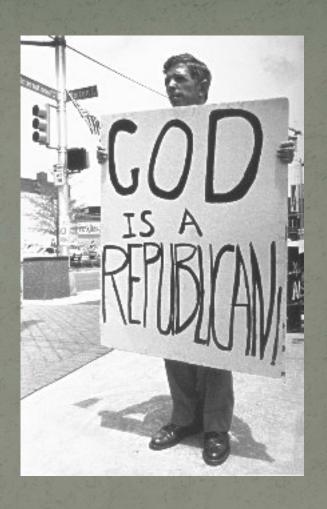
Bringing together:

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.



But, a faith perspective on an issue doesn't support one party over the others.

God is Not a Republican.

Or a Democrat.

traditional Jew, every Reagan Democrat, and everyone in between to get serious about re-electing President Bush.

—Jerry Falwell, The New York Times, July 16, 2004

"I think George Bush is going to win in a walk. I really believe I'm hearing from the Lord it's going to be like a blowout election in 2004. The Lord has just blessed him... It doesn't make any difference what he does, good or bad..."
—Par Robertson, APIFor Nover, January 2, 2004.

These leaders of the Religious Right mistakenly claim that God has taken a side in this election, and that Christians should only vote for George W. Bush.

for the President, uncritical affirmation of his policies, and assertions that all Christians must ote for his re-election constitute bad theology

We believe that sincere Christians and other people of faith can choose to vote for President Bush or Senator Kerry—for reasons deeply rooted in their faith.

We believe all candidates should be exan ined by measuring their policies against the complete range of Christian ethics and values.

We will measure the candidates by whether life and protect children; whether they promote racial reconciliation and support gender equality: whether they serve peace and social justice; and whether they advance the common good rather than only individual, national, and special inter-

dates to avoid the exploitation of religion or our congregations for partisan political purposes.

By signing this statement, we call Christians and other people of faith to a more thoughtful involvement in this election, rather than claiming God's endorsement of any candidate.

This is the meaning of responsible Christian

We are not single-issue voters.

We believe that poverty-caring for the poor and vul-We believe that poverty-caring for the poor and visi-nerable-b a religious issue. Do the candidates 'budget and tax policies reward the rich or show compassion for poor families? Do their foreign policies include fair trade and debt cancellation for the poorest countries? (Matthew 25:35-40, Isaiah 10:1-2)

We believe that the environment-caring for God's protect the creation or serve corporate i damage it? (Genesis 2:15, Psalm 24:1)

We believe that war-and our call to be peacemake

We believe that truth-telling is a religious issue. Do the candidates tell the truth in justifying war and in other foreign and domestic policies? (John 8:32)

We believe that human rights-respecting the image the candidates propose to change the attitudes and poli-cies that led to the abuse and torture of Iraqi prisoners?

We believe that our response to terrorism is a relig-tous issue. Do the candidates adopt the dangerous lan-guage of righteous empire in the war on terrorism and confuse the roles of God, church, and nation? Do the own policies? (Matthew 6:33, Proverbs 8:12-13)

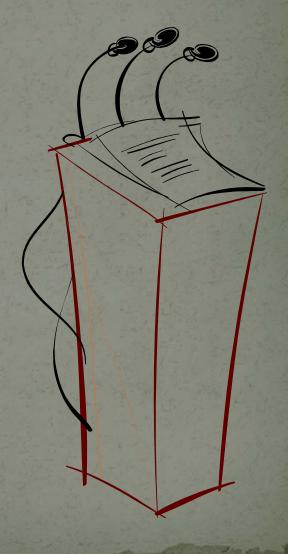
We believe that a consistent ethic of human life is a religious issue. Do the candidates positions on abortion, capital punishment, euthanacia, weapons of mass destruction. HIV/AIDS—and other pandemics—and genocide around the world obey the biblical injunction to choose life? (Deuteronomy 30.19)

SOJOURNERS

☐ YES! I WANT TO HELP place ads in local newspapers across America! Please use n ion to support this grassroots advertising campaign and other critical election-year efforts initiated mers. With tess than two months until the election, I enclose a contribution of \$60.

□ \$60 □ \$120 □ \$180 □ \$240 □ Other \$ or more on behalf of my friends

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.

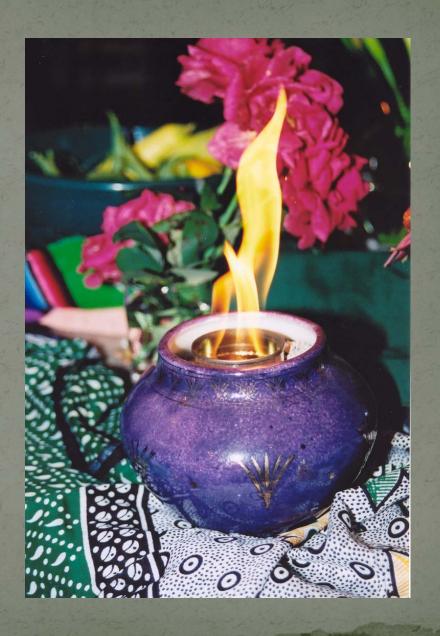
Charity is the Samaritan who pours oil on the wounds of the traveler who has been attacked.

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?

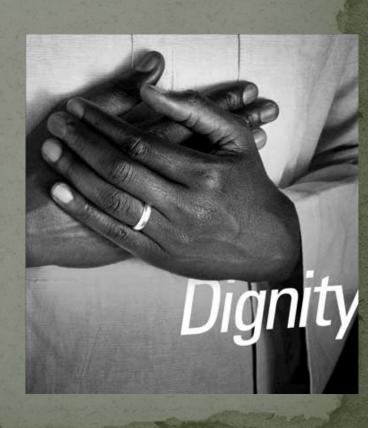
1 John 3:16-17

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.

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...



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 you 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 sent 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?