

PW Justice and Peace Coordinators Workshop

What Is This?

A basic outline that can be adapted for a workshop at a PW presbytery or synod gathering, at a cluster training day for PW in the congregations or for an event with neighboring presbyteries.

Who Is the Workshop for?

Presbyterian Women justice and peace coordinators in the congregations, presbyteries and synods. On the PW congregation, presbytery and synod levels, this could be a coordinating team position or responsibilities may be assigned to another position. On the churchwide level, many of the responsibilities fall to the Churchwide Coordinating Team Justice and Peace Committee

What Will Participants Learn?

Participants will

- learn why it is important to have a justice and peace coordinator and the position's basic responsibilities
- identify some of the issues PW is concerned about
- learn about PW resources available for advocacy
- explore the two options for PW presbytery leaders to work with PW congregations

Checklist for Workshop Leaders

Several days or weeks before the scheduled workshop

- Prepare a written plan or outline, with built-in alternatives.
- Plan activities that have a change of pace.
- Secure resources needed.
- Preview any video or audio materials to be presented.
- Plan a community building activity.
- Prepare necessary handouts.
- Prepare nametags, if needed.

The day of the workshop, prepare the location of the workshop including the following:

- Post signs outside the door.
- Ensure adequate number of tables and chairs.
- Ensure comfortable temperature and proper lighting.
- Have resources and equipment ready.
- See that equipment functions properly.
- Have visual aids prepared.

Conduct the workshop

- Set a welcoming atmosphere
- Greet the participants in a friendly manner as they enter.
- Provide nametags, if needed.
- Introduce your self, co-leaders and purpose of the workshop.

- Open with prayer.
- Provide a means by which each person can be introduced to the group.
- Direct the learning activities.
- Share your expectations for the workshop.
- Invite the participants to share their expectations.
- Show enthusiasm for the learning experience ahead.
- Offer an opportunity to share.
- Be flexible to the needs of the group.
- Provide handouts.
- Bring the workshop to a close.
- Summarize the points covered.
- Provide an opportunity for evaluation both by the participants and leader.
- Close with prayer.

The Workshop

Open the workshop with the following prayer or use one of your own.

God of Peace and all that is just, we come to you thanking you for the world you have created. We humbly ask your forgiveness for what we have done to it. Lead us now in ways we can give those around us a better understanding of the peace and justice you desire. It is in your name, Christ Jesus, we pray.

Why is it important to have a justice and peace coordinator?

To introduce the participants to each other and begin exploring what it means to be an advocate for justice and peace, invite each participant to briefly share an example of a time when she acted on a concern for justice and peace.

Thank the participants for sharing. Ask them to think about the stories shared. From the stories shared, where is injustice found? Where is peace needed?

Point out that PW justice and peace coordinators educate and raise awareness of justice and peace issues. They are the keys to an effective advocacy network, keeping Presbyterian women informed about issues and connecting individuals and groups with each other to work to overcome the obstacles to peace with justice.

What are the responsibilities of a PW justice and peace coordinator?

Every justice and peace coordinator carries out similar basic responsibilities. Ask the participants to brainstorm the basic responsibilities of the position. Ask which are common to the coordinator in the congregation, presbytery and the synod. Identify responsibilities that are unique to one level.

The list may include any or all of the following that are particular responsibilities of the Justice and Peace Committee of the Churchwide Coordinating Team (CCT). Add any the

group does not identify and note they are responsibilities of the CCT Justice and Peace Committee and the churchwide vice-moderator for justice and peace concerns.

- Educate and raise awareness of issues with special emphasis on how they impact women and children
- Maintain and expand the PW Justice and Peace network
- Encourage the use of inclusive and expansive language
- Strengthen the relationship between Presbyterian Women and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
- Encourage PW to attend conferences and workshops for justice and peace

What are key issues for Presbyterian Women?

Over the years Presbyterian Women have focused their collective efforts on a few key issues that impact women and children in every community. In recent years the major concerns of the PW justice and peace network have been

- issues of immigration
- AIDS and diseases of poverty
- peacemaking
- agricultural issues
- domestic violence
- intersection of poverty with gender, race and class

Ask participants to identify PW actions or programs that relate to these concerns. They may be actions or programs of PW in the congregations, presbyteries, synods or churchwide.

How does the PW justice and peace coordinator in the presbytery work with the congregations?

Distribute the handout. Review the differences in the two models. Ask for ideas about how the position might work in the models. Ask for specific examples for staying in touch with congregations.

What resources are available for justice and peace coordinators?

If possible, have samples from the resource list on hand for the participants to browse. Distribute the resource list. What additional resources are the participants familiar with?

How can the workshop be used to support PW justice and peace coordinators?

After comparing the position responsibilities, ask participants what they would add to the workshop if they were the workshop leaders. Record the ideas on newsprint. Ask participants which idea they might try. Ask what additional information might help justice and peace coordinators in the presbyteries and congregations understand their responsibilities?

Allow time for additional questions and discussion. Summarize the workshop and close with the suggested prayer, or one of your own.

Redeemer God, we give you all the praise and all the glory for the good that has happened during this time together. We ask your forgiveness for any human frailties that have sneaked in to make our conversation or our actions a distraction. As we close, we do so with thanksgiving for this community of believers serving as your leaders and for You, our living, dynamic communicating God. It is in the precious name of your son, Jesus, we pray.

How Does the PW Justice and Peace Coordinator in the Presbytery Work with the Congregations?

When PWP Justice and Peace Coordinator Is Primary Contact	When PWP Cluster Leader is Primary Contact
The justice and peace coordinator is a member of the PWP coordinating team and works with the other members to plan and carry out the work of PW in the Presbytery.	The justice and peace coordinator is a member of the PWP coordinating team and works with the other members to plan and carry out the work of PW in the Presbytery.
The justice and peace coordinator provides training and resources for the mission coordinators in the congregations.	The cluster leaders help the justice and peace coordinator provide training and resources for the mission coordinators in the congregations.
The justice and peace coordinator has direct contact with the justice and peace coordinators in the congregations to send and receive information.	The justice and peace coordinator sends and receives information to sends to the justice and peace coordinators in the congregations through the cluster leaders.

Suggested Resources

- *PW Manual*; item PWR-07-101*
- *Links*, the electronic newsletter produced by the Churchwide Justice and Peace Committee. Each issue focuses on a different advocacy opportunity and includes suggested actions as well as resources for further study. Free, downloadable resource; available on the PW Web pages, www.pcusa.org/pw/justice
- *Horizons*, the magazine and Bible study for Presbyterian Women; subscribe online, www.pcusa.org/horizons, or call 800/524-2612; subscription includes six issues of the magazine and the annual Bible study
- *Make the Most of Your Magazine* offers suggestions for how to use the latest issue of *Horizons* for programming and action. Free, downloadable resource; available on the *Horizons* Web pages, www.pcusa.org/horizons
- PC(USA)'s Women's Advocacy Office action alerts and resources, www.pcusa.org/womensadvocacy
- PC(USA)'s Peacemaking action alerts and publications, www.pcusa.org/peacemaking

*Order through Presbyterian Distribution Service, 800/524-2612 or www.pcusa.org/marketplace.