

*Woe to those who make unjust laws,
to those who issue oppressive decrees,
to deprive the poor of their rights
and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people,
making widows their prey and robbing the homeless child... (Isaiah 10)*

At the Riverside Church of New York, N.Y., a prophetic Martin Luther King Jr., addressed America and highlighted the “triplets of evil” that challenged our existence ~ militarism, racism, and materialism. The movement of the Holy Spirit upon his conscience led him to break silence on that evening and speak out about the economic injustice of war. Martin’s journey from that pulpit led to the formation of a Poor Peoples Campaign; a campaign for him cut short by an assassin’s bullet. 50 years later the prophet’s mantle has been taken up by a new generation. Co-chaired by the Rev. Dr. William Barber II and the Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharris, a Poor People’s Campaign now calls for a moral revival in America.

Whereas the 50 years since the campaign of 1968 has seen an increase in the income inequalities between that of white America and black America...

Whereas the 50 years since the campaign of 1968 has seen an increase in the population of children in America living in poverty...

Whereas the city of Detroit has consistently been portrayed as the poorest major city in America for the past 5 years...

Be it resolved that on this date ___ March 10, 2018 _____, the Presbytery of Detroit publicly endorses **the Poor People’s Campaign /A National Call for Moral Revival** and their attached 12 Fundamental Principles. This resolution is presented by Michigan Black Presbyterian Caucus.

The National Poor Peoples Campaign / A Call for Moral Revival 2018

FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES

1. We are rooted in a moral analysis based on our deepest religious and constitutional values that demand justice for all. Moral revival is necessary to save the heart and soul of our democracy.
2. We are committed to lifting up and deepening the leadership of those most affected by systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, and ecological devastation and to building unity across lines of division.
3. We believe in the dismantling of unjust criminalization systems that exploit poor communities and communities of color and the transformation of the “War Economy” into a “Peace Economy” that values all humanity.
4. We believe that equal protection under the law is non-negotiable.
5. We believe that people should not live in or die from poverty in the richest nation ever to exist. Blaming the poor and claiming that the United States does not have an abundance of resources to overcome poverty are false narratives used to perpetuate economic exploitation, exclusion, and deep inequality.
6. We recognize the centrality of systemic racism in maintaining economic oppression must be named, detailed and exposed empirically, morally and spiritually. Poverty and economic inequality cannot be understood apart from a society built on white supremacy.
7. We aim to shift the distorted moral narrative often promoted by religious extremists in the nation from issues like prayer in school, abortion, and gun rights to one that is concerned with how our society treats the poor, those on the margins, the least of these, LGBTQIA folks, workers, immigrants, the disabled and the sick; equality and representation under the law; and the desire for peace, love and harmony within and among nations.
8. We will build up the power of people and state-based movements to serve as a vehicle for a powerful moral movement in the country and to transform the political, economic and moral structures of our society.
9. We recognize the need to organize at the state and local level—many of the most regressive policies are being passed at the state level, and these policies will have long and lasting effect, past even executive orders. The movement is not from above but below.
10. We will do our work in a non-partisan way—no elected officials or candidates get the stage or serve on the State Organizing Committee of the Campaign. This is not about left and right, Democrat or Republican but about right and wrong.
11. We uphold the need to do a season of sustained moral direct action as a way to break through the tweets and shift the moral narrative. We are demonstrating the power of people coming together across issues and geography and putting our bodies on the line to the issues that are affecting us all.
12. The Campaign and all its Participants and Endorsers embrace nonviolence. Violent tactics or actions will not be tolerated.