



From the Desk of Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe
Director of Congregational Development and Mission
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Greetings People,

We hope you can play with us on social media and engage with our Presbyterian Mythbusters! Our churches are stationed in a prime time of teaching and showing what it means to be a Christian and a citizen. We want your questions and assumptions about what it means to be PRESBYTERIAN!



One could be:

Politics has not place in the Pulpit - yes and no in our tradition!

Honestly, we know that 'politics' can be subjective for many of us. What is comforting for one may not be comforting for another and in the discomfort a possible assumption made is, 'that was too political'.

As Presbyterians and as religious organizations, we do not endorse candidates or election ballots from the pulpit. As Presbyterians we do hold elections for the spiritual leaders in our congregations who then are guided with Lord of Conscience in their leadership and faith for themselves and the congregation. As Presbyterians we recognize a shared similarity in order and privilege of governance through discerned and elected bodies (as reflected in our own Government system). And as Christians, Scripture is the authoritative Living Word of God and that the Testaments are God's self-revelation. That the Living Word is how we learn of God through Jesus, as in scripture and in life.

This is where for some the 'politics' can be subjective for us. Jesus' life points us to encounters with leaders and followers in times of health, wealth, governance, prisons, and grief. As disciples, we are guided to be with these situations and people so that all may know the love of God. When things get in the way of knowing this love (through people and life) we seek deep guidance of what we are called to do as children of God and citizens in the place we call home, in the building up of God's Kingdom. As Presbyterians, we are called to discern greatly! Here is a summary guidance of how we can rely with scripture as authoritative in our lives of citizenship*:

1. Recognize that Jesus Christ, the Redeemer, is the Center of Scripture
2. Focus on the plain text of Scripture
3. Depend on the Holy Spirit's guidance for interpreting and applying God's message
4. Be guided by the Church's doctrinal consensus of "rule of Faith"
5. Let all interpretations be in accord with the "Rule of Love"
6. Remember that Biblical interpretation requires earnest study
7. Seek to interpret a particular biblical passage in light of all of the Bible

May we be assured in the embrace of God's love and authoritative Living Word.

Peace and Courage,
Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

[*Presbyterian Understanding and Use of Holy Scripture and Biblical Authority and Interpretation](#)