

RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES

A MORAL BUDGET FOR ALL CALIFORNIANS

—CLUE CALIFORNIA ▪ CLERGY & LAITY UNITED FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE

FAITH—COMMUNITIES CALL FOR A MORAL STATE BUDGET

A budget is a moral document, reflecting the values and priorities of a family, a community, a society, and requires:

- † REASON
- † COMPASSION
- † FAIRNESS
- † RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT
- † STEWARDSHIP

All Religions proclaim our responsibility to care for those among us most in need. Religions highlighted this week:

MUSLIM

This concept of accountability is once again well-illustrated by the rule of Caliph Umar. In a well-known incident from his life, the government issued to each of its citizens, as a type of rebate, a certain length of cloth. During prayers, one of the citizens noticed that the robe which Umar wore was longer than could be made from this single piece of cloth. The man stood up and demanded to know from whence Umar had obtained the extra cloth, since each citizen should have an equal share.

Umar responded by pointing at his son, who stood up and declared “I gave to my father half of my share, as his was insufficient to make a robe.” This was because Umar was taller than average man, and hence needed more cloth. However, he did not feel at any liberty to issue for himself even a slightly longer length of than was issued to each and every citizen, and relied instead on the charity of his son.

—Justice: Equality Before the Law, Islamic Center of Southern California

EPISCOPAL

“Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord,” the canticle begins, “praise him and highly exalt him forever.” It continues, inviting praise from all of the various aspects of God’s creation, from the angels and stars to the rain and the dew to the waters and streams to the people of God and the souls of the righteous.

Creation as it looks when all is made new in the person of Christ is the picture of Creation that Christians, by virtue of our Baptism, are obliged to help build in the world: a place where poverty and suffering no longer hold sway, and the only need or want that pervades the world is the desire to sing the Maker’s praise.

—Alex Baumgarten to the Staff of Episcopal Relief and Development 17 September 2007 in New York City

Contact your government representatives and ask for a moral budget that protects the most vulnerable among us.

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Fifth of a series

People of Faith Throughout California Urge Elected Officials to Pass a Moral Budget

Currently, our elected officials are meeting in Sacramento to debate the details of the budget. While clergy and people of faith throughout California recognize the need to manage the budget crisis, they are urging elected officials not to balance the budget on the backs of the state’s most vulnerable people. Instead, the faith community believes that a budget is a moral document that reflects the values and priorities of a society, and we call on our legislature to remember the following values when as they make difficult decisions: *reason, compassion, fairness, responsible investment, and stewardship.*