

# Now You Are Home: What Is Next?



## An Advocacy Guide on How to Remain Engaged After an International Pilgrimage

### People-to-People Pilgrimage Program

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A common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and  
Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ





## Table of Contents

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<b>Now What? .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Why Advocacy? .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Reflect.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Different Forms of Advocacy.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Denominational Advocacy Partners .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Advocacy Checklist .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Resources by Topic/Issue.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Additional Resources .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Books on Advocacy .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Conclusion .....</b>	<b>24</b>





## Now What?

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**W**elcome back! Now that your People-to-People Pilgrimage is over, you will have many stories to tell. Our hope is that you experienced mutuality, presence, community, peace, and justice, that relationships and connections were established, and that life-long memories were formed. However, your pilgrimage continues. As with the period of preparation before your travels, now begins the work of advocacy.

Advocacy is a significant step in building and maintaining meaningful partnerships and encouraging action on particular issues. Having studied the cultural, social, and religious value systems of your pilgrimage site, and having visited a Global Ministries Partner(s), you now have some authority to speak on the issues facing your host community. Just as important (if not more so), you have personal stories to share and powerful encounters witnessing to the urgent need for justice. One of our Strategic Directions at Global Ministries is **peace with justice**. We believe in the importance of affirming “God’s just and peaceable realm by living God’s global mission church, facilitating the mobilization of God’s people as advocates for current issues”.

The term –advocacy- is rich in meaning. *Bread for the World* defines advocacy as “the act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending; active espousal; a deliberate process of speaking out on issues of concern in order to exert some influence on behalf of ideas or persons.”<sup>1</sup>

Advocacy therefore takes many forms. As we shall see, political action, public testimonies, or individual and communal prayers are all deliberate, unique ways of speaking out.

*Habitat for Humanity* offers additional insight:

“Advocacy encompasses more than just lobbying. [It] attempts to reach all parts of society. Advocacy often involves raising public awareness through education campaigns that tie directly to specific actions or ‘asks.’ Advocacy efforts can take many forms and look very different, but all advocacy initiatives have common steps. These initiatives include identifying a main issue, setting a goal, developing a message and planning advocacy tactics, and ongoing evaluation with the advocacy effort.”<sup>2</sup>

In *Advocacy as Discipleship: A People Called to Witness*, Presbyterian Church (USA) author Blair Moorhead explains, “We do not advocate in order to speak for others, but we listen to the voices in our communities- near and far- and join our sisters and brothers in the cause for justice.”<sup>3</sup> The People-to-People Pilgrimage Program invites you to embody Global Ministries’ Core Values. We hope **presence, mutuality, community, justice, and peace** have informed your pilgrimage, for it is precisely these values which prompt good advocacy. As evidenced by Moorhead, advocates are not to speak *for*. They are to listen with kind and compassionate ears; they are to speak *with* and *alongside* the partners encountered here and abroad.

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<sup>1</sup> Bread for the World, *Getting Ready to Come Back* (2009), p. 54.

<sup>2</sup> Habitat for Humanity, *Interfaith: An International Advocacy Tool Kit* (2011), p. 13.

<sup>3</sup> Blair Moorhead, *Advocacy As Discipleship: A People Called to Witness*, p. 3.



## Why Advocacy?

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But why do advocacy in the first place?

In Matthew 4:23, we are told “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.” He called his disciples to do advocacy modeled on his everyday ministry, and calls us to mirror the grace by which He touches our lives now. Time and time again, Jesus spoke to power on behalf of the sick, the poor, and the oppressed.

Jesus was not the only Biblical advocate. Jesus inherited from the Hebrew prophets the mantle of advocacy that compelled him to ask *why* the poor and marginalized were oppressed, then to challenge the prevailing political and social structures. In 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE Judah, Micah explained, “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (6:8). Twenty years prior in the northern Kingdom of Israel, Amos declared, “Let justice roll on like a river, and righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (5:24). According to James 2:17, “Faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead.” From this we know advocacy was central to the early church, just as it was for the prophets of the old. Advocacy is godly work, intent on inaugurating justice and righteousness.

Advocacy is intentional. Bringing a critical, systematic perspective, advocates must act deliberately and effectively to enact change and honor the mutual partnerships fostered prior to and throughout your pilgrimage. Before pursuing advocacy, you should carefully consider: What are the primary issues for partners? How am I complicit in these issues? How might these issues be addressed at home? How might they be addressed globally? How would partners like me to engage? Responsible advocacy takes these questions (and many more) into account.

Advocacy means sharing our stories. It takes into account all that we’ve learned from local and global neighbors, and all that *can be* learned, when core values are cherished and embodied. We honor mutuality when we advocate. We express dedication and commitment to the lives encountered and lessons learned throughout our earthly pilgrimages. As you begin to reflect on the many ways a People-to-People pilgrimage has altered your perspective on advocacy, ask yourself: how long is this commitment (the work of advocacy) going to last? *How* will you choose to advocate?



## Reflect

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A personal commitment to advocacy mandates reflection and self-awareness. Advocates must reflect on the cultural value systems in which local and global neighbors live. Reflection and discernment permit better understanding of *why* pilgrimage and advocacy are both necessary and fundamental. The People-to-People Pilgrimage Program encourages you to reflect on your pilgrimage experience in the following ways. Please take some time to answer these questions individually and as a group.

