

**PRESBYTERY OF SALEM
OVERTURE TO THE 219TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Presbytery of Salem respectfully overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) of the PCUSA to adopt a statement urging the United States Congress to pass a law to cap interest rates on credit card lending.

Rationale:

Whereas, the Biblical witness condemns usury as stealing—usury defined as any interest on a loan except to a foreigner.;

Whereas, the Reformed tradition differentiated between loans to individuals and businesses, defining interest as exorbitant interest, and forbidding charging interest to poor persons while permitting charging interest to businesses because the business and the lender would receive mutual benefit;

Whereas, the Book of Order of the PCUSA in G-2.0500a (3,4) lifts up “a faithful stewardship that shuns ostentation and seeks proper use of the gifts of God’s creation”; and “the recognition of the human tendency to idolatry and tyranny which calls the people of God to work for the transformation of society by seeking justice and living in obedience to the Word of God”;

Whereas, the 217th General Assembly of the PCUSA (2006) advocated church-wide education on financial stewardship and further advocated for federal and state policies on fair lending practices;

Therefore, as our faith grounding mandates us to care for the poor, and as it indicts us personally and corporately not only for complicity in the sin of usury but also for our failure to live in ways that allow balance between profit and need, the Presbytery of Salem calls on the 219th General Assembly (2010) of the PCUSA to adopt a statement urging the United States Congress to pass a law to cap interest rates on credit card lending.

Mack Dagenhart
Stated Clerk