



Opening Devotion

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Mid Council Financial
Network

Peter said, “Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites.”

He went on in this vein for a long time, urging them over and over, **“Get out while you can; get out of this sick and stupid culture!”**

That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! **And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person’s need was met.**

They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved. *-Acts 2:38-47, The Message*

G-4.0201 Property as a Tool for Mission

The property of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), of its councils and entities, and of its congregations, is a tool for the accomplishment of the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

G-4.0203 Church Property Held in Trust

All property held by or for a congregation, a presbytery, a synod, the General Assembly, or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), whether legal title is lodged in a corporation, a trustee or trustees, or an unincorporated association, and whether the property is used in programs of a congregation or of a higher council or retained for the production of income, is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

G-4.0205 Property of a Dissolved or Extinct Congregation

Whenever a congregation is formally dissolved by the presbytery, or has become extinct by reason of the dispersal of its members, the abandonment of its work, or other cause, such property as it may have shall be held, used, and applied for such uses, purposes, and trusts as the presbytery may direct, limit, and appoint, or such property may be sold or disposed of as the presbytery may direct, in conformity with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

edgar villanueva

foreword by jennifer and peter buffett



DECOLONIZING

WEALTH

indigenous wisdom
to heal divides and
restore balance

"You don't choose medicine, the elders say, it chooses you....

Humans have used money wrongfully. We've made money more important than human life. We've allowed it to divide us. That is a sin.

Money is like water. Water can be a precious life-giving resource. But what happens when water is dammed, or when a water cannon is fired on protesters in subzero temperatures? Money should be a tool of love, to facilitate relationships, to help us thrive, rather than to hurt and destroy us. If it's used for sacred, life-giving, restorative purposes, it can be medicine.

Money, used as medicine, can help us decolonize.

-pgs. 7-9, introduction

Seven Steps to Healing from *Decolonizing Wealth*

1. **Grieve** – stop and feel the hurts we've endured
2. **Apologize** – we must apologize for the hurts we've caused
3. **Listen** – we must acknowledge the wisdom of those excluded and exploited by the system, who possess exactly the perspective and wisdom needed to fix it
4. **Relate** – we need space to share our whole selves with each other and understand we won't have to agree in order to respect each other
5. **Represent** – we must build whole new decision-making tables, rather than setting token places at colonial tables as an afterthought
6. **Invest** – we need to put ALL our money where our values are
7. **Repair** – we must use money to heal where people are hurting, and stop more hurt from happening



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