

## Christian Principles in an Election Year

The principles and comments listed below are from the National Council of Churches of which Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Baptist, Catholic and others are listed as members. These principles appeared in *The Source* (monthly newspaper of the Church Council of Greater Seattle in 2008).

- **Those who follow Christ are called to heal the sick** - We look for political leaders who will support adequate, affordable and accessible health care for all.
- **War is contrary to the will of God** - While the use of violent force may, at times, be a necessity of last resort, Christ pronounces his blessing on the peacemakers. We look for political leaders who will make peace with justice a top priority and who will actively seek nonviolent solutions to conflict.
- **Each human being is created in the image of God and is of infinite worth** - We look for political leaders who actively promote racial justice and equal opportunity for everyone.
- **God calls us to live in communities shaped by peace and cooperation** - We reject policies that abandon large segments of our inner city and rural populations to hopelessness. We look for political leaders who will rebuild our communities and bring an end to the cycles of violence and killing.
- **God created us for each other - Our security depends on the well being of our global neighbors** - We look for leader for whom a foreign policy based on cooperation and global justice an urgent concern.
- **All humans are called to be in right relationship with each other** - We look for political leaders who seek a restorative, not retributive, approach to the criminal justice system and the individuals within it.
- **God calls us to be advocates for those who are most vulnerable in our society** - We look for leaders who yearn for economic justice and who will seek to reduce the growing disparity between rich and poor.
- **Christians have a biblical mandate to welcome strangers** - We look for political leaders who will pursue fair immigration policies and speak out against xenophobia.
- **The earth belongs to God and is intrinsically good** - We look for political leaders who recognize the earth's goodness, champion environmental justice, and uphold our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation.
- **Providing enriched learning environments for all of God's children is a moral imperative** - We look for political leaders who will advocate for equal educational opportunity and abundant funding for children's services.