



### **Advocating for U.S. Welcome: Monitoring, Accompanying and Advocating for Humane Border and Asylum Policies**

*Susan Krehbiel, Associate for Refugees and Asylum, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*

*Erica Nelson, Texas Impact (Interfaith Center for Public Policy)*

The changes in U.S. policy to deny ready access to ports of entry to seek asylum has caught thousands of asylum seekers in Mexico. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has partnered with faith-based organizations, presbytery and congregation-based initiatives to provide immediate humanitarian assistance and to monitor and advocate for the right to seek asylum. One of the new initiatives is Courts and Ports, in the Rio Grande Valley, where volunteers are trained as observers to identify and document due process weaknesses and violations in the federal court and at border crossings, while also providing a physical presence that may improve the chances for the asylum seekers to be heard. Learn how we can join these efforts and others to raise our voices to stand for welcome and asylum.

### **Can the Corruption Be Reversed? — Not a 'Deep State,' but Deep Faith vs. Deep Pockets**

*Rev. Chris Iosso, Coordinator, Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy*

*Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory, former Director, Office of Public Witness, PC(USA)*

Why do examples of corruption such as campaign finance violations, Russian interference and tax fraud disgust us — as Christians, Reformed

Christians and honest patriots? We will articulate the values and principles of our deep faith and point to key resources, including the Rev. Elenora Giddings Ivory's recent book on her experience as a religious advocate, while also noting changes on the political chessboard. How do we influence the investigations and hearings to turn the wealth and power of the lobbying class and hidden money against them? We will explore which social media approaches work and how we punch through power with morality to lift up vulnerable voices.

### **Immigration Enforcement in the United States: How We Organize for a More Effective Response Alongside Our Immigrant Neighbors**

*Teresa Waggener, Manager of Immigration Legal Resources, Office of Immigration Issues*

*Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri, Ruling Elder, Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly*

As we witness systems and structures play into the political game of manipulating the narrative around immigrants and immigration, we are challenged to push back against the lack of political will to provide oversight and accountability of immigration enforcement and to provide comprehensive immigration reform. This workshop will provide an overview of how these structures of injustice have created an unchecked immigration enforcement system by focusing on the policies and practices along the U.S. southern border and the interior of the U.S. We will touch on detention, legal counsel and enforcement priorities. We will also discuss how immigrant-led and immigrant-rights groups are responding as they push us to advocate for change at all political levels.

**'Troubling the Waters'**  
for the Healing of the World

## The Least of These: A Missional Engagement of the Faithful in the Work of Preventing and Alleviating Poverty

**Rev. Dr. Alonzo T. Johnson**, *Coordinator for the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People*

**Rev. Dr. Karen Brown**, *National Committee Member of the Self-Development of People Ministries*

**Clara Nunez**, *Associate for Program Administration, Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People*

How are we as churches and communities of faith engaged in the work of preventing and alleviating poverty? How does poverty impact you? With Matthew 25 as its backdrop, this workshop will examine poverty both nationally and its interconnected issues (i.e., living wages, homelessness, education, health care, mass incarceration and how each intersects with race, class and gender). The workshop will also equip participants with strategies centered around community organizing to create conversation around and seek to leverage congregational/communal power in engaging issues in the local community through direct action and advocacy. Using biblical perspectives of justice, the workshop is also designed to encourage relationship- and community-building among participants so that they may also network and together address the issues of poverty and create systemic change.

### Let's Talk Faith and Climate

**Ani Fête Crews**, *Director of Blessed Tomorrow*

Making the connection between our faith and climate change can be challenging. The Presbyterian Hunger Program's ecumenical partner, Blessed Tomorrow, will share research and guidance to help us communicate confidently, authentically and effectively on

climate change and its solutions with a variety of audiences. The workshop will focus on the power of connecting to foundational values like faith in order to build public support for climate solutions, and how building authentic messages using this guidance can help in your advocacy efforts on climate and other policy issues. We will provide tested messaging to open a conversation and to position climate action as a moral imperative, allowing you to engage congregations and colleagues, the public and policymakers.

## Loving Our Neighbor: Stirring the Waters by Supporting Our Public Schools

**Rev. Lynette Sparks**, *Associate Pastor for Outreach and Evangelism at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, New York*

**Rev. Dave Brown**, *former Pastor of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Tacoma, Washington, and former staff to the National Council of Churches Committee on Public Education and Literacy*

This workshop will examine the importance of education as a basic, need, right and pathway to freedom. Through interactive conversation, the workshop will discuss strategies for engagement on ways that congregations can be engaged in the issues concerning child advocacy and public education through direct action and advocacy. The workshop will include time for small group discussion of what churches are doing and can do to impact policy at the district, state and national level and to directly serve students falling through the cracks in their own context. The workshop will also explore what an "Educational Covenant" among churches could look like, as one is being created by the Education Roundtable.