Review any thoughts held about your host country prior to your trip. Having encountered the country firsthand, how might these views have changed? \_\_\_\_\_

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What might you have seen that brought you hope? What troubled you? \_\_\_\_\_

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How would you describe the culture(s) encountered on your pilgrimage? What should others learn from/about the Partner's culture? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who did you meet? What kinds of relationships did you form? What might this new relationship have taught you? \_\_\_\_\_

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How might you honor these relationships moving forward? Will you attempt to maintain contact? \_\_\_\_\_

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What major issues impacted the daily lives of those you encountered? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you see these (or similar issues) impacting those living in the United States? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How will you share recognized differences and similarities with local neighbors? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How will you share the ways this pilgrimage altered your perspective? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Finally, where, when, or how did you see God at work throughout your pilgrimage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can you help continue that work? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## So, how will you advocate?





# Different Forms of Advocacy

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Deciding how to advocate is exciting and powerful. Expressing solidarity and sharing your story can occur in diverse modes and contexts. Fortunately, advocacy takes many different forms. You may decide to advocate with God, with your community, with the public, in the market, and/or in the political arena.<sup>4</sup> There are many different paths. Descriptions and ideas for each are provided below:

## 1. Prayer

Prayer occurs in numerous places for many different reasons. Advocacy is often inherent in prayer whenever requests for comfort, peace, or understanding are voiced. You can advocate through prayer by placing your concerns, your demands, and your pursuit of justice before God. Lift up your host partner; tell your stories; ask God to help you alleviate and address systemic issues. You may also organize prayer vigils and invite family, friends, neighbors, religious leaders, or the local media to make an even greater impact. Write a prayer and share it in worship, with Global Ministries, and even on social media.

## 2. Advocacy with Your Community

You have many stories to tell. Turn to your immediate congregation, community, families, friends, and neighbors, to share these stories, your thoughts, and your reflections. This can be done via blogs, articles, essays, or letters/emails. It can also take place from the pulpit, in Sunday school rooms, or informal gatherings with colleagues and confidants. In educational settings, there may be student groups devoted to similar advocacy goals; feel free to join these organizations or create one of your own. Prepare and give a presentation, anticipate questions, and remember that not everyone will agree. Create a space for dialogue. Sometimes it takes time for people to accept and process new stories.

## 3. Advocacy with the Public

Expand your community by writing a letter to the editor of a local publication (printed or online). A personal letter expressing your opinion may open unexpected doorways and further your goals. Also, remain active on social media, create signs, or participate in non-violent demonstrations, when necessary. These are all public ways of advocating for an issue and, hopefully, discovering new organizations devoted to similar objectives.

That being said, there are many advocacy partners with whom you may work. Networking helps strengthen and amplify your efforts. Page 10 lists Christian denominations devoted to justice and advocacy, while the resource guides (pgs. 13-17) highlight partners working around specific issues and concerns. Never be afraid to reach out to Global Ministries for assistance and greater solidarity. We will gladly welcome your work.

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<sup>4</sup> Borrowed from Bread for the World, *Getting Ready to Come Back* (2009).



## 4. Advocacy in the Marketplace

The way we spend our money has profound implications. Therefore, we advocate by choosing to support certain companies and/or boycott others. Purchasing Fair Trade items is one way to support local economies and avoid oppressive trade deals. You can also write letters to major companies and corporations on behalf of host countries to protest specific issues. For letter-writing formats, see “Additional Resources” on page 17.

Market advocacy also encompasses intentional decisions to live more simply. The money saved when choosing not to purchase unneeded items can be donated to a worthy cause. Whether it's a gift that provides support for the overall work of Global Ministries, a mission placement, or one of the over 200 ministries of international partners, your donation is an investment in creating a world where all people and creation share in God's abundant life. Please visit Global Ministries' Alternative Giving Catalog to learn more about how donations can help partners throughout the world ([www.globalministries.org/special\\_projects](http://www.globalministries.org/special_projects)).

## 5. Advocacy in the Political Arena

Visit your elected officials and tell them your stories. By calling, writing, or visiting members of Congress, you and your People-to-People delegation can effect policy change both here and abroad. To call Congress, dial (202)224-3121. To find out who represents you in the United States Congress, visit [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov). You may also wish to sign petitions or follow the letter-writing formats provided under “Additional Resources” on page 17. Participating in an advocacy training conference like Ecumenical Advocacy Days ([www.advocacydays.org](http://www.advocacydays.org)) can be a great way to gain experience in advocating with elected officials. Find more resources on political advocacy at [www.globalministries.org/get-involved/justice-an-advocacy](http://www.globalministries.org/get-involved/justice-an-advocacy).

## 6. Go Deeper!

You can explore the possibility of using your God given gifts and talents, education, and experience by serving/participating in the following:

- Global Ministries Volunteer, [http://www.globalministries.org/mission\\_opportunities](http://www.globalministries.org/mission_opportunities)
- Global Mission Intern, [http://www.globalministries.org/global\\_mission\\_interns](http://www.globalministries.org/global_mission_interns)
- UCC Young Adult Service Communities, [http://www.ucc.org/volunteer\\_yasc](http://www.ucc.org/volunteer_yasc)
- Disciples NBA XPLORE, <https://www.nbacares.org/xplor>
- UCC/Alliance of Baptists Summer Communities of Service, [http://www.ucc.org/volunteer\\_scos](http://www.ucc.org/volunteer_scos)
- Disciples Peace Intern, <http://www.dpfweb.org/peace-intern-program/>



## Denominational Advocacy Partners

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These denominational/agency advocacy offices will prove useful ecumenical partners when doing advocacy:

