

Just Peacemaking and the PCUSA

Special Guest Speaker Coming to Second Presbyterian Church

4200 Saint Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21218

Sunday, May 8, 10 AM in the Westcott Room

Come to Second Presbyterian's Adult Seminar on Sunday, May 8th at 10 am, for a conversation facilitated by the Rev. Christian Iosso, coordinator for the Presbyterian Church USA's (PCUSA) Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP). Dr. Iosso will discuss the policy stances being developed by the PCUSA on the challenging issues of international refugees, the targeted violence against Christians in the Middle East— recently categorized as genocide, and Israel/Palestine divestment. How do we understand these and other public policy issues? Can we have differing perspectives and views and still come together in civil discourse? How does a church that believes "God alone is Lord of the conscience" also take corporate stands, and how do these stands affect our own congregational conscience and witness? What impact can we as Presbyterians bring to affect positive change?

PC(USA)'s Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) is responsible for the process of developing and recommending social witness policy to the PCUSA General Assembly on diverse matters of Christian conscience and social justice. These are often the lightning rod issues of the day. Among them are gun violence, poverty, reproductive rights, human rights, immigration, global warming, international politics, and issues of race, class and gender to name just a few.

About The Rev. Christian T. Iosso, PhD



Chris Iosso is a Presbyterian minister and social ethicist who serves as Coordinator of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP). He is a graduate of Johns Hopkins University (BA), Princeton Seminary (M.Div.) and Union Seminary (NY) (Ph.D.). His denominational and ecumenical service has been in social ministry and social witness, both in the early 1980's on the New York staff and from late 2005 to present in the Louisville offices. He also served as pastor of the Scarborough Presbyterian Church in Briarcliff, NY, for more than 12 years and taught college and seminary part-time for 4 years, primarily in Sing Sing prison.

Author of many shorter publications, he is also co-editor of Prayers for the New Social Awakening: Inspired by the new Social Creed (Westminster/ John Knox, 2008). Married to the Rev. Robin Hogle, a hospital chaplain, he is the father of three young adults.

When at Johns Hopkins (1973-76), he attended Second Presbyterian Church. He was a pre-law student with many political science and history courses.