

Mission:

Obey Jesus' command to do the works that He did and thus help establish the Kingdom of God in this world, in this life; and fulfill our Baptismal Covenant to strive for justice and peace among all people and to respect the dignity of every human being. Do this by encouraging respectful and open minded consideration of all points of view, peaceful resolution of differences, and reconciliation of estranged parties. Do this by encouraging just and compassionate governance that focuses on preventing social and moral ills from occurring in the first place, not just ameliorating or eradicating them after they have been created by unjust and uncompassionate governance.

Scope of Operation:

1. Cover all areas of government: local, state, federal, regional international organizations (e.g., NAFTA), the United Nations, and lobbyists thereto.
2. Include all actions of governance: legislation, policies, procedures, administration.
3. Work with other Trinity ministries and members, with other parishes and churches, and with other organizations and individuals that wish to advocate social justice.

Goals:

1. Invite and empower those with a calling to this ministry to participate as a member or friend of the Trinity Social Justice Advocacy Ministry (SoJust). SoJust members are expected to attend regularly Ministry monthly meetings. SoJust friends will be included in all member distribution lists, but will not be expected to attend Ministry monthly meetings.
2. Identify, publicize, organize, and participate in opportunities for advocacy at all levels of government and with groups such as A.C.T. (Area Congregations Together), Bread for the World, California Council of Churches IMPACT, etc.
3. Provide advocacy opportunities for those not called to be members of SoJust to participate in this ministry on an occasional basis in areas of interest to them.

Initial Strategy:

Focus on areas already identified by the Church as worthy of advocacy, such as the U.N.'s Millennium Development Goals, and on educating those in the SoJust ministry on how to advocate effectively, using resources such as PICO/ACT, Bread for the World, and Sojourners' Windchangers.

Measurable Objectives for 2008:

1. Educate the members of SoJust on how to do advocacy effectively by having all active members attend a Bread for the World Advocacy Workshop (DONE).
2. Determine the social justice concerns of the congregation by training all active SoJust members in the PICO/ACT process of listening and having each interview at least 4 members of the congregation to determine their social justice concerns (IN PROCESS).
3. Educate the congregation and clergy on the need for social justice advocacy by a study/discussion group on Jim Wallis' "The Great Awakening: Reviving Faith and Politics in a Post-Religious Right America" (IN PROCESS), by including the elimination of extreme poverty in The Prayers of the People (DONE), and by regular articles in The Cross (IN PROCESS).
4. Publicize opportunities for social justice advocacy by SoJust and the congregation through "offerings of letters" on the Millennium Development Goals (PLANNED) and on mental health (DONE with Health Ministry and Steven Ministry), and through an information table on Equality for All (DONE with Integrity).
5. Identify, establish contacts with, and cooperate with other organizations, ministries, parishes, churches, etc. that do or want to do social justice advocacy. The following organizations have been identified and are being cooperated with: Bread for the World, PICO/ACT (Area Congregations Together), Integrity, Sojourners, Steven Ministry at Trinity, Trinity Health Ministry, T.R.E.E., California Equality for All, Justice Reform Alliance, California Council of Churches IMPACT. The following organizations have been identified: California Forward, the Episcopal Peace Fellowship, the Episcopal Public Policy Network, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. SoJust is attempting to identify other organizations to work with to promote the freedom and welfare of the Dalai Lama and the people of Tibet and to promote world peace and civil rights..