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

- [www.globalministries.org/get-involved/justice-and-advocacy](http://www.globalministries.org/get-involved/justice-and-advocacy)

United Church of Christ

- [www.ucc.org/justice](http://www.ucc.org/justice)

American Baptist Churches USA

- [www.internationalministries.org](http://www.internationalministries.org)

Christian Reformed Churches in North America Office of Social Justice

- [www.crcjustice.org](http://www.crcjustice.org)

Church of the Brethren

- [www.brethren.org/witness\\_welcome](http://www.brethren.org/witness_welcome)

Church World Service

- [www.churchworldservice.org/how\\_adv\\_main](http://www.churchworldservice.org/how_adv_main)

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

- [www.thefellowship.info/missions](http://www.thefellowship.info/missions)

Evangelical Covenant Church

- [www.covchurch.org/cmj](http://www.covchurch.org/cmj)

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy)

The Episcopal Church

- [www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn.htm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn.htm)

Franciscan Action Network

- [www.franciscanaction.org](http://www.franciscanaction.org)

Presbyterian Church USA

- [www.pcusa.org/washington](http://www.pcusa.org/washington)

Reformed Church in America

- [www.rca.org/socialjustice](http://www.rca.org/socialjustice)

United Methodist Committee on Relief

- [www.umcor.org](http://www.umcor.org)



## Advocacy Checklist

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Having reviewed the options, how will you choose to advocate? Indicate which commitments you (and/or your People-to-People delegation) are willing to make:

*I/We will...*

- ☐ - pray individually and as part of a group
- ☐ - help organize a prayer vigil
- ☐ - write a letter to the editor of a publication
- ☐ - submit an article/reflection to a publication and to Global Ministries
- ☐ - educate and involve my congregation
- ☐ - create and share a presentation detailing my travels with my/other congregation(s)
- ☐ - share my new perspective with a Sunday school class
- ☐ - create or work with existing advocacy organization at school/work/community
- ☐ - volunteer to preach or pray in worship
- ☐ - organize a public demonstration
- ☐ - sign up for newsletters and petitions with other Advocacy partners (See "Resources")
- ☐ - stop purchasing a particular product
- ☐ - recycle/reduce waste consumption
- ☐ - donate through Global Ministries' Alternative Giving Catalog
- ☐ - encourage letter-writing to decision-makers of a corporation
- ☐ - write/call/visit my decision-makers in Congress
- ☐ - write to my partner to maintain an ongoing relationship
- ☐ - host a book club from authors of the country or about the country you visited
- ☐ - have a dinner at a local restaurant that serves food from the country you visited
- ☐ - visit a museum, art installation, or theater performance that promotes the culture from the country you visited
- ☐ - show a documentary/movie that explores the issues facing the partners/country you visited and have a discussion afterwards
- ☐ - engage with a local non-profit organization
- ☐ - organize a follow up People-to-People pilgrimage through Global Ministries
- ☐ - help your congregation to be a Global Mission Church<sup>5</sup>
- ☐ - additional thoughts and ideas \_\_\_\_\_.

**GET CREATIVE!**

Tell us about how you plan to spread the word, educate your congregations, and take action. We want to learn about your efforts and ideas in order to encourage other to do the same.

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<sup>5</sup> [http://www.globalministries.org/be\\_a\\_global\\_mission\\_church](http://www.globalministries.org/be_a_global_mission_church)



What is your vision of a year's worth of advocacy work? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How frequent will you/your delegation do advocacy work?

\_\_\_ - one time \_\_\_ - twice a year \_\_\_ - once a month \_\_\_ - twice a month  
\_\_\_ - once a week \_\_\_ - daily \_\_\_ - other

What are the hopeful outcomes? What sorrows or injustices do you wish to alleviate? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do the above answers translate into concrete objectives? Name three:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What tactics will you/your People-to-People delegation employ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How will you evaluate your efforts?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How will you invite other to join in?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Resources by Topic/Issue

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The following links and resources are categorized by issue. Recall the issues impacting those you've encountered. Reflect on those that you've chosen to address and rectify. Then, begin by visiting any of the following websites.

\* Four areas of global advocacy that Global Ministries is emphasizing.

### Climate Change\*

Global Ministries, "Global Warming and the Care of Creation"

- Learn more about the issues, read articles, sign petitions, gather worship resources and additional information ([www.globalministries.org/global\\_warming\\_and\\_the\\_care\\_of\\_creation](http://www.globalministries.org/global_warming_and_the_care_of_creation))

United Church of Christ, "Environmental Justice"

- Learn more about how to act on our faith grounded in wonder, reverence, love, and respect for all of God's creation.  
(<http://www.ucc.org/environmental-ministries>)

Disciples Home Missions, "Green Chalice"

- Become a Green Chalice Congregation, sign the Green Chalice Covenant, resources ([www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/environment/](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/environment/))

350, "Getting Started"

- Locate and join local groups, participate in featured campaigns dedicated to reducing the individual and global carbon footprint ([www.350.org/resources/get-started/](http://www.350.org/resources/get-started/))

Greenpeace, "Get Involved"

- Volunteer, or take action to expose global environmental problems and promote solutions essential to a green and peaceful future ([www.greenpeace.org/usa/about/](http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/about/))

### Conflict and Genocide

ENOUGH, "Take Action"

- Petition to support legislation and urge executive action on international, humanitarian issues ([www.enoughproject.org/take\\_action](http://www.enoughproject.org/take_action))

Genocide Intervention Network, "Take Action"

