

On the Church in This Moment in History

The Committee on the Office of the General Assembly recommends that the 224th GA (2020)

1. *Urge all Presbyterians to hear and heed the Gospel imperative to love God, neighbor, and self by living out a deeper commitment to active participation with Jesus Christ in the work of building God's kingdom through*
 - a. *Personal and corporate repentance, spiritual renewal, and devotion to the Great Ends of the Church*
 - b. *Listening and responding to the voices of peoples long silenced through programs such as Hands and Feet: Presbyterians Engaging in Communities and the Poor People's Campaign*
 - c. *Energetic, intelligent, imaginative, and loving involvement in the intertwined Matthew 25 foci: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty*
2. *Direct the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to review all items of business referred to the 225th General Assembly (2022) to consider prayerfully whether the recommendations could be enacted under current social witness policy or the authority of agencies and their boards to make programmatic decisions between assemblies.*
3. *Encourage congregations, sessions, presbyteries, and synods to review items of business referred to the 225th General Assembly (2022) and prayerfully consider the call of God to work and witness for the goals and values expressed therein.*

Rationale

A knee on a neck
laying bare for all to see
the evil of
callous
soulless
entitled
power
choking the life from
God's beloved
just because.

We know what must change.
Will we, church?

We have written many
true, significant,
sometimes even sincere
words.

We have confessed:
Belhar, C'67, Barmen...

Enough words?
Never enough witness.

We know we must change.
Will we, church?

Kairos.

The Great Ends of the Church

1. The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
2. The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
3. The maintenance of divine worship
4. The preservation of the truth
5. The promotion of social righteousness
6. The exhibition of the kingdom of heaven to the world

— *Book of Order*, F-1.0304

Hands and Feet Initiative: <https://handsandfeet-pcusa.org/>

Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival: <https://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/>

Matthew 25 Initiative: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

PC(USA) racial justice resources: <https://www.pcusa.org/racial-justice-resources/>.