

A Comparison of Key Differences

The following descriptions are intended to highlight several important areas of difference between the teaching, practices, or priorities of Greenwich and those of our parent denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA). Each description is, for brevity's sake, meant only to illustrate, not exhaust the topic.

Issues	PCUSA	Greenwich
Human & Christian Identity	While all people share the image of God, it is the “intersectionality” of one’s various group identities (race, class, gender, physical ability, etc.) that comprises one’s truest identity in distinction from others.	All people share a common dignity by virtue of bearing the image of God. All Christians share a unifying identity in Jesus Christ that transcends race, class, sex, or any other characteristic.
Human Sexuality	Committed to dismantling “heteronormativity” which privileges the male / female binary and heterosexual marriage. Advocates for “gender justice” and full autonomy in determining one’s own gender identity and sexual expression.	God created the human family as two biological sexes of male and female. God’s intention for sexual expression is limited to the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman.
Gender Inclusive Language	Discourages references to God in masculine language (Father, He, Him) or to fellow Christians that implies a gender-binary (sisters and brothers). Prefers “Kin-dom” of God to Kingdom of God due to implied masculinity.	Uses historic titles and references found in Scripture, and on the lips of Jesus, when speaking of God. Uses biblical language reflective of the male-female binary when speaking of the people of God.
Marriage	Marriage is a covenant between any two persons, regardless of biological sex.	Marriage is a covenant between one man and one woman.
Ordination	Open to those in same-sex relationships.	Open only to men and women living faithfully within the covenant of marriage or embracing a celibate life in singleness.
Racism and White Supremacy	Only those holding power in a society are capable of the sin of racism. Racism is the systemic expression of “white supremacy” through the oppression of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color)	All humans share in the sin of racism. There is nothing inherently sinful—or superior—in one’s God-given racial heritage or skin color.
Prenatal Life & Abortion	Advocates primarily in support of a woman’s right to choose.	Advocates primarily for bringing all children to full-term.
Mission & Evangelism	The church is called to dismantle systems and structures of oppression through activism and legislation to bring about social justice in the world. Evangelism is not to “save souls” or grow churches, but to advance social justice and inclusion of marginalized and oppressed people.	The church is called to make disciples of Jesus Christ from every people, tribe and nation as an expression of the Kingdom of God to the world. Evangelism is the proclamation of Jesus Christ’s sinless life, sacrificial death, and bodily resurrection as the only way to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation.

For further information please visit the church website, greenwichpres.org/conversations/.

Presbyterian (USA) Sources & Examples

These resources and future updates available at greenwichpres.org/conversations/.

Human Sexuality & Identity

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2. Presbyterian Mission Agency. "What We Believe › Sexuality and Same-Gender Relationships." accessed January 22, 2023. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/what-we-believe/sexuality-and-same-gender-relationships/>
3. Copley, Rich. "Queer eye on the Bible for Pride Month." Presbyterian News Service. June 2, 2022. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/queer-eye-on-the-bible-for-pride-month/>

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Marriage & Ordination

6. *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Part II: Book of Order 2019-2023*. (Louisville, KY: The Office of the General Assembly, 2019), "W-4.06: The Covenant of Marriage."
7. LaBerge, Carmen Fowler, "How we got 'here'," (Lenoir, NC: PLC Publications, 2012).

Racism & White Supremacy

8. 225th General Assembly (2022). "Report of the Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation [RGJ-12]." Downloaded January 22, 2022. <https://pcusa.org/resource/report-scrtr-ga225/>
9. Presbyterian Mission Agency. "Matthew 25 in the PC(USA): Join the Movement › Dismantling structural racism." accessed January 22, 2023. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/racism/>
10. Tangeman, Fred. "Apologizing for the sin of slavery and repairing the lasting breach of racism." General Assembly News – June 24, 2022. <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2022/6/24/apologizing-sin-slavery-and-repairing-lasting-brea/>

Prenatal Life & Abortion

11. Jones, Rick & Randy Hobson. "Sadness, anger, frustration." Office of the General Assembly. June 24, 2022. <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2022/6/24/sadness-anger-frustration/>
12. Presbyterian Mission Agency. "What We Believe › Abortion/Reproductive Choice Issues." February 23, 2016. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/blog/2016/02/23/abortion-issues-2/>
13. Carter, Darla. "Resolution rejects government attempts to limit access to contraceptive and abortion care." General Assembly News. July 8, 2022. <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2022/7/8/resolution-rejects-government-attempts-limit-acces/>

Mission & Evangelism

14. 225th General Assembly (2022). "2023-2024 Mission Work Plan of the Presbyterian Mission Agency." Downloaded January 22, 2022. <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3001002>
15. Presbyterian Mission Agency. "Compassion, Peace and Justice › Office of Public Witness." <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/>
16. Presbyterian Mission Agency. "Theology, Formation & Evangelism › What Is Evangelism?" accessed January 22, 2023. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/evangelism/>
17. Waltemath, Beth. "During a PC(USA) webinar, Bible scholars reimagine evangelism as equity, inclusion and flourishing." Presbyterian News Service. November 11, 2022. <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/during-a-pcusa-webinar-bible-scholars-reimagine-evangelism-as-equity-inclusion-and-flourishing/>