- Support various featured actions by signing petitions, attending events, donating, or attending demonstrations ([www.endgenocide.org/take-action/get-involved/](http://www.endgenocide.org/take-action/get-involved/))

International Crisis Group, "Support Crisis Group"

- Help prevent conflict through donations, becoming a member, participating in social media campaigns, and/or attending events ([www.crisisgroup.org/en/support.aspx](http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/support.aspx))

Witness for Peace, "Action Alerts"

- Sign up to receive action alerts, download congregational resources for legislation, advocate for peace, justice, and sustainable economies in the Americas  
([www.witnessforpeace.org/section.php?id=104](http://www.witnessforpeace.org/section.php?id=104))

### Debt

Jubilee USA, "Action"

- Join a Jubilee Chapter or Coalition, learn about Jubilee campaigns and petitions, find grassroots advocacy resources ([www.jubileeusa.org/action](http://www.jubileeusa.org/action))



## HIV/AIDS

United Church of Christ, "UCAN"

- Learn more about technical assistance, resources and training opportunities for congregations. (<http://www.ucc.org/ucan>)

International HIV/AIDS Alliance, "Take Action"

- Support campaigns to protect human rights and eliminate harmful social determinants of health, connect with community actions dedicated toward ending the HIV/AIDS virus ([www.aidsalliance.org/about](http://www.aidsalliance.org/about))

## Human Rights/Human Trafficking\*

Disciples Women, "Breaking the Chains: Link by Link"

- Connect with anti-trafficking services, and request training, technical assistance, general information, and/or specific anti-trafficking resources. ([www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/disciples-women/human-trafficking-link-by-link/](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/disciples-women/human-trafficking-link-by-link/))

Amnesty International, "Take Action"

- Sign pledges and petitions, join Amnesty International, and act on various human rights campaigns ([www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/))

Human Rights Watch, "Take Action"

- Support and write to congress and petition human rights offenses ([www.hrw.org/join-us/take-action](http://www.hrw.org/join-us/take-action))

International Justice Mission, "Get Involved"

- Discover numerous ways to get involved, resources for congregations and students ([www.ijm.org/get-involved](http://www.ijm.org/get-involved))

Not For Sale

- Support Not For Sale's projects in the fight to end human trafficking ([www.notforsalecampaign.org/](http://www.notforsalecampaign.org/))

Stop the Traffik, "What You Can Do"

- Do awareness stunts, join the "no room: hotel campaign," discover resources ([www.stopthetraffik.org/campaign/communities/resources](http://www.stopthetraffik.org/campaign/communities/resources))

## Hunger and Poverty

United Church of Christ, "Justice and Peace action Network"

- Join the network to receive alerts, and to access training resources and justice events. ([http://www.ucc.org/justice\\_jpanet](http://www.ucc.org/justice_jpanet))

Bread for the World, "Get Involved"

- Support Bread for the World and advocate to fight hunger and poverty ([www.bread.org/get-involved](http://www.bread.org/get-involved))

Micah Challenge, "Living Justly"

- Sign petition, discover in-depth scriptural and practical study on 6 areas of life including advocacy, prayer, consumption, generosity, creation care, and relationships ([www.micahchallengeusa.org/living\\_justly](http://www.micahchallengeusa.org/living_justly))

ONE Campaign, "Take Action"

- Sign petition, learn more about ONE ([www.one.org/us/take-action/betternutrition-saves-lives/?source=subnav](http://www.one.org/us/take-action/betternutrition-saves-lives/?source=subnav))

Sojourners, "About Us"



- Individual and congregational resources for advocating creation care, immigration rights, peace and nonviolence, poverty, racial justice, and rights of women and girls ([sojo.net/join/take-action](http://sojo.net/join/take-action))

## Global Conflict and Peacemaking

Global Ministries, “Global Conflict and Peacemaking”

- Learn about “just peace,” discover resources on regional issues, helpful tools for congregational advocacy ([www.globalministries.org/global\\_conflict\\_peacemaking](http://www.globalministries.org/global_conflict_peacemaking))

UCC, “Just Peace: Church Handbook”

- Helpful tool for UCC congregations seeking “Just Peace Church” designation ([www.ucc.org/justice\\_colombia\\_index](http://www.ucc.org/justice_colombia_index))

UCC, “Take Action: Join the Justice and Peace Action Network”

- Link to UCC Action Center, sign up for advocacy opportunities and action alerts ([www.ucc.org/join\\_the\\_network](http://www.ucc.org/join_the_network))

## Indigenous Rights

First Peoples Worldwide, “Join a Project”

- Join community, donate funds, volunteer, and support indigenous peoples through socially responsible investing ([www.firstpeoples.org/join-a-project/join-a-project](http://www.firstpeoples.org/join-a-project/join-a-project))

International Indian Treaty Council, “Support Our Work”

- Keep up with events and advocate for rights and recognition of indigenous peoples in the Americas ([www.iitc.org/support-our-work/](http://www.iitc.org/support-our-work/))

Native Planet, “Get Involved”

- Join, donate, volunteer, or partner with Native Planet to preserve indigenous cultures ([www.nativeplanet.org/ngo/getinvolved.shtml](http://www.nativeplanet.org/ngo/getinvolved.shtml))

## Interfaith Relations/Dialogue\*

Disciples Council on Christian Unity, “Interfaith”

- Learn about interreligious engagement and obtain a study guide and interfaith toolkit. (<http://councilonchristianunity.org/programs/interfaith/>)

United Church of Christ, “Interfaith Relations”

