

Faith in Action

A Guide to Faithful Political Engagement

WHY YOUR VOICE MATTERS

As followers of Jesus Christ, we are called to be a prophetic voice in a world where silence too often enables injustice. Our faith is not meant to be confined to Sunday worship—it must shape how we respond to the policies that determine whose rights are protected and whose dignity is upheld. Throughout history, people of faith have stood firmly against oppression, speaking truth to power when others remained silent.

Today, as legislation threatens the most vulnerable among us, we face the same sacred responsibility to act with moral courage and conviction. The policies enacted by our representatives profoundly affect real lives, real families, and real communities—and our faith demands we take a stand.

"Never, never be afraid to do what's right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society's punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way." – Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. King reminds us that our moral integrity demands action when others' wellbeing is threatened. When we contact our representatives about unjust legislation, we're practicing our faith values and protecting our spiritual wholeness.

OUR FAITH CALLS US TO ACTION

Our enduring principles of Worth of All Persons and Unity in Diversity compel us to stand against policies that diminish human dignity or exclude people from full participation in community. Jesus consistently challenged systems that marginalized people, and we are called to follow this example.

When we see legislation that would:

- Strip away human rights
- Target vulnerable communities
- Promote discrimination in the name of religion
- Undermine the principles of equality and justice

Our faith demands we respond with both wisdom and prophetic courage.

CONTACTING YOUR LEGISLATORS AS AN ACT OF FAITH

Contacting your state and local legislators remains one of the most effective ways to engage politically with issues that are in conflict with God's vision of a future of welcome and wholeness.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU CALL & WHY IT MATTERS

Have you ever wondered what happens when you call a representative's office? When you call, a staff member will answer and document your position.

The entire process typically takes less than 2 minutes:

1. You identify yourself as a constituent
2. You share your position on an issue
3. The staffer enters your information into a tracking system
4. Senior staff compile reports on constituent concerns
5. When enough calls come in, the representative is briefed

This simple action is remarkably powerful:

- Just 5-10 calls on an issue can flag it for attention
- Personal calls carry more weight than form emails
- Each call is viewed as representing many more constituents
- Consistent contact shows an issue matters to voters

Remember: The person answering isn't judging you. Even if your voice shakes or you read from notes, your call counts the same.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

1. Find Your Representatives

State Representatives and Senators:

- Visit OpenStates.org or your state legislature website
- For Michigan: legislature.michigan.gov and click "Find My Representative/Senator"

U.S. Representatives and Senators:

- Visit USA.gov/elected-officials or call 202-224-3121
- House: House.gov/representatives/find-your-representative
- Senate: Senate.gov/senators/senators-contact

Pro Tip: Save all contact information in your phone for quick access.

2. Make an Effective Call

Prepare:

- Identify yourself as a constituent
- State clearly what issue you're calling about
- Share briefly why this matters to you
- Make a specific ask (support/oppose specific legislation)
- If faith informs your position, mention that

During the Call:

- Be polite but firm
- Use notes if needed
- Thank the staffer for their time

Sample Call Script: For Any Topic

"Hello, my name is _____ and I'm a constituent from (city/town). I'm calling because I'm deeply concerned about (specific bill/issue). As a person of faith, I believe in the worth of all persons and that all people deserve equal protection under the law. I'm asking Representative/Senator _____ to (oppose/support) this legislation because (brief reason). Can you please tell me their position on this issue?"

3. Sustain Your Engagement

- Build a small group that calls together regularly
- Create calendar reminders for consistent action
- Follow the issue and call again when there are developments
- Consider additional forms of engagement (letters, town halls)
- Ground your advocacy in spiritual practices that nurture you

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

When we raise our voices together, we participate in creating the beloved community at the heart of our faith. As people of faith, we bring a crucial perspective of justice and love to public discourse.

Your voice matters. Your faith matters. Your action matters.

This resource was created to support faith communities in effective political engagement. When we see policies that threaten human dignity, equality, and justice, faithful citizenship calls us to action.



Community of Christ
Michigan Mission Center