Challenging Churches: A Roadmap for Justice Action

1. Choose a topic of upcoming legislation to commit to educating and acting upon.

For example, from *Protect Our National Forests from Unregulated Logging*,

https://5calls.org/issue/national-forest-public-land-logging-deforestation/ <u>5 Calls</u>.

(This topic has an intergenerational draw for environmental protection).

Other topics:

- The Medicaid and SNAP funding cuts
- USDA cuts limiting funding and supplies for food banks nationwide
- Cuts to Medicare and Medicaid to fund tax giveaways
- Protect DEI initiatives (combat ageism/ableism)
- VA system changes
- Tariffs and food prices-affecting disproportionately those on fixed incomes
- Museum and library services cut access to internet to apply for benefits/less free services that improve quality of life
- Decreased workforce of Social Security Administration
- 2. Make an action plan.
 - For example, speak as one voice by sharing information on the specific topic at the beginning of each month using an information booth or hosting a conversation group
 - Invite other community and faith groups to join.
 - Create a Call-to-Action page to post on the church website and e-newsletter including:
 - 1. The topic
 - 2. A pertinent Bible verse
 - 3. A prayer for meditation (people may want to join in prayer, but not necessarily make phone calls)
 - 4. A concrete way to engage in the work (letter writing, phone calls, supporting or joining with a local organization that is addressing the issue), and an action goal or challenge. For example: share how to contact your representatives' offices and encourage members to make a certain number of calls using a provided script. (5 Calls: has a helpful guide.)
- 3. Share the monthly justice theme in worship as a Minute for Mission, and ask your pastor to participate by sharing a relevant sermon topic.

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