Branching Out Into the World

FAITHFUL ADVOCACY

With Pastor Scott Onque'

September 14, 2019
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

@faithinplace

#GreenTeamSummit
#RootedAndGrowing
Give TO FAITH IN PLACE

Text 44321 to GreenTeam19
Passports

GET YOUR STAMPED PASSPORT BY VISITING THE EXHIBIT TABLES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FABULOUS PRIZES

YOU NEED MORE THAN 50% STAMPS TO BE ELIGIBLE AND YOU MUST ATTEND THE PLENARY TO WIN
Overview

• Why and Who
• Education
• Green Teams
• Programs/Legislation
• Listen, Lead, and Share
• Grass Root Solar
• Faith in Place Action Fund
• Call to Action
There is only so much that we can do as individuals and houses of worship. We must change policies and systems to create the world we want with clean air, clean water, and healthy communities.

People of faith are a powerful force for change!
How can you advocate for environmental justice all year round?

Learn more about the legislative process and the importance of constituent voices.

If you are worried about advocacy causing divisiveness in your faith community, attend this workshop to learn how to make a difference in a way that fits with the tenets of your faith.
Why and Who

Celebrating 20 Years: Rooted & Growing
Our Vision:

Diverse people of all faiths leading the environment movement towards JUSTICE!

Our Mission:

Faith in Place empowers Illinois people of all faiths to be leaders in caring for the Earth, providing resources to educate, connect, and advocate for healthier communities.
Question:

Have you thought of how you can make a difference?
"Change will not come if we wait for some other person or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."

PRESIDENT OBAMA, Campaign speech 2008
Why do I do the work?

When you view the lens of social justice, environmental justice seems to intersect with the injustices that has affected people of color and the least amongst the most. Whether it is land or air pollution, water justice, lead pipes, food scarcity or any other environmental issue there must be an intentional effort to correct these injustices. –Rev. Scott Onque’
QUOTES FROM ENVIRONMENTALISTS…
On Diversity

“I try to make sure that people who have traditionally not been allowed—or included in places where decisions are made—to be in those spaces so they can speak for themselves and influence environmental, public health and policy issues.”

—Adrienne Hollis

Adrienne Hollis is a scientist and environmental lawyer who serves as the lead climate justice analyst for the Union of Concerned Scientists, teaches law at American University, and public health at the George Washington University.
“I like to describe environmental justice as an umbrella, an overarching construct”.
On Justice

“…where we live, play, pray, go to school, recreate and interact with others. It means equity and distributive justice—meeting people where they are, determining what they need to be safe and healthy.”

- Adrienne Hollis
On Justice

“Then there are various parts that make up that umbrella, including climate justice, civil rights, criminal justice, economic justice, housing justice, and food justice, as well as other important issues that are incorporated into our environment.”
On Justice

“Environmental justice means loving my neighbor. It means speaking truth to power and standing up for the right to breathe clean air, the right to drink clean water and the right to eat clean food. Environmental Justice means equity for all, most of all, environmental justice means putting justice first.”

- Rev. Michael Malcolm

Rev. Michael Malcolm, pastor and environmental advocate, serves as director of South Carolina Interfaith Power and Light and Alabama Interfaith Power and Light.
So What is Environmental Justice?

Environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
Advocacy is defined as any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends, or pleads on behalf of others.
Why do we need advocates?
What are some issues you have advocated for?

Why did you choose to advocate for that or those issue(s)?
The most effective advocacy is done on or around issues you are passionate about?
How do you get started?
Education
Faithful Citizen Engagement

Education

• There must be education about the issue(s)
  • What are the facts?
  • How is it affecting you and those around you?
Through education we connect people to the issue(s).
Educate  Connect  Advocate
ACTION

What can be done?

• Self responsibility
• Corporate responsibility
• Government responsibility
People must be **motivated** to take action!
Personal Responsibility: Am I doing my part?

