



Get Connected!

The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is urging you to **GET CONNECTED!** Why...?

Christian faith and scripture both speak to government. Scripture is teeming with stories of people of faith accepting the challenge of God's call to speak truth to power and step into the political world. Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other Hebrew prophets confronted the power structures of their day to demand change in how the people were ruled. In the early church, Paul lectured on the duties of citizenship. Jesus' life and, indeed, his death exemplified the cost of speaking truth to power.

Church reformers took these scriptural imperatives to heart. John Calvin, a father in the Reformed tradition, referred to civic participation as "the most sacred and honorable" calling. Martin Luther "wrote over one thousand letters to civil authorities, including letters regarding their public policies; fervently admonished preachers to preach against economic injustice and against economic practices and public policies that thwarted the well-being of the poor; called for modes of trade and commerce that defied the emerging capitalism where it oppressed the poor; and insisted that if civil authorities call Christians to actions that disobey God, then Christians must resist."¹

In other words, our faith, grounded both in scripture and tradition, calls us to responsible civic engagement.

¹ Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, in *Public Church: For the Life of the World*, p. 42.

Here's how you can **GET CONNECTED**...

- Join the Pennsylvania Council of Churches' E-Advocacy network at www.pachurchesadvocacy.org (click on "Subscribe to our News Summaries and Alerts" under link buttons at the left).
- Join the Council's Facebook group (click on link on home page).
- Subscribe to the Council's weblog for other breaking news (click on RSS or e-mail link under "Recent News").

And here are other ways you can make your voice heard...



- Call, write, e-mail, or visit your elected officials to urge their support for an issue that is important to you.
- Write a letter to the editor or an op-ed for your local paper.
- Consider organizing an editorial board visit with your local newspaper to seek editorial support for an issue (often done with other advocates).

Go to www.pachurchesadvocacy.org and click on "Resources" link to find tips to help guide your efforts.

The Council Ministry of Public Witness is also happy to discuss conducting local/regional training sessions through church bodies and/or ministeriums for how people of faith can engage in faithful advocacy efforts or to discuss public policy issues of importance to the faith community. For more information contact s.strauss@pachurches.org or call (717) 545-4761.



Pennsylvania Council of Churches
Ministry of Public Advocacy

900 S. Arlington Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717.545.4761 ♦ 717.545.4765 (fax)
www.pachurchesadvocacy.org