- Learn about General Synod's commitment to interfaith dialogue, projects, and relationships. ([http://www.ucc.org/ecumenical\\_interfaith-relations](http://www.ucc.org/ecumenical_interfaith-relations))

National Council of Churches, “Interreligious Relations and Collaboration”

- Connect through study, dialogue, the development of cooperative programs, and the sharing of resources and information. ([www.nationalcouncilofchurches.us/interreligious-relations-and-collaboration/](http://www.nationalcouncilofchurches.us/interreligious-relations-and-collaboration/))

## Refugees and Migration\*

Global Ministries, “Refugees and Migration”

- Background information, factsheet, links to sources for additional information ([www.globalministries.org/refugees\\_and\\_migration](http://www.globalministries.org/refugees_and_migration))

Disciples Home Missions, “Refugee and Immigration Ministries”





- Sign up for the RIM newsletter, background information, worship resources and advocacy opportunities ([www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/refugee-immigration-ministries/](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/dhm/dhm-ministries/refugee-immigration-ministries/))

Church World Service, “Refugees and Immigrants”

- Learn more about CWS and support their work with refugees and displaced peoples ([www.cwsglobal.org/our-work/refugees-and-immigrants/](http://www.cwsglobal.org/our-work/refugees-and-immigrants/))

Interfaith Immigration Coalition

- Partnership of faith-based organizations committed to enacting fair and humane immigration reform ([www.interfaithimmigration.org/](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/))

Refugees Welcome

- Learn about alternative refugee housing opportunities and join the movement ([www.refugeesarewelcome.org/](http://www.refugeesarewelcome.org/))

The UN Refugee Agency, “World Refugee Day”

- Sign petition to pledge support toward the UNHCR ([www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/us/](http://www.unhcr.org/refugeeday/us/))

## Trade

Equal Exchange, “Resources”

- Purchase fairly traded products, discover resources on food and fair trade advocacy ([www.equalexchange.coop/resources](http://www.equalexchange.coop/resources))

Fair Trade Federation

- Become a member and support 360 degree fair trade ([www.fairtradefederation.org/](http://www.fairtradefederation.org/))

Global Exchange, “Get Involved”

- Become a member, join a campaign, promote social, economic, and environmental justice around the world ([www.globalexchange.org/getinvolved](http://www.globalexchange.org/getinvolved))

SERRV

- Support artisans and farmers by purchasing handmade, fair trade products ([www.serrv.org/](http://www.serrv.org/))

Ten Thousand Villages, “Get Involved”

- Purchase fair trade products, discover how to volunteer at stores and festival sales ([www.tenthousandvillages.com/get-involved/](http://www.tenthousandvillages.com/get-involved/))

## Women and Children

Global Ministries, “Women, Gender Based Violence, and Peacemaking”

- Resources for Speak Out Sunday, additional links to advocacy partners ([www.globalministries.org/women\\_gender\\_based\\_violence\\_and\\_peacemaking](http://www.globalministries.org/women_gender_based_violence_and_peacemaking))

Global Ministries, “Women, Poverty, and Economic Development”

- Learn more about the issues, connect with various partners and advocacy movements ([www.globalministries.org/women\\_poverty\\_and\\_economic\\_development](http://www.globalministries.org/women_poverty_and_economic_development))

Amnesty International, “Women, Peace, and Security”

- Information on women’s rights and gender violence, numerous ways to advocate and become involved ([www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/women-s-rights/women-peace-and-security](http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/issues/women-s-rights/women-peace-and-security))

United Church of Christ, “We will Speak Out”

- Learn more about faith communities uniting to end sexual violence. ([www.ucc.org/oghs/stories/speak-out-anti-female-violence.html](http://www.ucc.org/oghs/stories/speak-out-anti-female-violence.html))



## Additional Resources

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The sources below provide additional guides, articles, resources, and more meant to help you or your delegation pursue advocacy.

United Church of Christ, "Publications & Resources"

- Sign up to receive or download publications, resources on various issues ([www.ucc.org/justice\\_advocacy\\_resources](http://www.ucc.org/justice_advocacy_resources))

Global Ministries, "News"

- Links to weekly prayers, latest news, R.E.A.D.Y. and R.E.A.C.H. curriculums ([www.globalministries.org/news](http://www.globalministries.org/news))

Bread for the World, "Resource Library"

- Briefing papers, advocacy guides on a variety of issues in both English and Spanish ([www.bread.org/resource-library](http://www.bread.org/resource-library))

The Episcopal Church, "Resources"

- "Faith and Citizenship" Guide, Lenten series guide, "How to write an op-ed", etc. ([advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/resources](http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/resources))

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, "Advocacy"

- Downloadable PDF one-sheets on domestic policy, international policy, UN Advocacy, etc. ([www.elca.org/en/Resources/Advocacy](http://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Advocacy))

General Board of Church & Society of the United Methodist Church, "Justice Campaigns"

- Sign petitions, join advocacy networks, link to additional resources and websites ([umc-gbcs.org/take-action/index](http://umc-gbcs.org/take-action/index))

Habitat for Humanity, "Publications and Resources"

- Links to yearly reports, and global or interfaith advocacy guides ([www.habitat.org/advocate/publications-resources](http://www.habitat.org/advocate/publications-resources))

International Justice Mission, "Get Involved: Churches"

- Prayer and worship resources for the congregation ([www.ijm.org/get-involved/churches](http://www.ijm.org/get-involved/churches))

Presbyterian Mission Agency, "Resources"

- Briefs/reports on PC(USA) advocacy work, bible studies, liturgy and worship aids, etc. ([www.presbyterianmission.org/resources/?type=type](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/resources/?type=type))

