

Presbytery of Milwaukee

many gifts - one God - common good



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Willem P. Houts, Stated Clerk
statedclerk@pbymilwaukee.org

**The Presbytery of Milwaukee of the Presbyterian Church (USA) concurs with the
the Statement of John Knox Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA)**

February 22, 2011

As Christians, we are well aware that difficult economic times call for hard choices on the part of our elected representatives. The State of Wisconsin, like many states, is facing significant financial challenges and difficult decisions in balancing its budget. The decision to reduce or eliminate the state's projected budget deficit, however, does not nullify the moral obligation of the elected leaders of Wisconsin to respect the legitimate rights of workers, including public employees, to organize and collectively bargain.

The 207th General Assembly (1995) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) adopted as policy the paper "God's Work in our Hands: Employment, Community and Christian Vocation." It affirms a longstanding Presbyterian principle that vocation is a lifelong response to God in all aspects of one's life, and that work is an integral part of our response to God's call. Therefore, all aspects of the workplace, including wages, benefits, working conditions, and labor-management relationships, are of concern to God and thus of concern to the church.

The 1995 General Assembly statement specifically provides:

Justice demands that social institutions guarantee all persons the opportunity to participate actively in economic decision making that affects them. All workers...have the right to choose to organize for the purposes of collective bargaining.

Therefore, The Presbytery of Milwaukee, meeting on February 22, 2011 in Delafield, Wisconsin, concurs with the statement of the Presbytery John Knox that calls upon Governor Scott Walker and Wisconsin's other elected representatives to enter into good-faith negotiations with Wisconsin's public employee unions to deal with Wisconsin's current budget issues and to respect the rights of all workers to collectively bargain for wages and benefits.

We encourage peaceful dialog and discussion to reach consensus for the benefit of all the people of Wisconsin. Further, we call upon Presbyterians to continue to monitor the state budget process in Madison and to join with other Christians of good will in advocating and praying for a just resolution to Wisconsin's current budget issues.

The Presbytery of Milwaukee, Presbyterian Church (USA) is made up of 45 congregations in Dodge, Jefferson, Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Rock, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, and Waukesha counties in Wisconsin.

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1126 S 70th St., Suite S202B • Milwaukee, WI 53214-3151

Phone 414-475-4211 • Fax 414-475-4213 • office@pbymilwaukee.org • www.pbymilwaukee.org