

**Yes...**

**we do want to seek justice  
and resist evil...**

**Yes...**

**we do want religion with humanity.**

**Yes...**

**we do want a better world...**

**Yes...**

**we do want bread for all...**

**Yes...**

**we do want life in abundance for all  
creation...**

**but...**

**how do we get there?**

**How do we exercise our  
political power ?**



We sing of God's good news lived out,  
a church with purpose:  
faith nurtured and hearts comforted,  
gifts shared for the good of all,  
resistance to the forces that exploit  
and marginalize,  
fierce love in the face of violence,  
human dignity defended,  
members of a community  
held and inspired by God,  
corrected and comforted,  
instrument of the loving Spirit of  
Christ,  
creation's mending.

We sing of God's mission.

**A SONG OF FAITH**  
A Statement of Faith of  
The United Church of Canada

L'Église Unie du Canada

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# Toward Daring Discipleship



**HAMILTON  
CONFERENCE**  
The United Church of Canada

## About Advocacy September 2009 **'to seek justice and resist evil'**

*(A New Creed, UCC GC 1968)*



**"If history shows us anything, it's that the  
obdurate world *does* yield . . .  
We are living at a point in history when the  
need and desire for change is profound. Our  
current trajectory is no longer sustainable...  
We need to be change-makers...**

Westley, Zimmerman, Quinn Patton, *GETTING TO MAYBE*  
*How the world is Changed.* Random House, 2006.



## Letter writing:

### Your letter counts!

#### Tips for advocacy through letter writing.

While petitions, form letters, emails, faxes and even post cards to local, provincial, federal and foreign governments/officials make our concerns known, personal, hand-written letters have much more impact and are worth the time it takes to write them.

Personal letters are also a great follow up to organizational letters, from a local or National church. Make reference to organizational letters in personal letters to follow. This will make both letters more powerful.

Give facts, but be brief (1 pg max) and make your main point in the first paragraph.

ALWAYS be polite and make the letter personal. Why do you care about this issue?

Keep a copy of your letter and follow it up with another letter if appropriate.

Don't forget: Letters to Parliament Hill do NOT require stamps.

FORUM: ISARC <http://isarc.ca>  
(Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition)  
Faith groups' roles as advocates with government  
10:00 - 2:30, Oct 29, - Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

# Learn more...

## Hamilton Conference

with

### Hamilton Presbytery Social Justice and Outreach Committee

Present:

## *Advocacy 101*

With

### David Christopherson,

MP Hamilton Centre

#### **A conversation from a politicians point of view:**

How can we do advocacy more effectively?

How can the church make an impact politically

How can we make our voice heard?

#### ***Time and place to be announced***

**To Contact the  
Government -**

**this internet site will give you  
access to names, emails, phone  
numbers and addresses for your  
local Members of Parliament.**

[http://canada.gc.ca/directories-repertoires/  
direct-eng.html](http://canada.gc.ca/directories-repertoires/direct-eng.html)

## Visiting your MP

It is important that we educate, motivate and inform our local Members of Parliament about our concerns, priorities and values. How will they know who we are or what is important to us, if we do not tell them? How can they inform themselves on issues important to us, if we do not share both those concerns and our sources of information?

#### Tips for Visiting your local MP:

You don't have to go alone! Take someone with you, especially first time.

Make an appointment

Know what you hope to achieve and what you plan to say

Be punctual, be patient, be polite

Be prepared. Do your homework and do it well. Take (brief) written materials with you that outline your position and may help educate your MP if necessary. Be prepared to suggest further material if requested.

Do not be argumentative or aggressive.

Follow up with a thank you letter and synopsis.

A return visit may be warranted.

