

A guide to advocating effectively for a just society



stand up for
justice!

stand up for justice!



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Acknowledgments

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birds and traps

The story is told of some young boys who set out traps to catch some birds. Their sister, who had watched them do this, told a friend of her parents all about it. In response to her information, the family friend asked her what she had done about it. She replied, “I prayed that the traps might not catch the birds.”

“Anything else?”

“Yes,” she said, “I prayed that God would keep the birds out of the traps.”

“Anything else?”

“Yes, then I went and kicked the traps all to pieces.”¹

the importance of advocacy

To speak up for another is to be an advocate.

If you have ever gone to bat for your child when there was a problem at school, helped relatives or neighbors get care when they were sick, or asked friends to support a favorite project, then you have been an advocate.

To be an advocate means to speak up, to plead the case of another, or to champion a cause. Usually advocacy involves bringing influence to bear in order to win change. It is something most of us do routinely on behalf of ourselves, our families, our neighbors, and our friends.

Policy advocacy is no different, except that the advocacy may be on behalf of people we don't personally know, and those being influenced work with laws, public programs, or court decisions. That includes anyone in a public policy-making role (like county commissioner, state legislator, or government employee).

Policy advocacy can be useful at all levels of government. For example, if one of your family members has a mental or physical disability, policies at federal, state, and local levels already affect your lives:

- **Local school boards** must carry out the federal law that requires an Individualized Education Plan for handicapped children;
- **County government** is usually responsible for such social services as sheltered work shops and adult day care;
- **City government** is likely to be responsible for whether or not buses, roadways, and public buildings are accessible to wheelchairs;
- **State government** determines the income and eligibility limits for Medicaid; and
- **The federal government** is responsible for protecting the civil rights of people with disabilities.

One way or another, legislators, government agencies, and the courts all affect whether people with disabilities and their families can live full and productive lives. But sometimes it takes the help of an advocate to make everything work as it should.

¹Division for Church in Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Equipping Advocates to Empower Others* (Pittsburgh, Pa.: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2001), p. 1.16. (Reprinted from *Network Newsletter*, February 2001, submitted by Faye Codding.)



If you want to make a positive difference for vulnerable people in your community, then you will need to take three steps:

- **Become informed.** Getting the basic facts is the first step, and not very difficult.
- **Become involved.** It makes sense to want to act once you know the need. Many possibilities for involvement exist. You could volunteer at an existing program, attend a conference, or answer telephone inquiries at a referral line.
- **Become an advocate.** Advocating for a cause does not come easily to most people, but it offers the best hope for getting at why a problem exists in the first place. You can make calls or write letters. You can help design and carry out a campaign to educate voters. You can urge your governor to support adequate funding for programs. In short, you can take steps to ensure that real choices will be available to meet the needs in your community.

basic advocacy is not difficult

You don't need to be an expert; you just need to care enough to get involved and speak up. That means bringing whatever power you have—as a taxpayer and voter—to make our democratic system work. Your influence is greater than you think and not difficult to use.

When you want to reach a policy maker, you should plan to write, call, or visit. If policy makers are to represent your wishes, they need to hear from you.

Just consider:

- Speaking up won't guarantee that you will win, but not speaking up guarantees that your wishes won't be known.
- Advocacy is easier, and frequently more fun, if you are part of a group. (Being part of a group also helps boost your courage and bolster morale.)
- You may wish to go along with someone more experienced the first few times. The encounter won't seem so intimidating, and having someone else do the talking helps a lot.
- Don't be afraid of being asked something you can't answer. As one Senate aide explained, her job was to record each caller's name, address, and message—not to put the senator's constituents on the spot by interrogating them.
- What if you *are* asked something you can't answer? Simply do as the politicians do: say you don't know, but you'll find out and get back to the person. Then do.
- Don't be afraid of being rejected. Elected officials are not likely to risk losing your vote by telling you off.
- Practice helps. Memorize a little speech, or write out a script to use on the phone. Role play the meeting or phone call with a friend.

