

## PYT Advocacy Walk

### Stop #1

#### Young Adult Volunteers- Exploring Faith in Responsible Action Blake Collins and Richard Williams

“The Young Adult Volunteer program is a one year service opportunity for young adults ages 19 to 30. YAVs live in intentional Christian community, deepening and developing their faith while serving alongside partners in sites across the United States and around the world. YAVs serve for one year exploring God’s call in their lives.

### Stop #2

#### Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Beth Merri Snyder

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) GIVE, ACT, PRAY In 2015, more than 22,800 volunteers served



through 42 PDA-related volunteer hosting sites in 17 states, donating more than 223,000 hours of labor for disaster recovery. The monetary equivalence of this labor is valued at over \$5 million; however, as a church we know the value of our service is not limited to financial support – by bearing the witness of Christ’s love, our gifts of service are multiplied. Prepare and plan for a mission work trip where you can participate in the recovery from natural, human-caused and technological disasters. God Can Use You! To register for a mission trip call 866.732.6121, [pda.callcenter@pcusa.org](mailto:pda.callcenter@pcusa.org)

### Stop #3

#### National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM) Julie Taylor

NFWM is a faith-based organization committed to justice for and empowerment of farm workers. NFWM educates, equips and mobilizes member organizations and other faith communities, groups and individuals to support farm worker led efforts to improve their living and working conditions.

#### Core Values of NFWM’s mission:

**Respect** - We recognize the inherent dignity of all persons and will treat others with the care and respect with which we would like to be treated.

**Transformation** - We work energetically to change unjust conditions, systems and relationships and open ourselves to transformation as well.

**¡Si Se Puede! (Yes, We Can!)** - We embody a personal and organizational spirit that promotes confidence, courage, risk taking and a positive attitude.

**Faithfulness** - We are encouraged by the Spirit, as expressed in our respective faith traditions, in carrying out our continuing work in solidarity with farm workers. ¡Hasta La Victoria!

**Resourcefulness** - We are careful and creative stewards in the planning and directing of the Ministry’s time, talents and treasure.

NFWM is comprised of 39 Member and Supporting Organizations. For more information at NFWM visit [www.nfwm.org](http://www.nfwm.org). The **Youth and Young Adult Network of the National Farm Worker Ministry (YAYA)** is a national network of young people actively working to change the oppressive social, political and economic conditions faced by farm workers in the United States. YAYA members support farm worker campaigns for justice and work directly with farm workers in the community. On the YAYA website you can learn about campaigns for justice, area actions and upcoming training sessions. For more information

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about the YAYAs - Website: [www.nfwm-yaya.org](http://www.nfwm-yaya.org) Facebook: [/yaya.nfwm](https://www.facebook.com/yaya.nfwm) Twitter: @YAYAfarmworkers  
Email: [yaya@nfwm.org](mailto:yaya@nfwm.org)

### Stop #4 **1001 New Worshiping Communities** **Vera White**

The Presbyterian Church (USA) made a bold decision to ignite a movement that will result in the start of 1001 New Worshiping Communities over the next decade. These new communities reflect the changing culture in which we live and make new disciples of Christ. There are many people in our neighborhoods who are unlikely to enter the doors of a traditional church building but who experience a spiritual emptiness. These new communities are for them – and for YOU if you feel that we need to learn to do church in a new way.

### Stop #5 **National Farm Workers Ministry** **Sakuma Bros. Driscoll Berries Boycott** **Pam Phillips-Burk**

On Monday, July 11, 2013, a group of courageous farm workers in Washington State, fed up with enduring racial harassment and wage theft, walked out of the berry fields where they were harvesting after their co-worker was fired just for asking to get a slight increase in wages. THESE FARM WORKERS NEED YOUR HELP. The workers, mostly immigrants from indigenous towns in southern Mexico, confronted the farm's management – Sakuma Bros. Berry. When Sakuma Bros. would not treat the workers fairly, they formed themselves into an independent union – Familias Unidas por la Justicia (FUJ).



Sakuma Bros, to this day, refuses to sit down a talk with FUJ leadership. And so the farm workers are asking for our help by boycotting the berries they pick for Sakuma and it's largest purchaser – Driscoll's Berries. That's what we do at the National Farm Worker Ministry – we and our Youth and Young Adult network and people of faith all around the country. We stand on the side of farm workers seeking justice and better conditions. We ask that you join us and Familias Unidas por la Justicia in supporting the farm workers. For more information, visit [www.nfwm.org](http://www.nfwm.org)

### Stop #6 **Presbyterian Hunger Program** **Jenny Oldham**

The Presbyterian Hunger Program has worked in partnership with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) since 2001 to end forced labor, abuse, and unhealthy conditions which farmworkers have faced in the United States' tomato growing fields. Farmworkers who work in fields that are part of the Fair Food Program now do so with increased dignity. In part they earn a penny more for each pound they pick, allowing them to better care for their families. With 14 buyers now in the program, CIW continues to put pressure on others to join. A boycott against Wendy's began earlier this year. We invite you to join the boycott; and to send postcards to businesses in your area, letting them know you want to see them join the Fair Food Program. [www.pcusa.org/fairfood](http://www.pcusa.org/fairfood)

### Stop #7 **Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Special Offerings** **and the Office of Public Witness** **Hungry Kids Can't Learn: Fighting Childhood Hunger** **Tricia Wainscott**

The child nutrition programs funded by Congress touch the lives of nearly 32 million children every day. Child Nutrition Reauthorization is essential because these programs provide money to ensure that low-income children have access to healthy and nutritious foods at home and at school. Reauthorization provides the opportunity to improve and strengthen these programs, unfortunately The House of Representatives is about to vote for a Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill that does not do enough to

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ensure that children are getting the proper nutrition and food that they need. If Congress passes the current nutrition bill under consideration, it will reduce access to child nutrition programs, increase food insecurity among children, and harm children's growth and development. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has signed onto a letter with over 750 organizations to oppose the current Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill, which has advanced to a committee mark up in the U.S. House. Sign your name and join the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in urging Congress to strengthen nutrition programs for children.

