

The Church & Social Action: Four Quadrants of Caring



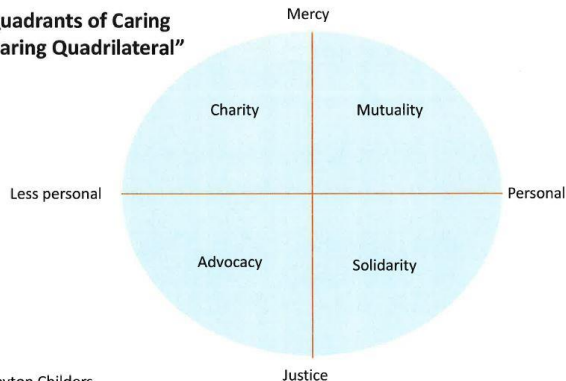
General Board of Church and Society ([GBCS](#)) provides an analytic tool to help us have a broader vision of what caring looks like. Below are ideas gathered from that tool.



CHURCH & SOCIETY COMMITTEE
First UMC - Brighton & Whitmore Lake

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

Four Quadrants of Caring
"The Caring Quadrilateral"



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Much of our caring is **Charity** work. It is needed to meet urgent needs. **Advocacy** is also important for long term changes by speaking to decision makers helping them understand choices that reflect the values God intends, human flourishing. **Mutuality** is a goal so that our caring includes the friendships and relationships with those in our church and society who are suffering injustice – those who experience obstacles to flourishing. Ministry with those who have and/or are suffering injustice in **Solidarity** we learn with and from each other.

Charity

Charity is one of the four quadrants of caring. The GBCS document states:

Most churches are committed to help persons in need, but our efforts are one dimensional, like we are trying to drive a car with one wheel. The focus is almost entirely on **acts of charity**.

The downsides of charity:

- Can be paternalistic
- Can diminish dignity
- Can lead to dependency
- Preserves the “status quo”
- Can take all our time and energy

Mutuality

The goal of mutuality is ministry with, not ministry to and for. Mutuality means building relationships without paternalism. It includes listening and learning. It means partnering and becoming a real friend.

Advocacy

As Christians, we are called to be both faithful citizens and citizens of faith; to stand up for justice and oppose injustice. Advocacy is a way Christians work to change broken, hurtful systems.



Solidarity

We need to build genuine, mutually fulfilling relationships with all our neighbors. Solidarity hears the voices of those pressed down; listens as personal stories are shared. And it goes on to amplify these shared stories and to build mutual collaborative relationships of positive power which working shoulder to shoulder, to build the “beloved community.”

You are invited to join the Church & Society Committee as we work to bring justice to our church and society.

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