

# SPEAK UP!

**CREATION**  
**CARE**   
at West End UMC

## Advocacy

# Scripture...

- ▶ We are called to stewardship, justice, and compassion
- ▶ Often, people who suffer injustice need other voices in addition to or on behalf of theirs in order to be heard
- ▶ As people of faith, we are to love our neighbors, especially those who suffer

# Tradition: Our Social Principles

**All creation belongs to God!**

**“We are called to practice responsible stewardship and to live in right relationship with the Creator and with the whole of God’s creation.”**

# WHY write a letter

- ▶ **Big problems require big solutions**
- ▶ **Systems need to change**
- ▶ **Government, corporations, businesses have impact**
- ▶ **Individuals, churches, organizations can speak up and push for change**

# WHY write a letter

- ▶ To educate young staffers who are often the first to read the letter
- ▶ To encourage supportive or undecided decision makers in their advocacy
- ▶ To provide opposing decision makers information and constituent feedback that may lead to their reconsideration

# Think About YOUR Issue

Use the next 4 slides to identify the various elements that are important to you:

- ▶ **What's the problem/issue?**
- ▶ **Who is affected? How?**
- ▶ **Why is this a justice issue?**
- ▶ **Who has the power?**
- ▶ **What are you asking of them?**

# EXAMPLE

Issue:

Climate Change  
Consequences

Who is affected? How?

All life on this planet

CO<sub>2</sub> emissions drive  
climate change

Why creation justice?

Those with fewest  
resources are harmed  
the most

# EXAMPLE

Issue:  
Phasing Out  
CO<sub>2</sub>  
Dependence

## Who has the power?

Federal Government,  
specifically Congress

## What's the “ask”?

### Support legislation—

- ✓ Remove CO<sub>2</sub> to stop climate change
- ✓ Put the \$ burden on the initiators of emissions
- ✓ Provide specific help for people and communities in the transition

# From idea to letter

- ▶ My name is \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ I am a \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ I care about this issue because \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ I am particularly interested in the part of the proposal that \_\_\_\_\_

# The “ask”

- ▶ Be specific
- ▶ Choose action they can do

# Starting from faith

- ▶ You can speak from a faith perspective about creation care and environmental justice
- ▶ You can speak with confidence as a United Methodist
- ▶ You don't have to know every detail about the particulars of the policy, but do know enough to be conversant

# Keep in mind...

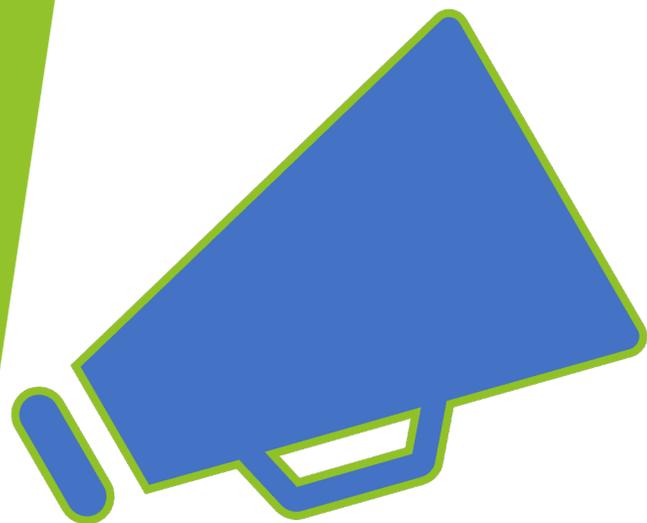
- ▶ **Legislators have said they want to hear from people of faith**
- ▶ **Make your letter your own**
- ▶ **Unique content with personal stories is best**
  - ▶ **(Stories can be as simple as 1-4 lines)**

# Remember...

- ▶ Assume the person is an ally
- ▶ Don't expect a response, but include your contact information—invite a response
- ▶ Don't worry about writing a perfect letter, but do a draft and edit it yourself
- ▶ Handwrite, type, email, or call—what's important is to make the contact

# Links to Key Decision Makers

- ▶ For local, state, national addresses
- ▶ Go to West End UMC's website
- ▶ Ministries/Creation Care/Advocacy
- ▶ <https://www.westendumc.org/creation-care-advocacy>
- ▶ For Metro boards browse



**Thank you**  
**FOR**  
**SPEAKING UP!**