

Daily Morning Message  
St Paul United Church of Christ  
5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247  
Allen M Fluent, Pastor

Tuesday, June 22, 2021

General Synod Resolution for Today:

**A Resolution to Advocate and Act to Change the Cash Bail Bond System to Eliminate Racial and Social Injustices in the Present System**

Scriptures for Study: Isaiah 42:5-7; Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Matthew 25:31-46

*Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. (Hebrews 13:3)*

The resolution proposed by the Southern Conference continues a longstanding position of our denomination and other Christian churches that incarcerating people because they are unable to pay an excessive bond is unfair and discriminates against lower income people and disproportionately people of color. The system imposes usurious interest upon the poorest of the poor, and those unable to make bail often lose employment and housing, even though they have not yet been convicted of a crime. Alternative methods such as refundable fees paid to the court and limitations on pretrial periods of incarceration have been reforms recommended to improve the fairness of the system. The resolution encourages church members and congregations to support efforts to eliminate racial and social injustices in the present system.

Prayer: Gracious God, you have asked us to remember those in prison as though we were with them. May the justice system of our communities reflect the ethical value of fair treatment of our neighbors across all classes and income levels, remembering that Jesus himself said that those who care for those in prison are showing kindness to him.

