



EFOCUS

Weekly Missive

Purple Christians on the Border Interests-Based Dialogue

Last week I quoted Micah 6:8 and it's call for us, as God's people, to do justice (Hebrew: *tzedakah*)! Justice as *tzedakah* signifies in the Old Testament the active presence of social equality—both of rights and resources—and the absence of gross, economic inequalities that weigh more heavily on the poor and marginalized. Justice as *tzedekah* is a foundational command in Scripture that promises hope for all of God's people: from the least to the greatest we are all deserving personal dignity and social wellness. *Tzedekah* is an interest all Christians should affirm.



What is interest-based dialogue?

The parable of two siblings arguing over the last orange on a rainy day describes interest-based dialogue. A parent entered the kitchen to hear their children arguing over the last orange. The eldest, a son, was clear about his position: he wanted and deserved the orange. The youngest, a daughter, was clear about her position: she wanted and deserved the orange. When the parent inquired about each child's interest instead of their positions, the eldest described his need for the orange peel for baking and the youngest described her desire for the orange fruit because she was hungry. Position-based argumentation led to an impasse. However, their interests aligned and led to a creative compromise. *Tzedekah* is an interest all Christians should affirm, so it is incumbent upon us as people of faith to seek the creative path forward.

Relating Scripture to our ethics on the border, what constitutes a position-based argument versus what are examples of interest-focused dialogue?

Arguing to build the wall or not build the wall is a position-based argument—there is a winner and a loser to this policy decision, a zero-sum game of winner-take-all. The debate over whether we should militarize the border by bringing in the literal army or should march in a figurative army of child welfare, legal and medical professionals, and language specialists is a position-based argument. However, the desire to limit drug trafficking and human trafficking for the sex trade is an interest held in common by all people of faith. The desire to decrease instances of violence at the border is an interest shared by all people of faith. The desire to have fewer human beings die trying to enter our country is an interest shared by all people of faith. Purple Christians share many interests!

Let's play a game. I am going to describe (all too briefly) a policy idea, and I want you to tell me the interests this policy might fulfill. Ready?

- Establish regional refugee processing centers in Central America.
- Work collaboratively with Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, and Mexico to strengthen their asylum programs.
- Work with El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to create an orderly way for children and families to apply for protection in their own countries.

Let's switch the game up. I am going to describe an interest, and I want you to brainstorm policies that might be broadly affirmed by people of faith. Ready?

- Have fewer human beings make the hazardous journey away from their homes.
- Have fewer human beings die while walking through the desert.
- Diminish the power and influence of the Cartels, especially in the border region.

I'll conclude this week's missive with two questions. Can you identify your core interests? How do your core interests reflect *tzedakah*?

This is hard work but worth doing...together,
Brad Munroe



To help PCUSA pastors address the growing financial challenges to ministry, the Board of Pensions has developed Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregations. This initiative, designed to help ministers and congregations work together for financial stability, provides education and financial resources. This program combines pastor and congregational leader education with grants up to \$10,000 to qualifying pastors.

[Click here for a brochure with more info](#)

**Grant Writing Workshop May 29th at Memorial
Saturday, June 1st at 9am - 1pm
Memorial Presbyterian Church
4141 E Thomas Rd. Phoenix, AZ**



The next Mission Priority Grant awards offered by the Congregational Resourcing Team will be awarded in August 2019. The application deadline is July 15th.

There are 3 general Mission Priority Grant qualifications:

- 1) Congregational Development and / or Collaboration Among Congregations:
 - Congregational development includes both programmatic and leadership development that help churches gain clarity, purpose, focus, energy to fulfill God's call to them. Most of this development work must come from within a congregation, its members and leaders.
- 2) Starting New Worshipping Communities:
 - We affirm God's continuing call to this mid-Council of the Presbyterian Church that growth in the membership and mission of our part of the body of Christ can and needs to happen, in part, by adding more worshipping communities. However, the most promising energy in recent years has come from people with a passion for this work, coupled with the commitment of one or more congregations to nurture and support.
- 3) Supporting Regional Programs:
 - Regional programs will support existing congregations and Presbytery sponsored organizations in their serving or nurturing the faith development of its members. Examples of programs include: Montlure Camp, UKIRK, and the Arizona Faith Network.

Mission Priority Grants are grants funded from the Presbytery's Mission Pledges. Since October of 2017, we have been able to fund \$158,800 out of \$359,275 in application requests.

Please register for this workshop by May 29th at the link below.

To help walk you through the grant application process, what qualifies for a grant, how to address each question and how to strengthen your application, the CRT Grant Sub-Committee members will be leading this workshop. [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE WORKSHOP](#)

Applications for the grant will be made available online on May 17th. Watch for a link in EFOCUS!



Pentecost Offering

Educate yourselves on the dangers for children and sex trafficking. Learn more in the Presbytery E-focus message this month, and why children in foster care are at particular risk. Support the Pentecost Offering, a portion of which goes to organizations helping children

at risk.

[Click here for more information](#)

Applications Being Accepted for Montlure

Montlure Summer staff and volunteer applications are open for 2019! Applications can be found at Montlure.CampBrainStaff.com

Register for Overnight and Traveling Day Camps at Montlure.CampBrainRegistration.com

Overnight Camps:
Senior High: June 2-7
Junior High: June 23-28
Juniors: July 7 -11

Day Camps:
Phoenix/Orangewood Presbyterian : June 3-8
Phx East Valley/Gilbert Presbyterian: June 10-14
Casa Grande/First Presbyterian: June 17-21
Green Valley/Valley Presbyterian: June 24-28
Tucson/Christ Presbyterian Church: June 24-28
More to announce, soon!

More details at: Montlure.org



Older Adult Ministry in a Changing Era

Major demographic changes are taking place in our society. This provides both challenges and opportunities for today's churches. Several articles in this issue of PNN share insights on some

of the opportunities that folks are addressing:

- MEMO from Membership by Linda Rauenbuehler
- NEXT Church Gathering by Quentin Holmes
- A Renewed Approach to Aging: Wise Eyes - Fresh Eyes by Michele Hendrix
- Addressing the Challenges of Aging Well in a Remote Location by Lynnette Wood

Other articles in this issue include:

- We Just Wanted to Serve Our Neighbors A Bowl of Soup! by Carrie Macaluso
- A Contemplative Article by Wesley Lachman

[Click here](#) to download and read the complete Spring PNN.

[Click here to register for this month's Regional Conference: Engaging Aging in Today's World](#)



Please keep these people in your prayers:

Those preparing for the Montlure Camping season

Upcoming Events and other Resources

To access information below, click on text that is underlined!

MAY

- 11- [West Valley PW Bible Study Overview](#)
- 21- AZ Faith Network Annual Meeting

AUGUST

OCTOBER

4-6 PWS Fall Gathering- [register](#)

Presbytery calendar

THIS WEEK'S PCUSA NEWS

Board of Pensions- [Board Bulletin](#)

[Presbyterians Today](#)

MONTLURE DATES AND REGISTRATION

ACTIVE SHOOTER PLAN FOR CHURCHES

Passion Play trip with Pinnacle- Contact Michael Hegeman (mhegeman@pinnaclepres.org) for a brochure or additional information.

Take a Look! Several new Job postings to explore! Feel free to share with friends!

JOBS and GOODS

Visit our website

STAY CONNECTED



Presbytery of Grand Canyon |602-468-3820 | Fax- 602-468-3824 |pbyoffice@gmail.com
|www.pbygrandcanyon.org