

Speaking Truth to Power: *Prophetic Witness as Ministry and Discipleship*

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Relational

- **Moving Beyond Fragmentation**
- **Covenant/Community**



Church

- **Accessing the Contextual Reality**
- **Preaching/Proclamation**



Advocacy

- **Enacting Restorative Justice**
- **Cross/Resurrection**

Reformed theology teaches that because a sovereign God is at work in all the world, the church and Christian citizens should be concerned about public policy. Presbyterian forefather John Calvin wrote, "Civil magistracy is a calling not only holy and legitimate, but by far the most sacred and honorable in human life."

PUBLIC WITNESS MINISTRY

The act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, idea, or policy; active support.

WHAT IS ADVOCACY

Many levels of Advocacy --

- Family and friends
- Local churches
- Colleges and Seminaries
- Larger PC(USA)
- Community level
- Local government level
- State government level
- Federal government level

Government advocacy 101

THE ADVOCATE'S TOOLBOX

The Advocate's Toolbox

- Education in your local church
- Build a relationship with your legislators
 - Personal meetings / lobby visits
 - Phone calls
 - Email
 - Make sure they know who you are
- Community, ecumenical, and interfaith coalitions
- Print Media
 - Letters to the Editor
 - Op-eds
- Social Media

Develop a relationship with your Member of Congress and staff

- Get a group of clergy or other like-minded folks together and make an appointment.
 - Meeting with the Member is good, especially when establishing the relationship, but meetings with staffers are also very important.
- Stay in contact regularly on issues of importance.
- Engage local opinion pages in the newspaper – Members comb local and regional media for mentions of their names.
- Engage friends, family, and elected officials on social media.

The anatomy of a lobby visit:

- Meeting with staff is a good use of your time!
- Go around the table/room – each person should introduce him/herself, who he/she represents
- A designated person will introduce the group – how you come together, what you stand for, why the faith community cares about the issue, etc. Deliver the “ask.”
- A designated person should tell a story or personalize the subject in another way.
- Someone should keep the conversation moving and ask the Member/staffer about their position.
- A designated person should offer the closing summary of your positions/requests and thank them for their time and service.
- Close with prayer if that feels appropriate.

Friendly tips for lobby visits:

- Remember that this is a conversation, not a presentation – go with the flow.
- If you are speaking with a Member, he/she will likely talk more than a staffer.
- If they ask you a question to which you don't know the answer, be honest. Tell them you will get back to them with the answer. It's a good excuse to continue the conversation.

If you're ever in DC...

Come visit us

- 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 410
- Second Tuesday open briefings
- March 21-24, 2014 – Advocacy Training Weekend
 - CPJ Training Day
 - Ecumenical Advocacy Days
- Send young folks our way for internships!

