



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE CONFESSION OF BELHAR

January 14, 2015

Dear Colleagues in Mid-Councils:

We write to you one more time as most of our presbyteries are entering into the time of discernment and voting on Constitutional amendments and additions to the Book of Confessions. As the Special Committee on the Confession of Belhar we have been charged by the General Assembly to provide resources and educational materials so that all of our presbyters might make these important decisions based on adequate information and serious study of the issues at hand.

One of the most significant long term actions presbyteries and the General Assembly ever take is to approve additions to our Book of Confessions. We, therefore, hope that our resources will be helpful to your presbytery as you move toward a vote on the Belhar Confession, and we would also be glad to send one of our members to meet and make a presentation in your presbytery or (as many presbyteries are doing) connect with your presbytery by skype.

Concerned that the last time this Confession was before the church it was not adequately studied before the time for voting, the General Assembly asked the members of our Special Committee to continue our service in order to assist presbyteries in engaging in a full and serious consideration of the Belhar Confession. We are pleased to do that. Given the new urgency in our church and society to overcome racism and to build a church that reflects God's call to unity, justice, and reconciliation, we believe that the Belhar Confession is rightly before our church for "just such a time as this."

Our Committee has prepared a number of materials that we believe you will find helpful as you engage in studying Belhar in your presbytery and congregations. Those resources, including resources for worship, can be found at and downloaded from our website, www.pcusa.org/belhar. Some of the most significant, which you can access directly from these links are:

- The Belhar Confession in English, Spanish, and Korean - <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/belhar-confession/>
- The Confession of Belhar on video - <https://vimeo.com/9775150>
- A booklet on The Bible and Belhar (including biblical references for the Confession) - http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/thebibleandbelhar.pdf
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- A Workshop Design on the Confession of Belhar - http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/belhar_workshop_design.pdf
- Frequently Asked Questions about the Confession of Belhar - <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/frequently-asked-questions-about-confession-belhar/>
- Videos on “Why Belhar, Why Now? From a conference this fall in Montreat - <http://www.montreat.org/belharlive>

Please feel free to download and make use of these materials as you engage in study of this important Confession. We also have a limited number of hard copies of these materials if you need to order such from us.

Beyond printed and electronic resources we also want to make “people resources” available to you and your presbytery. Members of our Special Committee, who have studied this confession in depth, are available to speak at your presbytery on Belhar and to lead and participate in conferences and workshops on the Belhar Confession. Please let us know if you would like for one or more of our members to join your presbytery for such a study opportunity.

Please let us hear from you as to how we can work together and be a resource to your presbytery as we together seek to engage the Confession of Belhar.

Grace and peace,

Matilde and Clifton

Matilde Moros and Clifton Kirkpatrick
Co-Moderators of the Special Committee
ckirkpatrick@lpts.edu
matimoros@yahoo.com

