



Advocacy and the Church

Church Pension Group
Insights and Ideas
June 25, 2020

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



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GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

Educate

Equip

Engage



EPISCOPAL
PUBLIC POLICY
NETWORK



Ministry Beyond The Episcopal Church



"When I think about what love looks like, I see us channeling our holy rage into **concrete, productive and powerful action.**

In this moment, love looks like voting for leadership at the local, state, and federal level that will help us to make lasting reform. Love looks like **calling on officials** and demanding they fulfill their duty to protect the dignity of every child of God."

- Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

31 May 2020
Washington Post

Why Advocate?



Less than 15% of the Global Fund allocated to fighting malaria was financed by NGOs.

Scale

Governments fund the rest.

Why Advocate?

Authority

Federal government has unique
authorities:

- Immigration
- Foreign policy
- Environmental regulation



Policy Areas



- **Creation Care**
- **Ending Poverty**
- **Racial Reconciliation**
- **Migration, Refugees & Immigration**
- **Human Rights & Peacebuilding**

Commitment



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

episcopal
MIGRATION MINISTRIES

LOVE GOD, LOVE NEIGHBOR

Episcopal Month of Action

June 7-13: Episcopal Action on DACA Week
WEBINAR: June 9, 3:30-5:00pm ET Register: bit.ly/Jun

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

EPPN Global Health Series: HIV/AIDS



Ongoing COVID-19 Advocacy



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Action Alert

Why Advocate now?

Dear Rebecca,

We have heard from many of you over the past week – sharing your stories of protesting, expressing outrage at the injustices that continue, and asking what you can do. There are, of course, many ways to show up in this moment: you can join protesters peacefully marching for an end to police brutality; you can educate yourself about how to be an anti-racist; you can pray and lament alongside those who are aching right now. We hope that the [resources](#) provided by The Episcopal Church can help you find ways to engage meaningfully.

We also urge you to call your elected officials. As we have highlighted, COVID-19 reveals the discrimination and systemic racism that pervades our society, and we have seen that the disease has had a disproportionate impact on communities of color, especially Black and Indigenous Americans. Congress needs to act to help our country make it through this pandemic, and our government has a role in helping us all through this moment of national trauma.

- **Increased food assistance**

- No family should be forced to choose between paying the rent and putting food on the table. Congress should increase the maximum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit by 15 percent to ensure low-income families have adequate access to the food they need. ([1985-AO80](#))

- **Protections for all immigrants**

- Immigrants and their families are particularly vulnerable in the wake of the pandemic. For many of them, treatment remains out of reach due to cost and lack of access. Previous COVID-19 response legislation also excluded undocumented individuals. Congress should ensure access to testing, treatment, and paid medical and family leave, regardless of immigration status. ([2018-C009](#))

- **State and local funding**

- We urge Congress to provide robust emergency funding for state and local governments. General Convention has long affirmed the importance of the social safety net to the well-being of this country. State and local governments play a vital role in the delivery of safety net services. The pandemic has the potential to wreck state budgets across the country, which would lead to harmful cuts in a wide variety of services. ([2015-A092](#))

- **International Programs**

- We urge Congress to continue funding current international programs and to provide \$12 billion to fund the global response to COVID-19. These additional funds will help mobilize resources for emergency global health response, including supporting local and national healthcare systems as nations respond to COVID-19 outbreaks. We are also concerned about the secondary effects of

Responding to Racist Violence



Responding to Racist Violence

LEARN, PRAY, ACT: Resources for Addressing Racist Violence and Police Brutality (Photo: Anadolu Agency / Getty Images)

In this time of national upheaval, outrage, and fear, The Episcopal Church's Department of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care and the Office of Government Relations have assembled resources to assist individuals, congregations and communities seeking to LEARN, PRAY and ACT. Please use and share these resources, and send your own resources and stories to reconciliation@episcopalchurch.org.

Read Presiding Bishop Curry's Word to the Church: [When the Cameras are Gone, We Will Still Be Here](#)

Episcopal News Service article on the call for justice in Minnesota and churchwide

Minnesota's Bishop-Elect and Bishop's statement on the killing of George Floyd and set of initial recommendations

Watch: Presiding Bishop Curry's Pentecost Sermon - May 31, 2020



The Episcopal Church's Response to Racist Violence

June 2, 2020

The Episcopal Church's Department of Reconciliation, Justice and Creation Care and the Office of Government Relations assembled resources to assist individuals, congregations and communities seeking to LEARN, PRAY and ACT. We hope you find these useful, and we encourage you to make your voice heard in all the ways you are able to.

[LEARN, PRAY, ACT: Resources for Addressing Racist Violence and Police Brutality](#)

Resources for Addressing Racist Violence & Police Brutality

| LEARN | PRAY | ACT |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| History of Racial Injustice | Scripture | On Systemic Racism |
| Policing & Race | Litanies | On Police Brutality |
| Becoming Beloved Community | Sermons | On Relationship & Dialogue |
| Policies & Recommendations | Music | |
| | Liturgies | |

iam.ec/responding 

Policy Asks for COVID-19



The lack of federal investment into basic infrastructure & an underfunded healthcare system **exacerbate the risks of COVID-19** for Americans in Indigenous communities.

TAKE ACTION:

bit.ly/COVIDic



- **SNAP benefits**
- **Criminal justice reform, including police reform**
- **End to predatory lending**
- **Paid sick leave**
- **Programs to help with food insecurity and access to healthy food.**
- **Provisions and protections for people with disabilities.**
- **A social safety net that allows people and communities to have more resilience in the face of crises.**
- **Access to affordable healthcare, including preventive care.**
- **Ensuring full participation in the 2020 Census!**
- **Protecting voting rights and the upcoming U.S. election**
- **Federal government funding to states to protect state-level essential workers, including sanitation workers, teachers, public transit workers, and many others**

- **Housing instability and homelessness.**
- **Support for Indigenous communities and those living in Tribal areas.**
- **Expanded unemployment benefits**
- **A living wage and hazard pay**
- **Education equity**

Join the Episcopal Public Policy Network
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr>



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