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## for the Healing of the World

## Movement Building and Consciousness as if We Were Part of Nature

**Andrew Kang Bartlett**, *Presbyterian Hunger Program*

**Cynthia Mellon**, *Climate Justice Alliance (invited)*

Albert Einstein famously said, “We cannot solve our problems with the same level of thinking that created them.” Come learn about ancient and emerging levels of thinking, explore ways to cultivate earth consciousness, and hear about recent movements that have taken lessons from nature. See how racism and other “isms” must be dismantled to achieve a livable future. Through guided meditation, exercises, voices of the wise ones and dialogue, we will dip our toes into presence-based and relational ways of being and doing. Finally, we will look at and learn how to get involved with the Climate Justice Alliance, which is incorporating these approaches.

## Must We Still Do Nothing? Christians Challenging the Military-Industrial Complex

**Henry Koenig Stone**, *“Unbound” Managing Editor*

Christians are called to be engaged with the world and to address its problems, but we must also reckon with the consequences of our actions. It is partially a Christian impulse that has led the U.S. to claim the role of the “world’s policeman” — an overreaction that has often done more harm than good. The same logic that draws Christians to engage with the world calls us now to challenge the military-industrial complex dominant militarism in the arena of U.S. politics. In this workshop, we will review key points in the military history of U.S. foreign policy. We will then discuss how to engage with divergent perspectives on military action.

## No Place to Call Home: Transgender People in the U.S. and LGBTQ Asylum Seekers

**Dr. Michael J. Adee**, *Director, Global Faith and Justice Project at San Francisco Theological Seminary*

In 72 countries, it is illegal to be gay, with the death penalty imposed in eight countries. LGBTQ people and their families face prejudice, discrimination and violence at alarming rates around the world. LGBTQ people who feel unsafe in their home countries, such as Uganda, Nigeria and Russia, flee to refugee camps, where they often experience prejudice and violence. This interactive workshop will include a panel of international LGBTQ asylees sharing their stories of crisis and resilience.

## Presbyterians and the Poor People’s Campaign

**Rev. Jimmie Hawkins**, *Director, Office of Public Witness*

The Poor People’s Campaign (PPC) is the continuation of the 1968 movement initiated by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It has four goals that are relevant for today: Systemic Racism, Poverty, Environmental Degradation and the War Economy and Militarism. We will discuss the work of Presbyterians who are actively engaged in the PPC across the country. There will be sharing on how the PPC goals match up with the policy of the PC(USA), as well as ways to connect with the PPC in your own community.

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## Privilege, Poverty and Policy: Making the Voice of the Church Heard With Our Hands

**Rev. Dr. Chris Iosso**, Coordinator, Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy

**Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson**, Coordinator for the Self-Development of People

This workshop is designed to invite and challenge Presbyterians to explore, examine and learn what the church says about poverty and equity through some of its social witness policies. This workshop is also designed to help Presbyterians better articulate the church's stance on the issues of poverty and privilege. Intersectional issues such as race and class will be explored, along with issues pertaining to wage inequities, employment, mass incarceration, education, sustainable development and neo-liberalism. The workshop will also explore how the church can better articulate, both theologically and socially, its stance on issues connected to poverty and economic equity.

## Shalom and Shelem: Finding Wholeness Amidst Racial Distress

**Carlton Johnson**, Johnson C. Smith Seminary

**Rev. Denise Anderson**, former Moderator and Coordinator for Racial and Intercultural Justice

**Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson**, Coordinator for the Self-Development of People

Racism is alive, and white supremacy shapes our institutions and systems. Shelem is the modern Hebrew word related to shalom, meaning "to pay for." Former U.S. Rep. John Conyers called for a Commission to Study Reparations annually for the past 27 years, and the Movement for Black Lives is calling for reparations as a pillar of their policy platform. We will use the Belhar Confession along with other tools and dialogue to explore how reparations may help our society transform its attitudes and relationships.