### Stop #8

#### Presbyterian Peacemaking Program Fundamentalism

**Sarah Craven, Bill Stanley and Bev Richardson**



Each year more than 32,000 people in the U.S. are killed by guns, which have become the number one murder weapon in our country. There are more guns in the U.S. than there are people. Stop by our station on the Triennium Advocacy Walk and take a gun quiz to see how much you know about the realities of guns and gun violence in the United States. We'll also have information about the church's policies on gun violence and a little something for you to take home with you.

#### 10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Gun Violence

1. Contact your representatives in the U.S. Congress and ask that they support:
  - universal background checks and waiting periods for all gun purchases.
  - a ban on semiautomatic assault weapons, armor piercing handgun ammunition and .50 caliber sniper rifles.
2. Identify the organizations in your community engaged in gun violence prevention and get involved.
3. Attend a peaceful demonstration or public prayer service to end gun violence.
4. Contact your mayor and city council members and demand that steps be taken in your community to prevent gun violence.
5. Help close the gun show loophole that allows purchases with NO BACKGROUND CHECKS.
6. Schedule a screening of Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence for your group or organization. Visit the Trigger website at [www.triggerdoc.com](http://www.triggerdoc.com) to order materials and get suggestions on hosting a screening.
7. Join or form a local chapter of Heeding God's Call, a faith-based movement to end gun violence. Visit <http://www.heedinggodscall.org/> for more information.
8. Ask the leaders of your worshipping community to address gun violence in worship services (with periodic preaching, liturgies and prayers) and education classes. Resources can be found at [www.pcusa.org/gunviolence](http://www.pcusa.org/gunviolence)
9. Learn about your state's concealed carry laws (that may allow guns to be carried openly, including into houses of worship). Encourage your places of work and worship to prominently display signs that prohibit carrying guns onto their property.

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10. Encourage those you know (citizens, hunters and law enforcement officials) who regularly handle weapons properly to be wise examples in reducing risks and teaching how to prevent the misuse of deadly force.

All suggestions are based upon the recommendations approved by the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2010) in **Gun Violence, Gospel Values: Mobilizing in Response to God's Call**. PDS #24-0452-11-002

### Stop #9

#### Office of General Assembly / Ruling Elders

Kerry Rice

#### Church Polity and PC(USA) 101

Come and learn about the polity of the PC(USA) while testing your skills in Presbyterian trivia! We'll have questions about the history, theology, polity and statistics of the Presbyterian Church (USA) – and you can see how your knowledge stands up to your peers! Compete for prizes and see how many questions you can get right!

### Stop #10

#### Office of General Assembly

#### Skin in the Game: Showing up/Speaking out for Racial Justice

Molly Casteel

Add your voice to the witness wall. In your wholeness, make your mark and proclaim an action you will take (or a new practice you will adopt) to participate in the Spirit's work of bringing racial justice and healing in your circles and in God's world. Returning home, how will you "GO and do likewise?"

### Stop #11

#### Gender Equality

Marci Glass

Rev. Marci Auld Glass has been to every Triennium since 1998 and pastors Southminster Presbyterian Church in Boise, Idaho. She blogs at [www.marciglass.com](http://www.marciglass.com). She serves on the Board of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, is co-moderator of the Board of the Covenant Network, and is a member of the Clergy Advocacy Board of Planned Parenthood. She advocates for full inclusion of people in church and society, regardless of gender orientation or sexual identity; for a woman's right to make her own decisions about health care; for people who have experienced shame in church to have space to become "un-shamed"; and for an understanding of "religious freedom" that doesn't privilege the rights of one particular religious tradition.

#### Tips for advocacy:

- 1. Be kind.** Argue about ideals and not about personalities. (i.e., "I disagree with you about X, Y, and Z...." Do not say "You're an idiot....")
- 2. Where is your passion?** Don't fight for every issue that passes your way. Find the one (or two or three) where you feel a fire in the pit of your stomach and have something to say.
- 3. Listen.** People won't listen to what you have to say for very long if they can tell you are just trying to get the next word in. Do you hear what the people on the other side are saying? Can you see their point of view?
- 4. Be in dialogue.** As our world gets subdivided into groups of people who agree with each other, it becomes easier to demonize the "other". Most people care about the issue as much as you do, even if they reach different conclusions. The way to find common ground is by being in conversation. Also, it allows you to argue your own perspective better, because you haven't minimized the passion and ideas of your opponent.
- 5. Be informed.** Read up on the issues that matter to you. Read what the other side writes too, so you can seek the weaknesses in your own understanding.

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**6. Don't feed the trolls.** When you get into advocacy and people online find out about it, the trolls will come. They are beloved children of God who don't want to engage in the conversation mentioned above and so misbehave. They just want to judge you and silence you. Ignore them. Delete their comments (if it is on your page). They are not where the real conversation is to be had. They do not want to talk about ideas. They want to judge you.

**7. Have fun.** Using your voice to make a better world is fun. It can be a little intimidating too, but ultimately, the reward is in knowing that you are making a difference.