the church has used Scripture to uphold systems that perpetuate oppression and poverty. We do not believe that “the poor will always be with us” indicates poverty is inevitable or God’s will. We do not believe that “blessed are the poor in spirit” indicates it is a blessing to lack economic sufficiency or basic human rights. We do not believe in a prosperity gospel in which God blesses faithful people with economic riches and condemns unfaithful people to poverty.

We advocate for global economic justice through a range of strategies and approaches including racial, gender and environmental justice, care for refugees and immigrants, guaranteed minimum wages and full employment, support for programs that meet the needs of women and children, and welfare reform that neither requires “workfare” nor punishes the poor. In our advocacy, we ensure that the voices of impoverished people enable us to discern and address the root causes of poverty.