Your only task is to be yourself: a citizen and voter who wants government policies to work for the most vulnerable as well as they do for the most powerful.



faith-based advocacy

As Christians, we are called to a ministry of advocacy. As one advocacy training manual put it, “Because of our relationship with God, we speak out on matters of justice for the sake of the community and we attempt to reframe the political discussion so that justice and righteousness are possible.”²

Guidance from the Bible

In the Bible, God has asked us to listen to the call to be advocates. Will we follow that call?

“Again I saw all the oppressions that are practiced under the sun. Look, the tears of the oppressed—with no one to comfort them! On the side of their oppressors there was power—with no one to comfort them” (Ecclesiastes 4:1).

“Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow, or shed innocent blood in this place” (Jeremiah 22:3).

“He said also to the one who had invited him, ‘When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous’” (Luke 14:12–14).

“Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action” (1 John 3:18).

Learning to be a faith-based advocate

Advocacy is best shown through *action*.

- Check with Division for Church in Society’s Corporate Social Responsibility office to see what resources or assistance they can provide. (See listing in “Resources,” under Advocacy Organizations.)
- Explore the Division for Church in Society resource, *That We May Speak . . . Our Ministry of Action: A Step-by-step Guide to Help Congregations Choose an Issue and Begin a Ministry of Advocacy*.
- Read George S. Johnson’s book *Beyond Guilt: A Christian Response to Suffering*.
- The story of the birds and traps (p. 3) illustrates the necessity of advocacy. See the handout “Principles for Advocacy Ministry in Your Congregation” for tips on beginning an advocacy ministry in your congregation or congregational unit.
- Join the ELCA Grassroots Advocacy Network so that you can inform your congregation or congregational unit about legislative developments regarding issues for which you are advocating on behalf of women. (See the listing for Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs in “Resources” under Advocacy Organizations.)

² Division for Church in Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *Equipping Advocates to Empower Others* (Pittsburgh, Pa.: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2001), p. 2.6.



advocating for justice for women in the United States

- Help your congregation or congregational unit determine one issue for which it will advocate on behalf of women in the United States. You may wish to choose an issue that your congregation or congregational unit (or synod or synodical women's organization) is already involved in through social ministry or some other connection.
- Form a group within your congregation or congregational unit to do further research on the issue your congregation or congregational unit has chosen. The organizations listed in the "Resources" section will help you obtain information on the issue; also use newspaper or magazine articles, videos, and guest speakers on the issue.
- Use an advocacy Bible study as part of an adult study group. (Check with Division for Church in Society's Corporate Social Responsibility office for resources; see the listing in "Resources" under Advocacy Organizations.)
- Contact one or more of the organizations listed in "Resources" under Advocacy Organizations or search the internet for suggested actions your congregation or congregational unit can take regarding the issue you have chosen.
- Set up a phone or e-mail tree for communicating urgent concerns that need immediate action. This method of communicating can be used to alert people to something that requires both quick action and ongoing prayer.
- Speak and write about how women in the United States are affected by the issue you have chosen. Send letters and articles to your local newspaper, church publications, and other publications. Encourage people in your congregation or congregational unit to do the same; draft a model letter for use by members of your congregation or congregational unit. (See the handout "How to Write a Letter to the Editor.")
- Write letters, make phone calls, visit your elected officials, or circulate petitions related to the issue you have chosen, telling how women in the United States are affected by it. Encourage people in your congregation or congregational unit to do the same. (See the following handouts: "Tips on Writing to Your Legislators," "Tips on E-mail," "Tips on Telephoning Your Legislators," and "Tips on Visiting a Legislator.")
- Keep your congregation or congregational unit informed about the issue you have chosen: Post materials on an advocacy bulletin board in a prominent part of the church, hold discussions of the issue during adult Sunday school classes, give a temple talk in a worship service or congregational unit meeting, and include articles in the church newsletter or other publications.
- Have your congregation designate an Advocacy Sunday.
- Establish a relationship and share resources with your ELCA State Public Policy Advocacy office (if your state has one), your synod's social justice committee, and area resource centers. (See the listings in "Resources" under Advocacy Organizations.)
- Form a coalition with other organizations (including non-Lutheran and non-Christian religious groups) that have similar concerns about the issue you have chosen. As part of a coalition, you'll be stronger in your struggle for justice for women.



