

Bringing together:

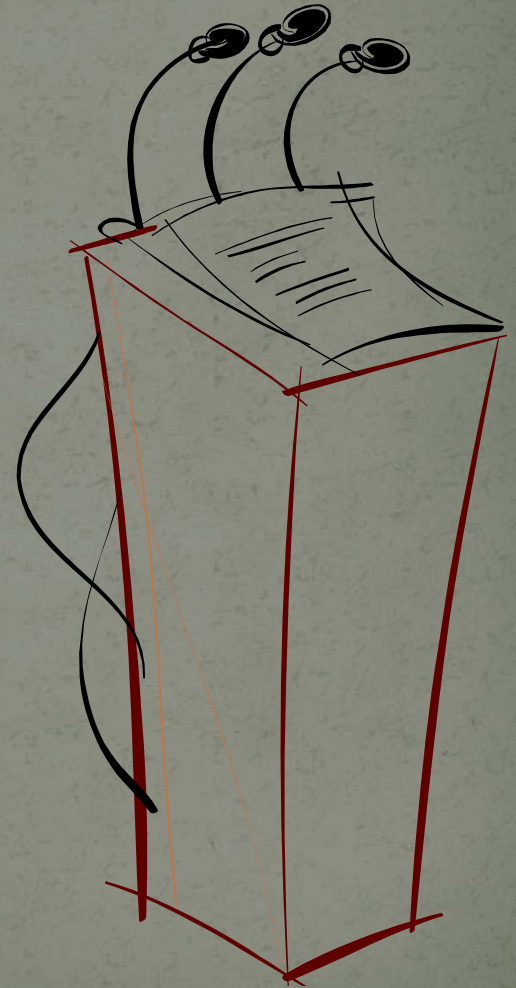
Faith and --- Advocacy

WHY IS IT SO HARD TO
CONVINCE SOME
CHRISTIANS TO
SPEAK OUT
POLITICALLY?

**Advocacy
seems
partisan,
supporting
one political
party over
another.**



So, what holds us
back?



What Holds Us Back?

- *How do I explain my concern with funding?*
- *How do I approach these people who know so much about the federal budget?* •

- *I'm not sure I have the message clearly in my head, and might get nervous and mess it up!*
- *The clergy will do it, they speak for the church, I can't speak for...*

you don't need
to be held back

IDENTITY AND CREDIBILITY

- Faith Voice is your niche
- Moral angle
- You are an expert!



FAITH-BASED ADVOCACY IS:

- SPIRITUAL AND WORLDLY
- CHARITABLE AND JUST
- PROPHETIC AND PASTORAL
- PRAYERFUL AND ACTIVE

FAITH ADVOCACY IS BASED ON:

- CHRISTIAN IDENTITY
- A CLEAR, CONCISE ASK (KISS)
- CONSISTENT MESSAGE
- A PROPHETIC SPIRIT
- OPEN LISTENING

**Both charity
and justice are
required of us.**

CHARITY AND JUSTICE

- Faith-based people are known for their great charity – taking in and caring for relatives, neighbors and even strangers.....
- However, there are still homeless, there are still those who need more than a family can give, they need **POLITICAL CHARITY**

Justice requires systemic change
(THAT IS ADVOCACY).

The causes for homelessness and
insufficient healthcare need to be
addressed through influencing
systems.

The spirit of the Lord
God is upon me, because
the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring glad
tidings to the lowly, to heal
the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the
captives and release to the
prisoners, ...

Isaiah 61: 1-2



The order of society is based on two virtues: justice and charity.

Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveler who has been attacked.

It is justice's role to prevent the attack.

- Blessed Frédéric Ozanam

Justice will not
come...until
those who are
not injured are
as indignant as
those who are.

-Thucydides



WHY DOES OUR
CHRISTIAN IDENTITY
COMPEL
US TO BE ADVOCATES?

Speak up for those who
cannot speak for
themselves, for the rights
of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly;
defend the rights of the
poor and needy.

Proverbs 31: 8-9

He has told you, O mortal,
what is good;
and what does the Lord require
of you but to do justice, and to
love kindness, and to walk
humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

**How does God's love abide
in anyone who has the
world's goods and sees a
brother or sister in need
and yet refuses help?**

