

# Matthew 25 Draft Proposal

## Presbytery Level:

We do hereby commit to become a Matthew 25 Mid-Council. We pledge to encourage 20% or more of our congregations to become Matthew 25 churches and embrace these areas of focus:

- *Building congregational vitality*
- *Dismantling structural racism*
- *Eradicating systemic poverty*

PC(USA) provides many resources for interpreting these areas. Those resources may be found at: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

- ***Members of Presbytery are invited to prayerfully review the materials and discern individually and collectively regarding Presbytery designation as Matthew 25 Presbytery.***
- ***Voting on the designation will take place at the October 22, 2020 Stated Meeting.***

The motion to be presented in October is at the close of this proposal.

If it is the will of Presbytery to make this designation, listed below are potential actions related to the designation:

- **Recommend creating a mission statement that includes a Matthew 25 commitment.**
- **Partner with ELCA NE Synod on activities with congregations and their RARE (Racial Awareness and Reconciliation and Engagement Committee). This committee is *dedicated to energizing the church to combat the sin of racism. By increasing awareness about the history and nature of racism, creating opportunities for reconciliation, and promoting engagement among diverse people, we can better live out the command to love God and love our neighbors. Through grace we commit to the task of shedding our prejudices and participating in the rich blessing of human difference.***

## What might PMRV Committees do:

### ► Mission and Evangelism

- Mission and Evangelism Committee and its role in determining the best way forward for the Presbytery becoming a Matthew 25 presbytery. Conversation centered on how the committee's present work fits in with the Matthew 25 focus areas as well as how the committee envisions its role in the future. We see the Mission Evangelism committee as an umbrella over things we may already be doing in our congregations.

### ► Social Justice and Peacemaking

- Inform churches of resources available from the PC(USA) and elsewhere. Investigate solidifying relationships with community organizations such as Abide, Urban League, NAACP.

## ► FELD

- would provide resources and people on request: including but not limited to the following as examples:

### **Book Recommendations for our Presbytery:**

1. How We Fight White Supremacy by Akiba Solomon and Kenya Rankin
2. So You Want To Talk About Race by Ljeoma Oluo
3. Cycle of Segregation by Krysan Crowder
4. White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo
5. The Racial Healing Handbook by Annelids A. Singh
6. Biased Uncovering the Hidden Produce That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do by Jennifer L. Eberhardt
7. Back Lash by George Yancy
8. Race and Theology by Elaine Robinson
9. Democracy In Black by Eddie S. Claude
10. Courageous Conversations About Race by Glenn E. Singleton and Curtis Linton
11. A Black Women's History of The United States by Daina Ramey Berry and Kali Nicole Gross
12. Civil Rights For Beginners
13. Stoney The Road by Henry Louis Gates Jr.
14. How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

### **Children's Reading List to Educate about Racism, Hunger & Poverty (compiled off the internet):**

1. Malcolm Little: The Boy Who Grew Up to Become Malcolm X by Ilyasah Shabazz
2. Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement by Carole Boston Weatherford
3. Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney.
4. The Day You Begin by Jacqueline Woodson
5. Maddi's Fridge by Lois Brandt
6. Free Lunch by Rex Ogle
7. Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Pena
8. Chocolate Milk, Por Favor: Celebrating Diversity with Empathy by Maria Dismondy
9. Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez and Her Family's Fight for Desegregation by Duncan Tonatiuh
10. Moses: When Harriet Tubman Led Her People to Freedom by Carole Boston Weatherford
11. Young Water Protectors: A Story About Standing Rock by Aslan Tudor and Kelly Tudor.
12. My Family Divided: One Girl's Journey of Home, Loss, and Hope by Diane Guerrero and Erica Moroz.

## **Movies Recommended (not inclusive):**

1. [A Time For Burning](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujw_KJzTF8k) (locally made), Oscar winning documentary
2. [Do the Right Thing](#)
3. [Just Mercy](#)
4. [Good Trouble](#) (a documentary about John Lewis)
5. [Dead Presidents](#)
6. [In the Heat of the Night](#)
7. [Flint: The Poisoning of an American City](https://vimeo.com/349244331) (approximately 1.5 hours) and enter in the password: **Flint#36**

## **Free Resources Available to our Churches from PCUSA**

- Matthew 25 Bible Study
- A Year with Matthew (for a Matthew 25 church) Revised Common Lectionary
- Compilation of resources for Matthew 25 from the Book of Confessions, the Directory for Worship, the Book of Common Worship and hymns from the Glory to God Hymnal
- Churchwide Antiracism Policy: Facing Racism and study guide
- Pastors and lay leaders who have offered to lead a discussion group and/or book study: Karen Johns, Suzanne Gorhau, Tom Willadsen, Becky Balestri

### **► Personnel Committee – consider:**

- Add the three focus areas to the Covenant which we already practice.
- Share the Covenant and the Matthew 25 3 focus areas with each paid staff and ask them for help in realizing PMRV's commitment

### **► SOR**

- Watch to see that our finances align with and reflect our commitment to Matthew 25 activities

### **► Worship**

- Celebrate and lift up Matthew 25 in PMRV worship, education or participation

### **► Leadership Team**

- Each leadership team member reports monthly on how Matthew 25 is impacting their committee and how their committee is impacting the Matthew 25 commitment.
- Each LT member is responsible to take commitment into committee training and work
- Revise the Manual of Operations with this in mind
  - Does this impact PMRV structure and protocols?
- Designate LT members to be stewards of this initiative for as long as it remains a commitment
- Resource the Leadership Team, committees and potentially the wider presbytery what this commitment means (Mission /Evangelism and FELD)
- Have resources ready for congregations interested in making a similar commitment

- Listen to congregations who have already made the commitment and provide sharing and connection.

**Examples of what other presbyteries are doing:**

- <https://www.cascadespresbytery.org/addressing-structural-racism/>
- <http://heartlandpby.org/>
- <https://www.presbyteryofsf.org/category/regional-partnerships/>
- <https://www.seattlepresbytery.org/events/2020/625-race-amp-equity-development-amp-training-information-session>

◀ The motion to be presented at the October 22, 2020 Stated Meeting would read:

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