advocating for justice for women around the world

- Learn as much as you can about the religions, cultural practices, and daily lives of women around the world, and especially in the country where your companion synod is located. (If you are not sure where your companion synod is located, contact your synod office or synodical women's organization president.)
- Learn as much as you can about the injustices inflicted upon women around the world, and especially in the country where your companion synod is located.
- Invite someone from your synod's companion synod or global mission committee to speak about the issues affecting women in the country where your companion synod is located.
- Help your congregation or congregational unit determine one issue for which it will advocate on behalf of women in the country where your companion synod is located. Follow other applicable steps listed in "Advocating for Justice for Women in the United States."
- Share all valuable resources you find with everyone interested in ending injustice toward women around the world.
- Urge your senator to support ratification of the United Nations Convention to End Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- Become involved in the Jubilee USA Network campaign to free the world's poorest countries from the crushing debt that keeps their citizens in poverty. (See the listing for Jubilee USA Network in "Resources" under Advocacy Organizations.)
- Participate in the "Stand with Africa" campaign. Join Lutheran World Relief and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal in helping churches and communities to overcome HIV/AIDS, produce enough food to eat and sell, and build peace. (See the listing for ELCA World Hunger Appeal in "Resources" under Advocacy Organizations.)
- Keep abreast of other campaigns for justice for women around the world.
- Work for the election and appointment of women to offices in which they can influence international policy decisions affecting women.
- Urge elected officials to insist that the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other U.S.-controlled financial institutions support people-centered development policies.
- Become a member of at least one organization (such as Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch) that holds governments accountable for defending women's rights. (See the listings in "Resources" under Advocacy Organizations.)
- Lobby for legislation that supports justice for women.
- Encourage people you know to participate in the efforts listed above.



notes





principles for advocacy ministry in your congregation

Input creates ownership.



The size of the mission is always larger than the size of the ministry.



Advocacy happens only when the Holy Spirit makes a ministry ready.



Advocacy is best shown through *action*.



The gifts for advocacy ministry are already present in most congregations and their communities, waiting to be discovered.



All the players need to be in the game if advocacy is to be effective.



God does the best work in times of crisis.



Growth in ministry is a gift that requires a conscious choice.



Avoid single-factor analysis and one-dimensional response.



Prayer is productive work in envisioning and planning.



People in growing ministries give themselves away in mission.



Effective advocates will seek to model, embody, and employ these principles in every situation.

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how to write a letter to the editor

After the front page, the section read most often in local newspapers is the “Letters to the Editor” section. Eighty percent of newspapers publish most of the letters they receive. Members of Congress pay close attention to these letters, particularly if their names are mentioned. When you write your letter, keep in mind the following suggestions:

- **Keep your letter short.** It is recommended that your letter be about 250 words. Periodicals have limited space and often receive more letters than they can publish. The less editing your letter needs, the more likely it is that it will appear.
- **Get to the point.** Letters should always state the specific issue and the action to be taken. Include the name and number of the bill you are commenting on. Mention the name of your senator or representative and what action you would like him or her to take.
- **Write in simple language.** Newspapers are looking for letters that can be understood by people of varying educational levels. Writing an intelligible letter need not be complicated. Do not be afraid to address sophisticated subjects; just remember that “a ball is a ball as well as a sphere.”
- **Be sure to be credible.** If you use a statistic, cite your source. Check the bill’s number through the legislator’s office or call the Senate and House bill status number (202-225-1772) to see if the number has changed.
- **Be timely.** Letters to the editor need to be written as soon as you are aware of an action. Daily newspapers treat news as “new” for only a short time. Editorials will be printed if they are current or if they address something that will be happening in the near future.
- **Sign your letter.** Newspapers will not publish your letter without a signature, although you may request that your name be withheld. In considering this option, remember that anonymous letters are often not considered credible. Include with your signature your town of residence and/or voting district.
- **Send a copy of your letter to the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs.** LOGA staff will use your letter as a resource to encourage others to write and will also be able to note others who support the position of the ELCA.