## Solidarity in Praxis: Supporting Peace in Colombia

**Rev. Emily Brewer**, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship

"Peace signed is not peace realized," our Colombian Presbyterian partners tell us. Although Peace Accords were signed in 2016, the work of peace-building is just beginning, and our Colombian partners need us in the PC(USA) to continue standing with them. This workshop will look at the current context in Colombia: increasing numbers of social leaders being killed, a federal government that is deliberately stalling the peace process, and a civil society committed to building peace. From that context, we will learn how Presbyterians in the U.S. can support peace in Colombia through specific advocacy asks and through accompaniment of the Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia. Whether you are learning for the first time about the peace process or are already involved in solidarity with Colombia, you are welcome.

## Stepping in the Waters: Inspiring and Engaging Presbyterians in the Work of Hope and Healing in Addressing the Issue of Mass Incarceration

**Dr. Hans Hallundbaek**, Criminal Justice Coordinator, Hudson River Presbytery

**Sue Rheem**, Mission Specialist for International Advocacy, Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations

**Rev. Dr. Alonzo T. Johnson**, Coordinator of the Self-Development of People

In a time when we witness all-time high mass incarceration numbers in the U.S. (2.2 billion), there is a great need for the church to foster ideas of bridging the gap between the church, community and jails and prisons. In places like Rwanda, there are motifs of reconciliation and restoration that can give us greater insight into

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the healing of broken relationships. Through the exploration of global restorative justice motifs, this workshop will also offer analysis of the intersection of economics, race, gender, class and power and how they are operative in the current predatory system of mass incarceration worldwide. With its biblical basis in John 5:1–9, its connection to the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals, and learnings from models of restorative justice, this workshop will provide and explore examples of ways and initiatives, both domestically and globally, that can influence churches to get involved in addressing issues connected to mass incarceration here and abroad. Like the waters of healing described in the John text, this workshop promotes “stepping in the waters” so that churches can be involved in the support and healing of those who are incarcerated.

### Using Social Media in the Social Media Age

**Mari Graham Evans**, *Social Media Specialist, Presbyterian Mission Agency*

**Rich Copley**, *Communications Strategist, Presbyterian Mission Agency*

How do you avoid “fake news”? What are the best ways to get our point of view to journalists? How do we use social media to tell our side of the story — and avoid its pitfalls? Presbyterian Mission Agency social media strategist Mari Graham Evans and Compassion, Peace & Justice communications strategist Rich Copley will bring their years of multimedia experience to a discussion of advocacy in the 21st century media landscape.

### “What is Ours to Do?”

**David LaMotte**, *Award-Winning Songwriter, Speaker, Author and Activist*

In a time of so much work that needs doing, how do we determine which part is ours to do? Equally importantly, how do we determine which part of the work is not ours to do? In this workshop, we will continue the conversation about how change happens, how it doesn’t and how we might discern our places in the struggle to build the kin-dom.

### What to Say, What to Do, When to Act

**Rev. Kathy Dale McNair**, *Faith, Hope and Good Mental Health Founder/Director*

One in five Americans live with a mental illness every year. Family members and caregivers are affected, too. Workshop participants will learn how pervasive and oftentimes invisible mental illnesses are. They will learn how to use “person-first” language and experience companionship skills. And in small groups, they will learn how compassion can overcome stigma. Getting equipped with skills and reducing fear helps form connections with those who may feel they have lost all hope.

### Why BDS Matters: What the Movement Really Is and How the Church has Responded

**Noushin Framke**, *PC(USA) Israel Palestine Mission Network*

This workshop will discuss the origin and identity of the BDS movement as a Palestinian-originated call for nonviolent, targeted economic activism in protest of the status quo in Israel/Palestine. It will also include information about the barriers that have been put up in opposition to BDS, in particular through conflicting narratives about the movement’s goals.

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## A 'Work-in-Progress' Preview of the new PDA documentary *Flint: The Poisoning of an American City*

### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Story Ministry Team**

In this workshop, we will preview the new Flint documentary as a resource for faith leaders and others to host screenings, discussions and facilitate engagement around issues of systemic and environmental racism and environmental justice. The film is a powerful educational tool to inspire local communities to move from complacency to action. PDA will offer models for hosting film screenings in a variety of contexts, including with community partners interested in moving from study to advocacy. Panelists will discuss the ways that faith leaders can be a voice for clean water in their communities.

## Working for Justice with the World Communion of Reformed Churches

### **Rev. Chris Ferguson**, *General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches*

The PC(USA) belongs to the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). United in Christ and rooted in the historic Reformed traditions, the WCRC, with its member churches, believe that Christian faith is responding to God's call to meet spiritual needs and foster justice for all in the transformation of the world through the love of Jesus Christ. This workshop will examine ways the communion of churches works together for justice.

Compassion, Peace & Justice Training Day is made possible by your gifts and the gifts of your congregation to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

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