Union Theological Seminary, "Union Seminary Quarterly Review"

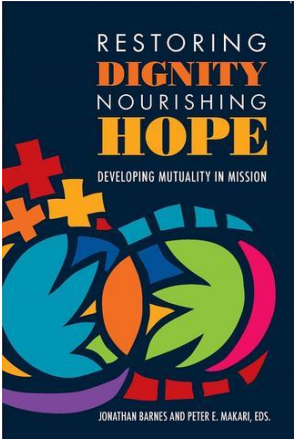
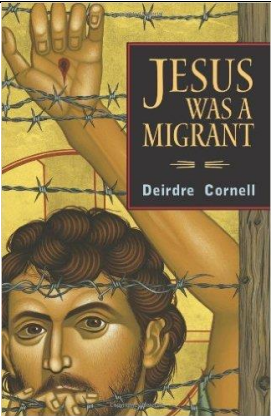
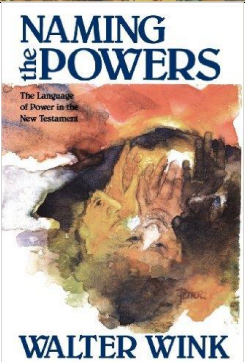
- Archive of previous issues ([usqr.utsnyc.edu/archives/](http://usqr.utsnyc.edu/archives/))

Witness for Peace, "How to Tips"

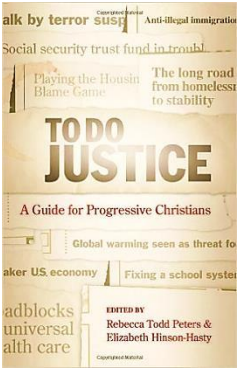
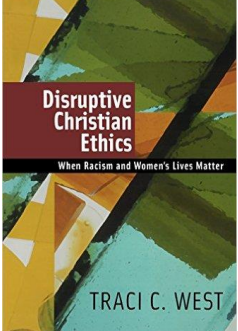
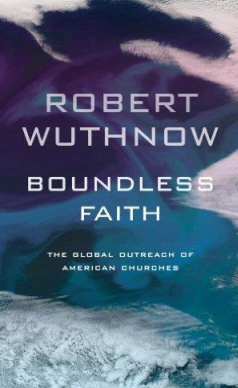
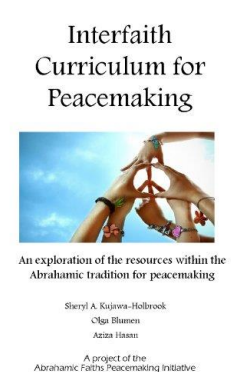
- Guide for Congregational Partnership, PDF download for sample letters to Congress ([www.witnessforpeace.org/section.php?id=105](http://www.witnessforpeace.org/section.php?id=105))

## Books on Advocacy and Engagement

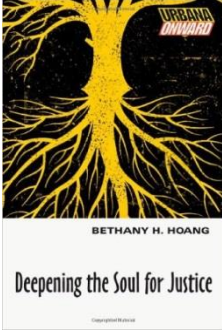
This is a small sampling of books for you to start learning and getting immerse on how to remain engaged in advocacy. Feel free to continue looking for other resources as you continue to immerse yourself in advocacy. Let us know what else you find!

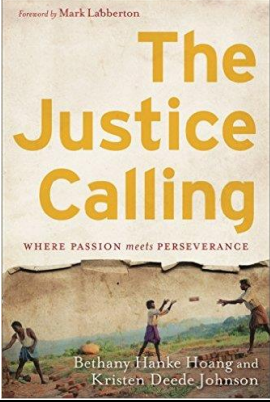

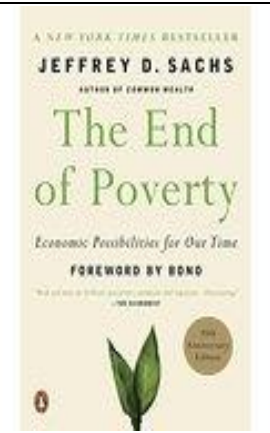
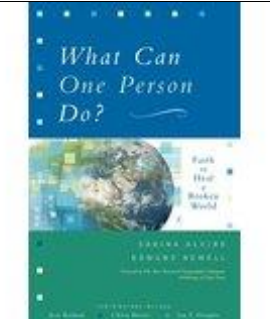
	<p><b><i>Restoring Dignity, Nourishing Hope: Developing Mutuality in Mission</i> (2016), edited by Jon Barnes and Peter Makari.</b> <i>Restoring Dignity, Nourishing Hope: Developing Mutuality in Mission</i> is a new resource, produced by Global Ministries, to assist and guide churches as they seek to answer these difficult questions. Issues such as partnership, advocacy, short-term mission trips, community development, evangelism and interfaith dialogue, and fundraising are addressed. Each chapter contains questions for study and reflection as well as suggested resources for further engagement.</p>
	<p><b><i>Jesus Was a Migrant</i> (2014), by Deirdre Cornell.</b> A moving and spiritually grounded presentation of the value to the United States of migrants, immigrants, and refugees.</p>
	<p><b><i>Naming the Powers: The Language of Power in the New Testament</i> (1984), by Walter Wink.</b> “The pages of this book represent the quest of a man intent on discerning the nature of structural evil in light of the biblical evidence. His experience of living for a time in Latin American and witnessing extensive social and political oppression appears to have moved him profoundly. The end result is a book that is a model of the attempt to integrate scholarship with faith.” -Clinton E. Arnold, <i>Catalyst</i></p>