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tips on writing to your legislators

Writing legislators and public officials is one of the most effective means for a local congregation member to participate in the government decision-making process. Letters are one of the primary means for legislators to learn how their constituents feel about an issue. Often, a carefully composed letter can change a legislator's mind.

Although writing a letter of advocacy is not difficult, many congregation members have never written one. Moving congregants to action can be an effective tool in your advocacy training. Here are a few points to remember when writing to local, state, or federal officials.

- Timing can be crucial. The earlier a letter is sent, the better your chances of influencing your legislator's position on an issue. A follow-up letter just before a key vote also may be helpful.
- Write on your personal stationery if you are expressing your own view. Use business letterhead only if you are presenting a company position.
- A handwritten letter is acceptable and often welcomed, provided it is legible. Stories are often effective. Your purpose in writing should be stated in the first paragraph. If your letter pertains to a specific piece of legislation, identify it accordingly (House bill: H.R. __, Senate bill: S.__).
- Address the letter correctly. A legislator is referred to as "The Honorable" (The Honorable John Doe) on the envelope and inside address. "Dear Senator" or "Dear Representative" (Dear Representative Doe) is permissible for the salutation.

To a Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
__(room number) _____ (name of) Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Dear Senator:

To a Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
__(room number) _____ (name of) House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Dear Representative:

To the chair of a committee or to the Speaker of the House:

Dear Mr. Chairman (or Madam Chairwoman):
Dear Mr. Speaker:

(continued)





tips on writing to your legislators *(continued)*

- Be sure that your name and address are on both the letter and the envelope.
- Limit your letter to one subject, and if possible limit the letter to one page (or two at the most).
- Refer to a specific issue or request. Include a bill number (for example, House Bill 90 or Senate Bill 53) when writing about a specific piece of legislation.
- Be courteous, get to the point, and use examples to support your position.
- Be factual and relate your viewpoint to local conditions, the need, the impact, and costs.
- Be polite and reasonable. A positive-sounding letter is an effective tool even when you are asking your legislator to oppose a piece of legislation.
- Write thank-you letters when legislators have voted in accordance with your wishes. When they vote to the contrary, you may want to voice your displeasure; do so tactfully.

Your opinion is important. Legislators cannot be the voice of the people unless they know what their constituents are thinking. Use your voice to make sure that legislators have the information they need when making important decisions.

some optional enhancements

- Enclose an article that relates to the policy or legislation in question.
- If you have any personal association with the policy maker, say so. Nothing is more effective in getting an elected official's attention.
- Write or call a second time. Follow-up letters have a much stronger impact than an initial communication. Thank a legislator for taking a stand you agree with, or ask a question about unsatisfactory answers. A letter of thanks to an aide can also help your cause.
- Handwritten letters are now the only way that the recipient knows that the letter comes from a real person. If you prefer to type a letter, make sure to sign it and then add a handwritten PS.

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tips on e-mail

E-mail doesn't replace a personally signed letter, but when time is of the essence, it is a good way to get your message through.

In general the same guidelines apply for writing e-mail messages as for writing letters to members of Congress. You can find a legislator's e-mail address at the Web site of the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs: go to www.loga.org and click on "Guide to Congress"; then do a ZIP code search.

- Write to *your* legislator. Copying all members of Congress is not helpful. Your letter bears weight when you are in that member's district.
- Make your letter simple. Remember that members of Congress get hundreds of letters for each issue.
- Use a simple format. A fancy layout, graphics, or the newest program may not be able to be opened or printed easily.
- Call to confirm the legislator's e-mail address and ask if the e-mail is checked daily.
- Do not include attachments. These are often deleted without ever being opened.
- Include your full name and address in your e-mail so that the member will know you are a constituent.
- Ask for a response to your message. Some members no longer respond directly to e-mail but use an auto-response. Always follow up your e-mail message with a hard copy.
- Call first to find out the importance of the issue for that particular legislator.

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tips on telephoning your legislators

To find your legislator's phone number, you may use an on-line congressional directory or call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask for your senator's or representative's office. Remember that senators are elected by state and representatives by district (usually ZIP code + 4 will get you to the right one).

