

Bottled Water Resolution

Albany Presbytery, January 26, 2019

The Peacemaking Task Force of Albany Presbytery offers the following motion for a **second reading**:

1. Albany Presbytery requests that its member congregations:
 - a. Serve tap water, if safe,* instead of bottled water at all meetings of presbytery;
 - b. Consider refraining from serving bottled water at meetings, meals, and other gatherings of the congregation;
2. That if 1a (above) is adopted, the Stated Clerk be asked to add this request to the guidelines sent to congregations in preparation for presbytery meetings.

(* Where tap water is unsafe we recommend 5 gal. re-fillable jugs. Peacemaking TF is willing to fund this expense.)

Rationale

*O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all. (Ps. 104:24)
You have made springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills, giving drink to every wild animal...From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work. (Ps. 104:10, 13) Think of it this way: we are servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. (I Cor. 4:1)*

1. More than 75% of plastic bottles end up in landfills or the ocean.
2. There are five massive patches of plastic in the oceans around the world. These concentrations of plastic debris cover large swaths of ocean; the one between California and Hawaii is the size of the state of Texas.
3. Much of bottled water is simply tap water.
4. The U.S. EPA sets more stringent standards for tap water than the FDA does for bottled beverages.
5. Bottled water corporations have depleted aquifers in rural areas.
6. Millions of barrels of oil are used each year to produce and transport bottled water. It is imperative that we reduce non-essential uses of oil.
7. "Humans are making excessive demands upon and doing reckless damage to lakes, streams, and ground water.... Meanwhile most Third World nations cannot afford the systems that would produce safe drinking water.... [Christians] must practice wise, humble, responsible stewardship after the model of servanthood that we have in Jesus."

- "Restoring Creation for Ecology and Justice" - PCUSA General Assembly 1990