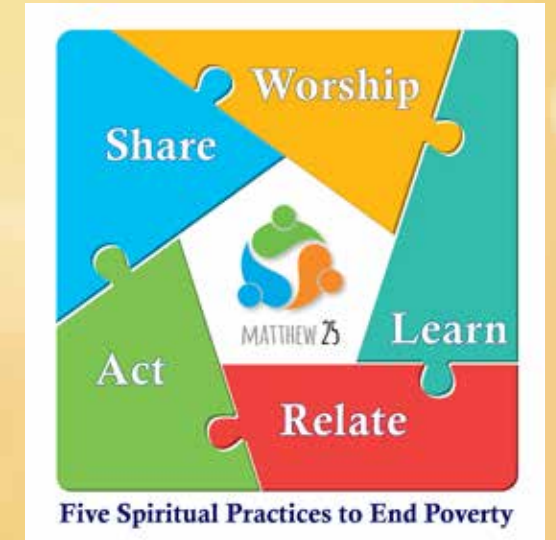


SPIRITUAL PRACTICES TO END POVERTY

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)’s vision of being a Matthew 25 church — being actively involved in the world around us — one of the key themes is eradicating systemic poverty. As we seek to end poverty and instead build community well-being, we incorporate these concerns in all areas of our common church life. The Presbyterian Hunger Program offers the following resources to engage in issues related to poverty and community well-being through worship, education, partner relationships, avenues for action and sharing resources. Each of these areas is one for practice — knowing we’ll never get it exactly right, but we keep trying. Each of these is deeply spiritual — as we navigate worship, learning, relationships, action and sharing resources. For more on Matthew 25 efforts on eradicating systemic poverty, see pcusa.org/mt25poverty.



Ugandan women gather for a community meeting.



Coalition of Immokalee Workers calls for food justice.



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Learn

Read children’s books as a starting point for Talking With Children about Homelessness: find recommendations at pcusa.org/homeless. Study the story of Joseph and learn about some modern-day solutions to hunger: download the PHP Bible Study at pcusa.org/hunger/biblestudy. And watch videos about the work of our grant partners around the world and hunger-related issues: visit pcusa.org/hunger to access PHP’s YouTube channel.

Act

Presbyterians stand in solidarity with Coalition of Immokalee Workers in the Fair Food Campaign and are active in state and national organizing for the Poor People’s Campaign. Part of our call as Christians is to organize and to advocate for the changes we believe are needed in the world. These two partners offer multiple ways to engage in faithful action: ciw-online.org and poorpeoplescampaign.org.

Worship

Find worship resources, including sample prayer, 10 Commandments of Food and bulletin insert to celebrate the Food Week of Action each October. The Global Food Week of Action includes World Food Day (Oct. 16), International Day for Rural Women (Oct. 15) and International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Oct. 17). See pcusa.org/foodweek.



Cameroonian women show how to share resources through a successful community grain bank.

RELUFA



Joining Hands Network in Peru meets with U.S. Presbyterians.

Red Uhendo Manos, Peru

Share

PHP partners PRODEK and RELUFA are two organizations that fight hunger and poverty by mobilizing resources within communities to meet income generation and food and nutrition needs. PRODEK is currently supporting women’s groups with microloans where women can borrow funds to start small income generating activities and those funds grow as women repay loans with a small interest fee and circulate more loans among members. RELUFA continues to support community grain banks programs in the extreme north of Cameroon, which have addressed recurrent hunger problems in the villages there by permitting community members to borrow grain during the lean period and reimburse grain during the next harvest.

Relate

For more than 20 years, the Joining Hands initiative of the Presbyterian Hunger Program has challenged global systems that generate hunger, poverty and injustice with the understanding that our own liberation is intrinsically tied to the liberation of our siblings around the world. It is with this understanding that we continue to deepen our relationships and solidarity with peoples in frontline communities who are living within extraction zones, who have had their environment and health polluted, been forcibly displaced from their lands and fallen into deeper poverty. And in listening to our partners, we are moved to analyze our own complicity as individuals, church and nation in maintaining systems of oppression so that we can become better partners and advocates for improved policies and corporate practices.