

# ***Talking Points to Promote Church and Society***

**Advocacy ministry is Biblical** – Consider the ministry of Moses, Esther, Jeremiah, the other prophets. Remember Jesus challenging the unjust systems of his society that oppressed women, lepers, Samaritans, the poor, the ill. Remember the cleansing of the temple. Recall the public witness of the disciples and Paul. The early church's faithfulness even under oppression by the powers of their day. The book of Revelation written to the oppressed/persecuted church. Micah 6:8's call to not only love kindness, walk humbly but to also **“do justice.”** Advocacy ministry is part of our biblical call!

**Remember our primary task is to “Make Disciples”** - Church and Society ministry helps form whole disciples; disciples who care about the world and its brokenness as much as God cares; compassionate disciples who respond not only with ministries of service and mercy but who are also passionate about transforming the unjust systems that are failing so many of our world's “least of these.” (Matthew 25)

**Remember our call to Evangelism** – There are many people who have written off the church because they haven't heard the whole message of God- that God passionately loves the world and we are called to be faithful stewards of creation – ecology. That Jesus Christ is prince of peace and we are called to be peacemakers, (the peace advocates). That we are called to love all people - welcome everyone in grace and love to worship and serve God - The story of a savior who opens his arms wide on the cross and in so doing proclaims the message that “there is nothing you can do to me to make me stop loving you”. Address religion's “cultured despisers,” compassionate but secular people who might only think of the church as an “opiate of the people,” preoccupied with pie in the sky by and by and not about transforming the here and now. This is evangelism - whole story evangelism – that tells the whole story of Jesus and Good News he proclaimed.

**Remember our call to Christian Education** - lead the church to learn what it means to be a faithful Christian - to actually follow in the footsteps of Christ. That at times means we must be challenged to grow beyond our comfort zones; to be pushed by the message and call of Christ.

**Remember Jesus' Ministry in the Public Square** – How much of Jesus ministry was actually conducted in the temple or synagogues as opposed to the city squares, roads, villages, hillsides, lakes and plains? - Where is our ministry happening as a church? Where is our energy expended? Are we really following in the footsteps of Jesus if we fail to promote the prophetic ministry of church bearing witness in the world through word and deed? We need an organized voice that helps extend the ministry of the local church into the “public squares” of our communities, states, nation and world.

Finally, we need to think of ways to **Tell the message in positive ways** - ways that invite learning together. Ways that don't divide us into judgmental divisions of good and bad, righteous and evil - For indeed all of us are evil to some degree, all have sinned, all have blind spots, all need to grow. Thank God for Grace! Also, consider - How can we talk more about what we are FOR and less about what we are AGAINST. Paint a vision of what God desires for creation.

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