Statement of the Presbytery of Santa Fe (Presbyterian Church U.S.A)
Adopted October 17, 2026

According to our denomination's constitution, a presbytery is responsible "for assisting and supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world" (G-3.0301). Because we are at a moment in our world when many ideologies converge, confuse, and conflict, we offer the following as a public statement to make clear our faith and as a guide for the witness of our member congregations.

Part 1 – We thank God for the physical land on which we live.

The Presbytery of Santa Fe PC (USA) is present on a landscape along the northern rim of the Chihuahuan Desert, at the southern end of the Rocky Mountains. Ancient peoples have occupied these lands for centuries. Some nomadic, some agrarian, they lived in distinct language groups in settings shaped by the land itself. We offer thanks to God for the land on which we live and for the Native Peoples whose communities have lived intimately with this land across generations. We commit ourselves to partnership with them, learning from their knowledge of and respect for the land, honoring their sovereignty, and supporting their present and future well-being.

Part 2 – We claim the spiritual landscape on which we live.

Our spiritual landscape is the Reformed Christian tradition. We believe in the Triune God, who created all people in God's image, of every race and country. We are followers of Jesus Christ, who healed the sick, ate with sinners, and consistently loved all those on the margins of society. The Spirit calls and enables us to love people of all nations equally. The Way of Jesus is always the path of love, even for our enemies. Loving does not mean accepting injustice. Jesus regularly challenged those who exploited the poor, sick, disabled, or strangers. As Christians we have fallen short of the call to love as Jesus loved. In gratitude for God's mercy to us, we hereby renew our commitment to follow the commands of Jesus Christ.

Part 3 – Therefore, the Presbytery of Santa Fe calls upon its members to look toward a future landscape characterized by congregations and church members who love neighbors by:

- speaking out against White Christian Nationalism, which advocates that the United States has a special relationship with God and that the powers of government should restore this type of dominance over others **(Mt. 22:21, Jn. 18:36, Gal. 3:28, Ephes. 2:19-22)**;
- standing with the poor, with immigrants, with those who are LGBTQIA2Spirit, and with any marginalized people **(Ex. 23:9, Is.1:16-17, Mt. 25:34-45, Lk. 4:18-19, Acts 10:28, Rom. 12:13)**;
- working for peacemaking, reconciliation among nations, and alternatives to violence **(Ps. 34:14; Mt. 5:9, 23-24, 43-44; Rom 12:17)**;
- opposing governmental policies that promote cruelty, dehumanization, or exploitation of the vulnerable **(Ex. 22: 21-22, Amos 5:11-12, Mt. 7:12, 1 Jn. 4:20)**;
- examining our own tendencies to the idolatry of power and wealth **(Deut. 8:12-19, Mt. 6:24, 1 Tim. 6:9-10, James 5:1-3)**;
- refusing to confuse the end times with a particular person or political event and rejecting those who promote apocalyptic pronouncements **(Lk. 17:20-21, Acts 1:6-7, Rev. 21:1-4)**;
- attending to the "fruits of the Spirit" (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) in ourselves and watching for these fruits when selecting our elected leaders **(Gal. 5: 22-23).**

Benediction:

> May God bless us with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that we may seek truth boldly and may love deeply.
>
> May God bless us with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.
>
> May God bless us with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that we may reach out our hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.
>
> May God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we really can make a difference in this world, so that we are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.
>
> ~Ruth Marlene Fox, O.S.B. (adapted)

Resources and Study Guide

for the

Presbytery of Santa Fe Statement

Books/Online Publications/Sermon

1. *A Christian Field Guide to Christian Nationalism: What it is, Why it matters, and How to respond.* Benjamin Cremer: https://benjamin-cremer.kit.com/71e268a2c9
2. *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America: A Guide to Reclaiming the Good News of God,* Ted Foote and Alex Thornburg (2025), Westminster John Knox Press. Podcast about this book: https://amatteroffaith.buzzsprout.com/1648090/episodes/18059458-being-presbyterian-in-a-dysvangelical-america-w-alex-thornburg-and-ted-v-foote-jr
3. Final sermon preached at the 227th General Assembly by the Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz.
    - Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JzFddyBCWe4
    - Text: found on Bruce Reyes Chow's blog, scroll down to find the manuscript: https://www.reyes-chow.com/guest-laura-mariko-cheifetz-general-assembly-sermon-text/
4. *For such a time as this: An Emergency Devotional,* Hanna Reichel (2025), Eerdmans.
5. LGBTQIA+ Inclusion in the Church Bibliography – Presbyterian Mission Agency, 2022 (now Presbyterian Life and Witness).
6. *Separation of Church and Hate,* John Fugelsang (2025), Simon & Schuster.