Remember that telephone calls are often taken by a staff member, not the member of Congress. Ask to speak with the aide who handles the issue about which you wish to comment. If that person is not present, leave a short message containing all the pertinent information.

After identifying yourself and where you live, tell the aide you would like to leave a brief message, such as: "Please tell Senator/Representative (name) that I support/oppose (bill number __)."

You will also want to state the reasons for your support or opposition to the bill. Ask for your senator's or representative's position on the bill. You may also request a written response to your telephone call. Offer to provide further written information. Follow up with a letter.

Don't be intimidated. You are a concerned citizen, and you are talking to public servants who are there to help you and represent you.

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tips on visiting a legislator

A personal visit with your representative or senator, either at home or in the state or federal capitol, can be anxiety-creating but also exciting and rewarding. The following are some steps and tips to make such a visit most effective.

Before your visit

Make an appointment

- Make the appointment by letter or phone for a meeting at the home district or capitol office.
- Confirm the appointment by phone or mail.
- Don't overlook the possibility of meeting with legislative aides—these are also valuable.

Brief yourself about your legislator

- The extent of the district
- Committee assignments
- The number of terms served
- Professional background
- Voting record on issues related to your interest
- Publicly stated views on issues related to your interest

Define the objectives of your visit

- Decide if your objective is to get acquainted, express general views, or discuss specific issues.
- Limit the number of issues to be discussed.
- Brief yourself on the facts surrounding the issue, and clarify your views on it.
- Briefly outline your comments or prepare a written summary.

Plan ahead

- Realize that the appointment may start late, or the legislator may be in session and unavailable. Plan to wait, meet with other staff, or make a new appointment.
- The meeting may range from 10 minutes to an hour.
- Consider going as part of a group, especially if a broad base of people and organizations is being represented.
- If you are going in a group, assign specific roles to each participant: determine who will be the spokesperson, introduce the group, guide the conversation, and provide the summary.

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tips on visiting a legislator *(continued)*

While you're there

Introduce yourself, including this information:

- Your place and length of residence
- Church membership
- Occupation, student status, volunteer and political involvement, and so on
- The group you are representing (if any)
- Your experience and expertise relevant to the issue

Create a positive climate for the visit

- Be on time.
- Be positive and friendly, not argumentative.
- Acknowledge areas of agreement.
- Express appreciation.

State the reason for your visit

- Be concise and specific.
- State your position and recommendation on the issue.
- Leave a written summary of your position (if available), reference material, and a calling card.
- Ask for related legislative materials, such as a copy of the bill and an analysis of the bill.

During the conversation

- Meet and record the name of the staff member assigned to the issue.
- Don't let questions or comments derail your purpose.
- Admit that you need to think more about a new point raised; ask if the person will consider a written response submitted later.
- Ask specific questions; request specific responses.
- Explore options of attending committee meetings or hearings, being admitted to congressional observation galleries, and so on.

After your visit

Debrief

- Talk with members of your group or another person about the experience.
- Determine possible next steps.
- Inform others about what you learned.

Write a follow-up letter to the legislator

- Thank the legislator for the visit.
- Summarize the visit; comment on what was said by all parties present.
- Identify follow-up steps that the legislator and group members committed to taking.
- Respond to any new points raised during the visit.
- Restate the issue, your position, and your recommendations.
- Express your intention to continue the dialogue.
- List names, addresses, phone numbers, and so on for all who participated in the visit.





resources

Advocacy Organizations

Amnesty International USA

322 Eighth Avenue
New York, NY 10001
phone: 800-Amnesty or 212-807-8400
fax: 212-463-9193 or 212-627-1451
Web site: www.amnestyusa.org or www.amnesty.org
e-mail: admin-us@aiusa.org

Bread for the World

50 F Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20001
phone: 800-82-BREAD or 202-639-9400
fax: 202-639-9401
Web site: www.bread.org
e-mail: bread@bread.org

Division for Church in Society

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631
phone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2710
fax: 773-380-2707
Web site: www.elca.org/dcs
e-mail: DCS@elca.org

Corporate Social Responsibility

c/o Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA
9625 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
phone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2548
fax: 412-369-8840
Web site: www.elca.org/dcs/corp.html
e-mail: patty.ruffner@ecunet.org
(Contact Patricia Zerega at 412-367-7575 or at patricia_zerega@elca.org about the Equipping Advocates to Empower Others [EAEO] program.)