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
Green Teams Make Change Happen

A Green Team picks issues that are most pressing to address, and works to spark meaningful change in their community.

Vernon Park Church of God Farmers Market with Congregation-Supported Agriculture Farm
Corporate Responsibility

Are there businesses in my community that are contributing to climate change and pollution?
Government Responsibility

Has the government addressed issues that are contributing to climate change and pollution?

- Local / State
  - IEPA
- National
  - EPA
Find out who your State Reps and Senators are at:

[ilga.gov]
Faithful Citizen Engagement

Hold elected officials accountable:

• Understand the Issues and Voting Records of Legislators, Alderman, Mayoral Candidates
• Do your Homework. Providing Information for Legislators
• Understanding your vote counts
VOTE!

Know who can vote! Understand voter turnout and the polling places for individuals, blocks, neighborhoods, wards, districts.
Faithful Citizen Engagement

• Legislative Accountability
  • In-district Visits
  • State House Capitol Visits
  • Town Hall Meetings
  • Phone calls to legislators
  • Witness Slips
Political Landscape

Who Is Representing the Community? LOCAL, MUNICIPALITY, COUNTY, STATE and NATIONALLY

Who are the elected officials at each level?

Who represents your district? Consider the residences of church leaders and parishioners and the church building.

What are their core issues?

Are these core issues consistent with the church and the community's core issues?

What is the background of the elected officials?

What is the track record of elected officials on making positive substantive changes?

How often do the elected officials interact with the community? Do they host town hall meetings? Do they keep the community abreast of changes that will affect the community before they happen?

Do local officials stay in contact with the community beyond election day?
Mission Statement

People of Faith and Conscience
Promoting Political Action for
Environmental Justice in Illinois

www.faithinplaceaction.org
Advocating Environmental Justice

• Working with several State Senators and State Reps to sponsor bills or develop resolutions to be introduced to Illinois General Assembly
  • Bills become law
  • Resolutions are non-binding, but important educational and organizing tool for legislators
Environmental Justice

The fight continues……

What are we fighting for?
Climate Change

Curbing climate change while creating pathways to clean energy jobs and wealth creation is an opportunity for communities who suffer most from environmental degradation to benefit from new opportunities created through legislation.
Job Creation & A Just Economy

Access to employment, economic investment, economic mobility, and training opportunities are unequal across Illinois, with minority, low-income, environmental justice, and rural communities having less access to these opportunities.
Clean energy technologies and new green economy jobs present employment opportunities for all communities, and the Future Energy Jobs Act created the Illinois Solar for All program to train residents across Illinois, including returning citizens and foster care alumni, for clean energy jobs.
Food Justice & Scarcity

More than 500,000 people in Illinois live in food scarce neighborhoods where local, healthy food, is not readily available.
Water Justice

The crisis of lead in water leads to lifelong intellectual, emotional and behavioral consequences, lower IQ, slow growth, hearing problems and anemia. As King proclaimed, ‘justice delayed is justice denied,’ and Illinois is morally obligated to move quickly in replacement of lead service lines and ensuring we protect our water.
Become a Member

• $35 Annual Membership
• Sign Up for Action Alerts
• Receive invitation to VIP event with clergy, legislators, and community leaders
• Fill out The Green Guardian Membership Form or online at www.faithinplaceaction.org
Calls to Action
Register for Advocacy Day

- 2019 Advocacy Day on October 29th
- Faith and Environment Day at the Illinois State Capitol
- Prayer rally for Environmental Justice
- Time to meet with your legislators
- Bus transportation Free
- Register when registration opens

www.faithinplace.org/events
Questions?

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www.faithinplace.org

www.faithinplaceaction.org
Give to Faith In Place

Text 44321 to GreenTeam19
Save the Date

For Fall Advocacy Day October 29th

Learn More At:
https://www.faithinplace.org/events/fall-advocacy-day-2019