STRIVING TO BRING PEACE IN THESE TIMES: ENGAGING YOUR CONGRESSPERSON ON IMMIGRATION

Amanda Craft and Teresa Waggener
Office of Immigration Issues
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Then Jesus told them a parable about the need to pray always and not lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent.’ For a while he refused: but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she will not wear me out by continually coming.’”
God sends the Church to work for justice in the world: exercising its power for the common good; dealing honestly in personal and public spheres; seeking dignity and freedom for all people; welcoming strangers in the land; promoting justice and fairness in the law; overcoming disparities between rich and poor; bearing witness against systems of violence and oppression; and redressing wrongs against individuals, groups and peoples.
STEP 1: BUILD THE TEAM

Ideally includes:

- People whose lives have been directly impacted
- People who are in relationship with those who are impacted
- Leaders across faith traditions
- Leaders who your member already knows and respects

Aim for 5-10 participants

Your team should commit to building an ongoing relationship with the office
STEP 2: SCHEDULING

Pick up the Phone!

• Call your district office and ask them the best way to schedule a visit
• Navigate through pcusa.capwiz.com to find your rep
  • Look at the Staff tab
• Ask for the schedulers contact info
  • Some offices are very committed to online forms
  • They should give you a name, email address, phone number.
MEETING ROLES

Roles

- The Facilitator
  - Make Intros, thank the Member for their time
- The Personal Story
- Point People on Specific Issues
- The Ask
- The Thank you and Commitment to Follow Up
  - Invite them to a prayer vigil/service or event you’re planning.
  - Offer to be a resource to the office
  - Consider asking for a photo
STEP 3: MEETING PREP

Do

Do Your Research
Issues
Representative

Have

Have A Plan
- Assign roles
- Practice role playing before the meeting
- Review talking points
- Print materials to leave behind
- *Don’t be afraid to say “I don’t know, I can do some research and get back to you”*
MEETING ROLES

Roles

• The Facilitator
  • Make Intros, thank the Member for their time
• The Personal Story
• Point People on Specific Issues
• The Ask
• The Thank you and Commitment to Follow Up
  • Invite them to a prayer vigil/ service or event you’re planning.
  • Offer to be a resource to the office
  • Consider asking for a photo
STEP 4: AFTER THE VISIT

• **Debrief the Meeting**
  - What did we hear? Did we get what we wanted? What are our next steps?

**Follow UP**

• Choose one person to send a follow up email
• Make sure to include any documents or research questions that came out of the meeting

**Call DC**

• The Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121

• **Tell us how it went!** Teresa.Waggener@pcusa.org, Amanda.Craft@pcusa.org
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Amanda.Craft@pcusa.org">Amanda.Craft@pcusa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Teresa.Waggener@pcusa.org">Teresa.Waggener@pcusa.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>Presbyterians for Just Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>@PCUSAImmigrant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pcusa.org/JustImmigrationSignup/">http://www.pcusa.org/JustImmigrationSignup/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webpage</td>
<td><a href="http://www.pcusa.org/immigration">http://www.pcusa.org/immigration</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>