ELCA State Public Policy Advocacy

c/o Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs (LOGA)
122 C Street, NW, Suite 125
Washington, DC 20001
phone: 202-783-7507
fax: 202-783-7502
Web site: www.elca.org/dcs/state.html
e-mail: jane.bossler@ecunet.org
(State offices are located in Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington, and Wisconsin. An office for Region 9 is located in South Carolina.)

Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs (LOGA)

122 C Street, NW, Suite 125
Washington, DC 20001
phone: 202-783-7507
fax: 202-783-7502
Web site: www.loga.org
e-mail: loga@ecunet.org

Lutheran Office for World Community (LOWC)

777 United Nations Plaza, 10th Floor
New York, NY 10017
phone: 212-808-5360
fax: 212-808-5480
Web site: www.elca.org/dcs/lowc.html
e-mail: gpuelle@earthlink.net

Lutheran Services in America

122 C Street, NW, Suite 125
Washington, DC 20001
phone: 202-626-7945
fax: 202-628-5421
Web site: www.lutheranservices.org
e-mail: lcarr@lutheranservices.org

Division for Global Mission

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Attention: Mia Cortez
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631
phone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2642
fax: 773-380-2410
Web site: www.elca.org/dgm
e-mail: mariec@elca.org

ELCA Resource Centers

c/o Laura Barkenquast, Women of the ELCA
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4189
phone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2737
fax: 773-380-2419
Web site: www.elca.org/co/centers.html
e-mail: lbarkenq@elca.org
(Use the above contacts to find the resource center closest to you.)

(continued)



ELCA World Hunger Appeal (and “Stand with Africa” campaign)

8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631
phone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2764
fax: 773-380-2588
Web site: www.elca.org/co/hunger or
www.standwithafrica.org
e-mail: worldhunger@elca.org or cdegonia@lwr.org

Human Rights Watch

350 Fifth Avenue, 34th Floor
New York, NY 10118-3299
phone: 212-290-4700
fax: 212-736-1300
Web site: www.hrw.org
e-mail: hrwnyc@hrw.org

Jubilee USA Network

222 East Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20003
phone: 202-783-3566
fax: 202-546-4468
Web site: www.jubileeusa.org
e-mail: coord@j2000usa.org

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

700 Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
phone: 410-230-2700
fax: 410-230-2890
Web site: www.lirs.org
e-mail: lirs@lirs.org

Lutheran Peace Fellowship

1710 11th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98122-2420
phone: 206-720-0313
Web site: www.lutheranpeace.org or
www.nonviolence.org/lpf
e-mail: lpf@ecunet.org

Lutheran World Federation

150, route de Ferney
Case postale 2100
CH-1211 Genève 2
Switzerland
phone: +41 22 791 61 11
fax: +41 22 791 66 30
Web site: www.lutheranworld.org
e-mail: info@lutheranworld.org

Lutheran World Relief

700 Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21230
phone: 800-LWR-LWR2 or 410-230-2700
fax: 410-230-2882
Web site: www.lwr.org
e-mail: lwr@lwr.org

OMB Watch: Community Technology Centers

1742 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
phone: 202-234-8494
fax: 202-234-8584
Web site: www.ombwatch.org
e-mail: ombwatch@ombwatch.org

Women of the ELCA

Attention: Laura Barkenquast
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4189
phone: 800-638-3522, ext. 2737
fax: 773-380-2419
Web site: www.elca.org/wo
e-mail: lbarkenq@elca.org

Web Sites

Association for Women in Development (AWID)
www.awid.org/

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm

The State of the World Population Report, 2000
www.unfpa.org/swp/swpmain.htm

US Women Connect (linking U.S. women and girls to the Global Women's Movement)
www.uswc.org

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children
www.womenscommission.org

Women's Human Rights Program of Amnesty International
www.amnestyusa.org/women/index.html

Women's Issues-3rd World
www.women3rdworld.about.com/newsissues/women3rdworld/mbody.htm



Printed Resources

Advocacy

Amidei, Nancy. *So You Want to Make a Difference: Advocacy Is the Key*. Washington, D.C.: OMB Watch, 2002.