1 John 3:16-17

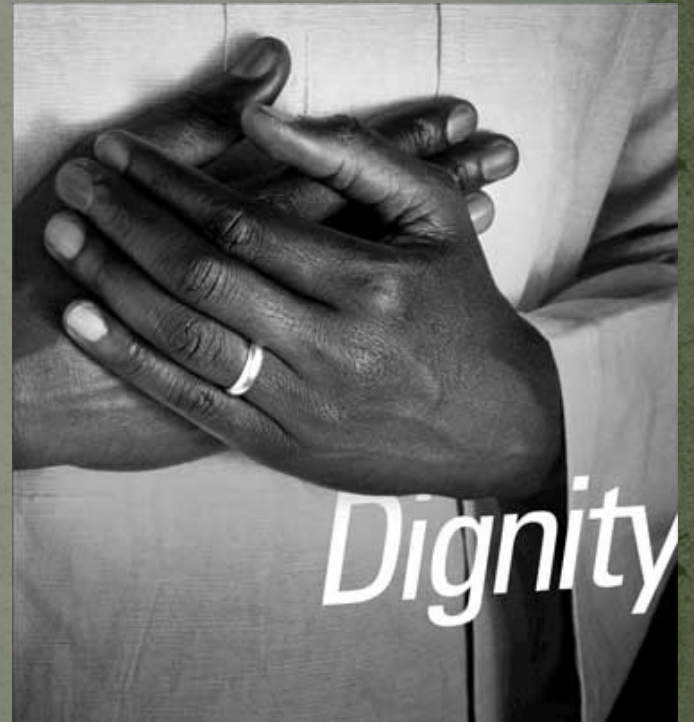
Christian love of neighbor and justice cannot be separated. For love implies an absolute demand for justice, namely a recognition of the dignity and rights of one's neighbor.

- Justice in the World

Our
faith principles
call us to
advocacy

Dignity of the Human Person

Individuals for all times need to have access to the basic necessities of life which enable them to live humanely.



THE COMMON GOOD

THE SOCIAL STRUCTURES
OF SOCIETY MUST BE
CRAFTED IN A WAY TO
PROMOTE THE WELL-BEING
OF ALL PEOPLE.

OPTION FOR THE POOR

The moral test of a nation is how well it provides for the poor and vulnerable.



The needs of the poor take priority over the desires of the rich; the rights of workers over the maximization of profits; the preservation of the environment over uncontrolled industrial expansion.

Economic Justice for All, #94

“ADVOCACY COMMISSION”

In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, “Grant me justice against my opponent...”

...For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, “Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.”

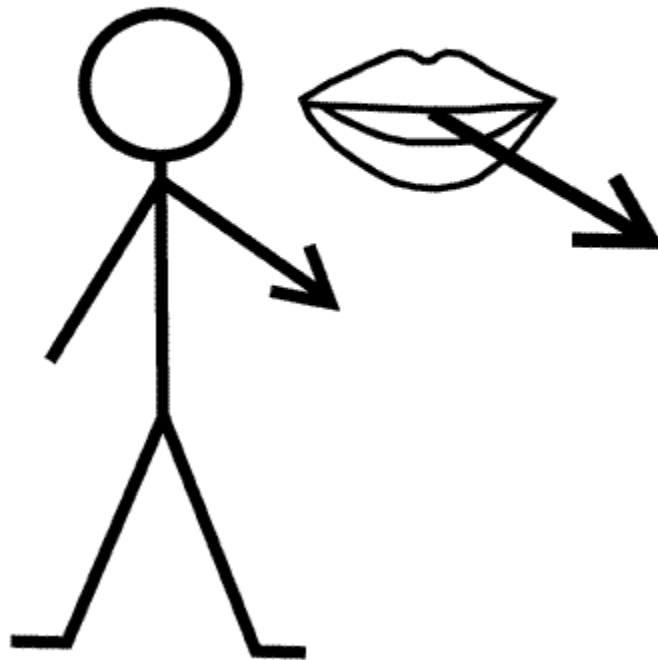
Luke 18:1-8

BUT IT SEEMS SO COMPLEX



BUT IT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY
SIMPLE. . .

advocacy



Preparing for your advocacy visit

- Please pull out the yellow form

- The EAD Ask:

“As people of faith, we urge you to defend people struggling to live in dignity by funding programs that protect vulnerable populations here and abroad. Enact a faithful federal budget that serves the common good, provides robust funding for people struggling to overcome poverty, and exercises proper care of the earth.

STEPS TO A SUCCESSFUL MEETING WITH A LEGISLATOR

- Say who you are, and who you are with (church, city,...)
- Say why you are there – 1 sentence version of the “ask”
- Make your case in 3-5 minutes (clear talking points)
- Ask for something specific: their vote, their sponsorship of a bill, a “Dear Colleague Letter”...

MORE TIPS

- Leave something in writing – a fact sheet, newspaper clippings, etc.
- Ask if there is any other information the legislator would like from you
- Ask the legislator how else he or she might help you
- Be sure to send to the legislator anything you promised, in a timely manner
- Send a “Thank You” note to the legislator or staffer.

THANK YOU.

Buzz Questions

- What did I learn?
- What do I still need to feel comfortable?
- What might you have done differently?
- What do you think they did well?
- What didn't they do? What did they do?