Ecclesial Statements

PC(USA)

1. 223rd General Assembly (2018): On Affirming and Celebrating the Full Dignity of People of All Gender Identities. https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3000312 (A cleaner copy of this document is available from the presbytery office).
2. 227th General Assembly (2026): Standing Against White Christian Nationalism Recommendations and Rationale COM-033: https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001498.
   The policy statement on Christian Nationalism is posted here: WCN_POLICY_FINAL.docx
3. 227th General Assembly (2026): On Condemning Cruel Immigration Enforcement and Defending the Human Rights of Migrants. CR-108, https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001618

4. 227th General Assembly (2026): On Recognizing that Israel has Violated the International Law Prohibiting Genocide. OVT-013. https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001425.
5. 227th General Assembly (2026): On the Death of Renee Nicole Good, List of ICE victims. OVT-084, https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001576
6. “Affirmation of Faith,” Statement of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church; Greensboro, NC: https://fpcgreensboro.org/faith-statement-from-session/
7. "Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture," A Position Statement Adopted by the 123rd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, 1983: https://pcusa.org/resource/understanding-and-use-holy-scripture
8. “Statement from the Session: A Call to Courageous Love.” Statement adopted by Westminster Presbyterian Church; Minneapolis, Minnesota; January 15, 2026: https://www.westminstermpls.org/sessionstatementjan26/
9. “To our Somali brothers and sisters living in the United States.” Letter from Westminster Presbyterian Session, Gallup, NM; adopted by the Westminster Session on January 11, 2026: Available from the Presbytery of Santa Fe office.
10. “We Cannot Remain Silent.” A Statement on the National Moment by Albany Presbytery, adopted by Albany Presbytery; May 1, 2025: https://albanypresbytery.org/we-cannot-remain-silent-050125/

PC(USA) Office of Public Witness

1. PC(USA) Office of Public Witness. “Action Alert: Lawless Law Enforcement and the Militarization of ICE.” January 2026.
2. A PC(USA) Statement on the war with Iran. March 2026: A PC(USA) statement on the escalating war with Iran | Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Other Denominations

1. “A Joint Letter from 154 Bishops of The Episcopal Church: Whose Dignity Matters?” Episcopal Dioceses of America, January 2026. A Joint Letter from 154 Bishops of The Episcopal Church: Whose Dignity Matters? - Episcopal Diocese of Chicago
2. “Bishops Condemn Violence in Minnesota”, Council of Bishops, The United Methodist Church, January 26, 2026: https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/bishops-condemn-violence-in-minnesota-19590782
3. Pope Leo’s Easter Address, April 2026. Issued by the Holy See of the Catholic Church, Vatican. Easter Sunday - Resurrection of the Lord – “Urbi et Orbi” Blessing, 2026.’

4. “Righteous Indignation”, United Church of Christ, by Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson, February 10, 2026: https://www.ucc.org/righteous-indignation/

PC(USA) Confessions

1. Presbyterian Confession of 1967 (PC(USA))
2. PC(USA) Brief Statement of Faith: Presbyterian Mission Agency Brief Statement of Faith | Presbyterian Mission Agency
3. New PC(USA) Confession of Faith, proposed to the 227th General Assembly:
   Special committee works on drafting new confession | Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
   Special committee proposes confession specific to the times we live in - The Presbyterian Outlook
   The proposed confession is posted here: PC-Biz
4. Barmen Declaration of 1934. Barmen Declaration - Wikipedia
5. Belhar Confession of 1986: Confession of Belhar

The working group is grateful for the helpful responses we received from our survey of the presbytery’s ministers, CREs, and clerks of session.

Potential Questions and Topics for a Study Group

1. Explore a few of the biblical references mentioned in the statement. Then find the document “Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture” (https://pcusa.org/resource/understanding-and-use-holy-scripture). Look at the Table of Contents, particularly at Section IV, “Guidelines Concerning How a Text is Rightly Used.” Choose one of the subheadings in that section that particularly draws you and read in that part of the document. What have you learned?
2. How do you understand White Christian Nationalism? Why has it become a divisive issue? What can we do about it? To aid your discussion, you might:
    a. Review the resources listed in “White Christian Nationalism” section above, as well as the “Separation of Church and Hate” book, the recent recommendation approved at the 227th GA (https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001498).
    b. Review the primer from Benjamin Cremer as a good starting point: https://benjamin-cremer.kit.com/71e268a2c9
3. Many faith traditions have spoken out in support of human rights and against the treatment of vulnerable and marginalized people, especially the treatment of immigrants by ICE. Why does our speaking out, as people of faith, matter? To help you in your discussion, you might:
    a. Review the Ecclesial statements by PC (USA), by churches within our denomination, as well as other denominations.
    b. Review the two documents approved at GA relating to this topic: https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001618, https://myga.pc-biz.org/search/3001576
    c. Develop a prayer and/or a set of actions that your study group or congregation can take.
4. The statement says, “we are at a moment in our world when many ideologies converge, confuse, and conflict.” Sometimes we may feel overwhelmed by current events. How do we remain grounded in our faith and in our personal lives? To aid you in your discussion, you might:
    a. Read one or two of the devotionals in “*For such a time as this: An Emergency Devotional,* Hanna Reichel (2025). What resonates with you and why?
    b. Consider these questions: Topics such as social justice, environmental justice, and human rights are addressed in the secular realm. What perspective does our Christian faith bring to these topics? How can we draw from the rich set of confessions and statements from PC (USA) as well as other traditions to find a path forward?