

## Touchstones Theme: Equity

The Lebanese greeting, “Ya Ayuni!” literally means “Oh, my eyes!” or “Oh, my darling!” Implicit in this ancient greeting is the recognition that we need each other to see, that one view is insufficient. Empowered by the presence of each other, the Lebanese people say, “Oh, my eyes! You're here! Now we can see!” This custom reminds me of how Native American elders meet in a circle, not just for equity, but so that each elder will have a direct view of the Center. The belief at the heart of this worldview is that the Center and the Whole are not comprehensible by any one person alone. Therefore, we need everyone's view to glimpse the enduring truths of life. And so, we gather meaning, we don't choose it. *Mark Nepo*



I believe the role of faith communities in the arena of public policy is to provide a moral squint that gives priority to core values such as justice, equity, and sustainability, a moral squint that gives priority to care for the health of humans and care for the health of all creation. In Proverbs, it says,

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” ...If the role of faith communities is both to make us aware of the danger of having no vision and to push for a vision rooted in our values, then my hope and my prayer is ...to enact that vision, because with a vision, the people will flourish and all of creation will flourish. *Brooks Berndt*

## Join us in exploring Equity

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