This book is a very useful how-to manual for doing advocacy. It includes basic civics plus essential information for organizing groups and building coalitions.

(Order from OMB Watch at 202-234-8494; \$10.00 plus shipping and handling.)

Codding, Faye, and Mark Cole. *That We May Speak . . . Our Ministry of Action: A Step-by-step Guide to Help Congregations Choose an Issue and Begin a Ministry of Advocacy*. Chicago: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2000.

This booklet provides the theological and practical information needed to begin and sustain a ministry of advocacy within a congregation or Women of the ELCA congregational unit.

(Order from Augsburg Fortress at 800-328-4648. Code 6-0001-1812-0; \$3.99 plus shipping and handling.)

Johnson, George S. *Beyond Guilt: A Christian Response to Suffering*. San Marcos, Calif.: George S. Johnson, 2000.

This book takes you beyond the feelings of powerlessness and guilt that may overwhelm you when you think about all the injustices and needless suffering plaguing the world and gives compelling testimony about the need to take concrete action to end preventable suffering.

(Order with a credit card at 800-678-7006; \$7.95 plus shipping and handling.)

Bible and Theology

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All. Chicago: Department for Studies of the Division for Church in Society of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1996.

This study guide on economic life is intended to assist us in our efforts to discern how to live faithfully as Christians within the economic dimensions of our daily life and work. The section "Toward a Lutheran Ethic for Economic Life" is especially helpful.

(Order from Augsburg Fortress at 800-328-4648. Code 6-0000-6549-3; \$3.00 plus shipping and handling.)

Schlabach, Gerald, *And Who Is My Neighbor? Poverty, Privilege, and the Gospel of Christ*. Scottsdale, Pa.: Herald Press, 1990.

This book, which is excellent for group study, contains many vignettes from other countries and is a call to relationship and to action with the poor. The author advocates a method based on the thinking of theologian Gustavo Gutierrez: read the Word, read the world, relate the two, and respond.

Justice

Bloomquist, Karen L., and John R. Stumme, editors. *The Promise of Lutheran Ethics*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

This book enhances our understanding of Lutheran ethics and how the Lutheran tradition can guide our actions in the social order. The chapter "Addressing New Issues in Uncertain Times" by Larry Rasmussen with Cynthia Moe-Lobeda is especially thought-provoking.

For Your Liberation and Mine: Women of the World Working Together for Justice. Chicago: Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 1999.

Containing six individual resources, this packet provides information on justice issues that affect women and offers practical suggestions about how women can address their own freedom under the gospel, while at the same time working for justice for all women.

(Order from Augsburg Fortress at 800-328-4648. Code 6-0001-0656-4; no charge other than shipping/handling.)

McCrae, Ian. *Global Economics: Seeking a Christian Ethic/A Workbook for Beginners*. New York: Friendship Press, 1993.

This book offers stories and exercises about our interdependent world, biblical and ethical reflections, some easily understandable information on basic economic principles, and suggestions on how we as Christians can be involved in bringing about change.

Women

Williams, Winnie Vaughan. *Women I Can't Forget: A Global Traveler Reveals the Struggle and Courage of Women without Rights*. Grass Valley, Calif.: Blue Dolphin Publishing, 2001.

The author—a psychologist, educator, and world-traveling missionary—tells the stories of women in Third World countries who still suffer from oppression and injustice. The book contains background information on the status of women in various parts of the world and powerfully conveys the spirit and courage of women in male-dominated societies.

Women Magazine. Lutheran World Federation, Department for Mission and Development, P.O. Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland. E-mail: prs@lutheranworld.org

This publication of the Desk for Women in Church and Society of the Lutheran World Federation focuses on issues affecting global women, both in the church and in society.

stand up for justice

A guide to advocating effectively for a just society



Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

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