

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

CO₂ emissions drive
climate change

Why creation justice?

Those with fewest
resources are harmed
the most

EXAMPLE

Issue:
Phasing Out
CO₂
Dependence

Who has the power?

Federal Government,
specifically **Congress**

What's the “ask”?

Support legislation—

- ✓ Remove CO₂ 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...

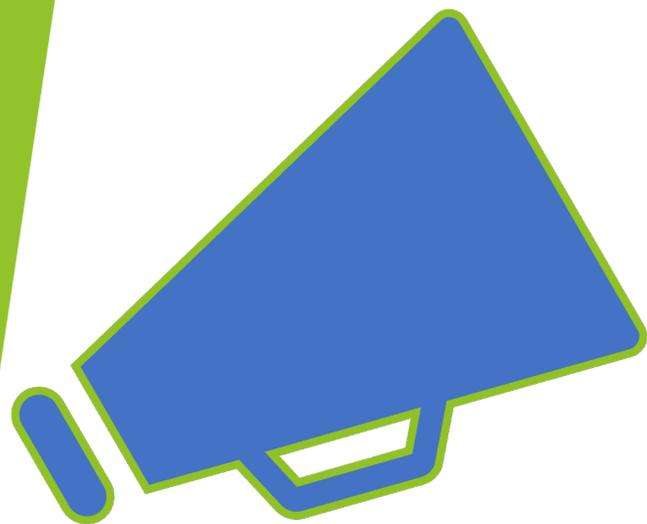
- ▶ Legislators have said they want to hear from people of faith
- ▶ Make your letter your own
- ▶ Unique content with personal stories is best
 - ▶ (Stories can be as simple as 1-4 lines)

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!