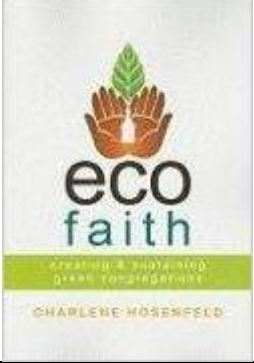
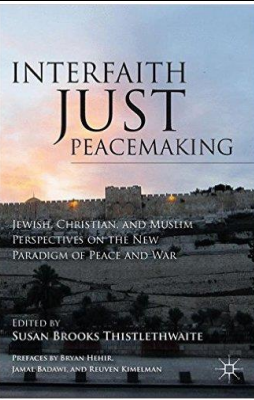
	<p><b><i>The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (2011), by Philip Jenkins.</i></b> Drawing upon the extensive new scholarship that has appeared on this topic in recent years, Jenkins asks how the new Christianity is likely to affect the poor, among whom it finds its most devoted adherents. How should we interpret the enormous success of prosperity churches across the Global South? Politically, what will be the impact of new Christian movements? Will Christianity contribute to liberating the poor, to give voices to the previously silent, or does it threaten only to bring new kinds of division and conflict? Does Christianity liberate women, or introduce new scriptural bases for subjection?</p>
	<p><b><i>Linked Labor Histories: New England, Colombia, and the Making of a Global Working Class (2008), by Aviva Chomsky.</i></b> Provides historically grounded analyses of migration, labor-management collaboration, and the mobility of capital...illuminates the dynamics of these movements through case studies set mostly in New England and Colombia. Taken together, the case studies offer an intricate portrait of two regions, their industries and workers, and the myriad links between them over the long twentieth century, as well as a new way to conceptualize globalization as a long-term process.</p>
	<p><b><i>In the Company of the Poor: Conversations with Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutiérrez (2013), by Paul Farmer and Gustavo Gutiérrez.</i></b> Reflects intersection between the lives, commitments, and strategies of two highly respected figures Dr. Paul Farmer and Fr. Gustavo Gutierrez joined in their option for the poor, their defense of life, and their commitment to liberation. Farmer has credited liberation theology as the inspiration for his effort to do social justice medicine, while Gutierrez has recognized Farmer's work as particularly compelling example of the option for the poor, and the impact that theology can have outside the church.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Justice Project (2009), edited by Brian McLaren, Elisa Padilla, and Ashley Bunting Seeber.</i></b> A collection of over 30 brief chapters by some of the most penetrating thinkers in the justice conversation. Invites readers to deepen their understanding of the pressures our world faces and to take up the challenge of alleviating them. Never has the world been in greater need of Christians who 'do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.' This resource will help them do just that.</p>

	<p><b><i>To Do Justice: A Guide for Progressive Christians (2008)</i>, edited by Rebecca Todd Peters and Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty.</b> Encouraging Christians to call for public policies that benefit those most vulnerable in our nation, <i>To Do Justice</i> offers tools for studying complex domestic social problems such as Social Security, immigration, the environment, and public education, and serves as a guidebook to becoming involved in social action. Rooted in Christian tradition, each essay analyzes a contemporary problem from social, biblical, and theological perspectives before providing directions for public policy.</p>
	<p><b><i>Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter (2006)</i>, by Traci C. West.</b> Brings to the fore the difficult realities of racism and the sexual violation of women. Traci West argues for a liberative method of Christian social ethics in which the discussion begins not with generic philosophical concepts but in the concrete realities of the lives of the socially and economically marginalized.</p>
	<p><b><i>Boundless Faith: The Global Outreach of American Churches (2010)</i>, by Robert Wuthnow.</b> Wuthnow refutes several prevailing stereotypes: that U.S. churches have turned away from the global church and overseas missions, that congregations only look inward, and that the growing voice of religion in areas of foreign policy is primarily evangelical. This fresh and revealing book encourages Americans to pay attention to the grass-roots mechanisms by which global ties are created and sustained.</p>
	<p><b><i>Interfaith Curriculum for Peacemaking (2012)</i>, by Olga Bluman, Aziza Hasan, and Sheryl Kujawa-Holbrook.</b> Draws upon the resources within the Abrahamic tradition - Judaism, Christianity, and Islam - for a peacemaking curriculum. This interfaith curriculum will be a valuable resource for religious communities, students, and anyone interested in learning about how making peace is at the heart of Abrahamic religions. This curriculum includes activities and discussion guides based on the texts and traditions of each of these faith traditions, and is especially timely for our world as we enter a new pluralistic era.</p>



	<p><b><i>Deepening the Soul for Justice</i> (2012), by Bethany H. Hoang.</b> Hoang shares spiritual practices honed on the frontlines of the fight for justice—guideposts for an inward journey that can propel a disciple outward, empowering the difficult work of justice. Seeking the God of justice can be a catalyst for spiritual growth and deeper personal discipleship.</p>
	<p><b><i>Good News About Injustice: A Witness of Courage in a Hurting World</i> (2009), by Gary A. Haugen.</b> Interspersed with individual stories of oppression, this book chronicles the vision behind International Justice Mission's work and seeks to tackle tragic injustices with practical insight, answering tough questions regarding the nature of injustice and the Biblical mandate for Christians to confront it. A great read for Christians interested in fighting injustice and hearing what God is doing through faithful servants. Includes a small group study guide.</p>
	<p><b><i>Just Courage: God's Great Expedition for the Restless Christian</i> (2008), by Gary A. Haugen.</b> International Justice Mission CEO Gary Haugen invites Christians to follow God into the courageous life he has for them in the pursuit of justice. Includes a small group study guide.</p>
	<p><b><i>The Just Church: Becoming a Risk-Taking, Justice-Seeking, Disciple-Making Congregation</i> (2012), by Jim Martin.</b> Learn how to carry out one of the Bible's core commands—to seek justice—in a way that amounts to more than mere words and good intentions. In the process, you'll discover one of the most powerful tools to grow faith and deepen discipleship. In <i>The Just Church</i>, Martin shares tangible, accessible strategies to respond to God's call to seek justice, defend the widow and orphan, and rescue the oppressed . . . whether in far-off places or right in your own community.</p>

