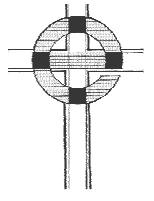




# The Presbyterian of The Presbytery of Elizabeth

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## News from the 219th GA: The PC(USA) Response to Arizona Immigration Law Questions and Answers



### What did the Assembly do?

The 219th General Assembly (2010) amended and approved a commissioner's resolution that calls for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to:

- “refrain from holding national meetings at hotels in those states where travel by immigrant Presbyterians or Presbyterians of color or Hispanic ancestry might subject them to harassment due to legislation similar to Arizona Law SB 1070/HB2162”;
- “offer nonfinancial support for the creation of accompaniment programs to support persons of color who feel that they are at risk when attending church - sponsored worship or programs” in congregations and camp & conference facilities;
- Encourage camps & conference centers in Arizona and other states that pass similar laws to “develop sanctuary’ responses that would create safe places for all participants”...; and
- Develop educational and legal resources for congregations through the PC(USA) office of immigration.

The vote was 420 - 205, with 18 abstentions.

### What does it mean?

The PC(USA) will now refrain from holding national meetings in the state of Arizona, and will monitor the progress of similar legislation to Arizona Law SB 1070/HB2162 that is currently being considered in seventeen other states (as of June 23, 2010). As directed by this assembly, the PC(USA) will refrain from holding national meetings in states that pass such copycat legislation.

### What's next?

Steps will begin to develop the programs and resources that are detailed in the assembly action.

### Where can I get more information?

■ <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=3587>

■ [www.pcusa.org/immigration](http://www.pcusa.org/immigration)



An excerpt from

### Can We Love Like Jesus?

A Meditation on *John 13: 31-35* by the Rev. Shannan R. Vance-Ocampo  
(Watchung Ave. Presbyterian Church)

**Sunday May 2, 2010**

on the occasion of the Plainfield Presbyterian Mission Group Combined Worship

If we were living in the State of Arizona right now, when this law goes into effect in July, I would venture to say that all of the clergy that are here today, including myself would be in immediate violation of this law and subject to arrest. We all, as part of our calling as Pastors helped people who are undocumented. I consider myself a law-abiding citizen—ultimately, the laws of our land are secondary to me when compared to the law of God. Many of us sitting here today for one reason or another would also be in violation of this law. Is this the kind of world you want to live in? Are these the kinds of laws you would be OK with following? I would not be. I know my husband would not be. If I was living in Arizona right now I would continue doing my ministry in the way I have done it since the day I was ordained nearly nine years ago, and the way I conducted my life before I was ordained. And if I got arrested in the pursuit of that ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so be it. We need to be in prayer for our sisters and brothers in ministry in Arizona who as of July can be arrested for doing ministry the way I and my colleagues here today practice it. I know many people in ministry in Arizona, and I can assure you, they are in violation of this law and they are part of our Presbyterian family. Even more than that we need to be in prayer, and we need to figure out a way to effectively advocate for our sisters and brothers in Christ in Arizona whose lives are being torn apart by this new law and who now live in even greater fear than they were before.

Complete meditation found at: <http://presbypeacefellowship.org/node/303>

## Jump into Social Media



Many enterprises are hiring “social media directors,” whose assignment is to comprehend the explosive growth of Facebook, Twitter and other social media, and then to incorporate social media into the enterprise’s business model. Churches should be doing the same.

First step is to figure out how these media work. Each has a different process, appeals to different people, and has different norms. Those basics are changing daily. Basically, the social-media person needs to jump in, start using the tools, and start reading blogs about them.

Second step is to imagine how these powerful tools can help your enterprise be more effective in pursuing its goals, whether those are selling product, chasing votes, promoting a cause, or building a faith community.

Third step is to immerse yourself in the social media culture. Read what people write, see how competitors use social media, make notes on unusually clever approaches. Then jump in deeper and take some stabs. Be prepared to move fast and to learn from mistakes.

Be constantly building your network of friends. Follow everyone you can on Twitter. Connect with friends of friends on Facebook. Don’t worry about not knowing these people. You want to hear their voices, get your voice into the mix, and start connecting with people who might care more than casually about your church, your ministry, your thoughts & ideas.

Use social media to lead those prospects to a deeper engagement, probably through a blog and/or e-mail. Don’t ask for money or count on using social media to promote a church event. If someone follows you on Twitter or asks you to be a friend on Facebook, thank them and leave the door open to dialog.

Standing out on Facebook gets harder and harder. My relatively small roster of 650 “friends,” for example, yields over 100 posts a day. I barely have time to scan them, much less read in detail. I’ve learned to compose all messages in Twitter, with its 140-character limit, and then send the same message on Facebook.

Send posts that people will want to send on to friends. Sign up for HootSuite and TweetDeck, to see who is mentioning you and who is writing directly to you.

Be respectful and concise. I don’t even read ten words into a diatribe. Long posts are like long articles: get to them someday, maybe. Don’t hog space. Four Tweets or Facebook updates a day are plenty. Don’t keep going over the same ground. Your burning cause will become an irritant to others if you mention it too often.

Those are some learnings from my recent immersion in social media.

A month from now, much will have changed. My goal isn’t to figure it all out forever, but to sense what is working today and what is changing.

In that way, social media are an important corrective for church leaders, who yearn for once-and-forever solutions in a world where everything changes constantly.

*(The above article was written by the Rev. Tom Ehrich, founder of the Church Wellness Project.)*

SAVE THE DATE!

### TENTMAKER CONFERENCE – 2010

November 12 – 14, 2010

## “Emergent Christianity and Tentmaker Ministry”

Keynote Speaker – PHYLLIS TICKLE, author of The Great Emergence

Conference Site: University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois

Conference Information: Davis Fisher – [davisfishr@aol.com](mailto:davisfishr@aol.com) 847-733-9977