	<p><b><i>The Justice Calling: Where Passion Meets Perseverance (2016), by Bethany Hanke Hoang and Kristen Deede Johnson.</i></b> Justice requires a deep perseverance we can't muster on our own. <i>The Justice Calling</i> offers a comprehensive biblical theology of justice drawn from the whole story of Scripture, inviting us to know more intimately the God who loves justice and calls us to give our lives to seek the flourishing of others. The authors explore stories of injustice around the globe today, and spur Christians to root their passion for justice in the persevering hope of Christ.</p>
	<p><b><i>A Just Peace Church: The Peace Theology Development Team (1986), edited by Susan Thistlethwaite.</i></b> This seminal study in the field of Just Peace theory and practice was undertaken by the United Church of Christ for adoption and implementation by the denomination but with a broader ecumenical audience in mind. It lays out a new paradigm for the church's response to violence, beyond traditional models of pacifism, just war and crusade, by making a historical and theological argument and presenting a proposal for action.</p>
	<p><b><i>The End of Poverty: Economic Possibilities for Our Time (2005), by Jeffrey Sachs.</i></b> Explaining his own work in Bolivia, Russia, India, China, and Africa, Sachs offers an integrated set of solutions to the interwoven economic, political, environmental, and social problems that challenge the world's poorest countries. Ten years after its initial publication, <i>The End of Poverty</i> remains an indispensable and influential work. In [the] 10th anniversary edition, Sachs presents an extensive new foreword assessing the progress of the past decade, the work that remains to be done, and how each of us can help. He also looks ahead across the next fifteen years to 2030, the United Nations' target date for ending extreme poverty, offering new insights and recommendations.</p>
	<p><b><i>What Can One Person Do?: Faith to Heal a Broken World (2005), by Sabina Alkire.</i></b> Using the eight Millennium Development Goals as an organizing framework, the book frames achievable objectives and give practical suggestions for addressing global poverty.</p>

	<p><b><i>Ecofaith: Creating and Sustaining Green Congregations (2009), by Charlene Hosenfeld.</i></b> Practical ways for congregations and their community to go green.</p>
	<p><b><i>Interfaith Just Peacemaking: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives on the New Paradigm of Peace and War (2012), edited by Susan Brooks Thistlethwaite.</i></b> A collected work by 27 Jewish, Muslim and Christian scholars and religious leaders on the ten 'practice norms' of the peacemaking paradigm called 'Just Peace.' Just Peace theory, like the paradigm it most resembles, Just War theory, is a list of specific practices that are applied to concrete contexts.</p>





## Conclusion

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"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations..." [Isaiah 42:1, NRSV]

It is our hope that this guide has helped you understand why advocacy is essential to participating in God's mission in the world. As Christians we are challenged to seek just peace in a world divided by militarism and fear, healing in a world of violence and environmental degradation, and wholeness in a world of exploitation and dehumanization. As we better understand our world, and how we are connected globally in ways that contribute either to making these conditions better or worse, we are transformed and compelled to take action to make a difference. We are called to hold our community, our church, our government, and ourselves, accountable, because "if anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need," they must "love... in truth and action" (1 John 3:17-18).

The prophet Micah proclaims that our call to "do justice and love mercy" must be matched by a faithful attempt to "walk humbly with our God" (6:8). When we participate in a People-to-People pilgrimage, we have the opportunity to encounter the face of God and work of the Spirit in the life and witness of our brothers and sisters around the world. We must also walk humbly *with them* in our efforts to "do justice," even when so often it is because of our relative power and position that we are asked to give voice and solidarity to the disempowered and marginalized in the world.

As we seek to do advocacy that is rooted in our global partnership, we are guided in Global Ministries by the core values as expressed in terms that emerge from our dialogue with partners—*prasannam* (Tamil) or presence, *acompañamiento* (Spanish) or mutuality, *Ubuntu* (Zulu) or community, *gong yi* (Chinese) or Justice, and *shalom/salaam* (Hebrew/Arabic) or peace. If we are faithful in adhering to these partnership-based values in our advocacy work, then the bonds of solidarity and understanding with communities around the world will be strengthened as we sustain each other in mutual hope and encouragement.

Together, we can make a difference!



# Thank you!

Thank you for using this advocacy guide. In our Global Ministries strategic direction *Working for Peace with Justice*, our vision is that "we affirm God's just and peaceable realm, by living as God's global mission church, facilitating the mobilization of God's people as advocates for current issues." We thank you for working towards that just and peaceable realm.

If you have questions, ideas or concerns specifically about advocacy, please contact our program associate for Global Advocacy and Education, Derek Duncan, at [duncand@ucc.org](mailto:duncand@ucc.org) or at 216-736-3220.

