

Earth Ministry/ Washington Interfaith Power and Light (WAIPL)



Our mission is to transform faith into action for the well-being of communities and the environment.

Land Acknowledgement



Earth Ministry/WAIPL works within the unceded territories of Northwest Native nations. Our office is on the traditional land of the first people of Seattle, the Duwamish People past and present. Land acknowledgement is one way to resist erasure of Indigenous histories as well as to honor tribes and the land itself.

Earth Ministry/WAIPL's 2023 Legislative Advocacy Training

1. What is faithful advocacy?
2. Faithful advocacy in action
3. 2023 legislative priorities
4. Practice storytelling



What is Advocacy?

- Speaking up to influence political, economic, and social institutions
- Addressing root causes of issues through public policy
- Democracy in action



What is Faithful Advocacy?

- Speaking up for systemic justice based on religious values and spiritual traditions
- Co-creating a just and loving society
- Faith in action!



Photo credit: Rick Rappaport

Faith Community Engagement in Advocacy

Partisan Politics = NO!

- Endorsing candidates
- Encouraging others to vote for a particular candidate
- Campaigning with community resources

Non-Profit Advocacy = YES!

- Non-partisan voter engagement
- Taking a position
 - On an issue, bill, or ballot measure
- Educating others, asking them to act
- Asking an elected official to vote a certain way
- Requesting an agency take a particular action
- Hosting a candidate forum
 - Only if all candidates are invited and treated impartially!

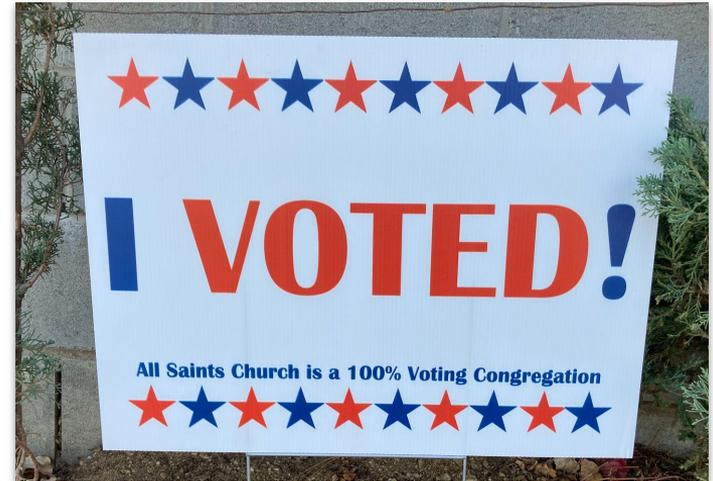


Photo credit: waltarrrr

Attributes of Faithful Advocacy

- Values-based
 - Heart-centered
 - Seeks justice and equity
 - Hopeful
- Builds bridges
 - Dialogue and collaboration
- Supported by community
 - Amplifies and sustains



Photo credit: Stephen Melkisetian

Impact of Faithful Advocacy

- Elected officials work for you
- **7 contacts create change**
- Leaders share your stories
- Moral anchor for an issue
- Compliments individual actions
- Central to active faith



Government 101

		Branches of Government		
		<i>Legislative</i>	<i>Executive</i>	<i>Judicial</i>
Levels of Government	<i>Local</i>	City/County Council	Mayor/County Executive	Municipal Courts
	<i>State</i>	Legislature	Governor/Lt. Governor	State Courts
	<i>Federal</i>	Congress	President/Vice President	Federal Courts



Pass laws



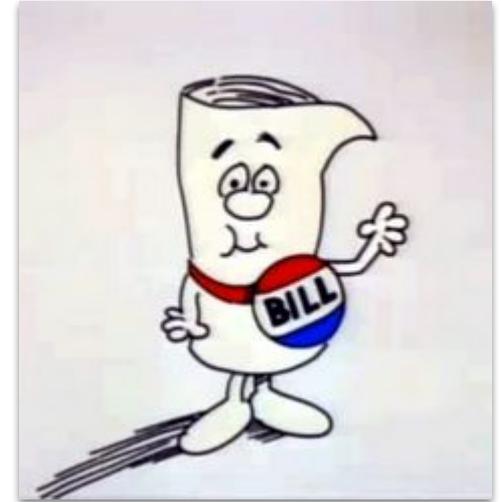
Carry out laws



Interpret laws

Washington State Legislature

- Policy Committee
 - “First Reading” = introduction
 - Public Hearing - sign in/testify
 - “Executive Session” = vote
- Fiscal Committee
 - Only if there’s an associated cost AKA “fiscal note”
 - Senate Ways & Means, House Appropriations
- Rules Committee
- Floor vote!
- Repeat in opposite chamber
- If passed, Governor reviews and signs/vetoes



Faithful Advocacy in Action

- Meeting with elected officials
- Writing to elected officials
- Calling the WA Legislative Hotline
 - 1-800-562-6000
- Attending, signing in, testifying at public hearings
- Submitting written comments
- Speaking up at town halls
- Spreading awareness in your community



Faithful advocacy is storytelling!

1. Who are you?
 - Personal connection
 - Communal identity
2. What do you value?
 - Connect to your lived experience
3. What do you want?
 - Big picture
 - Specific ask to get there



Earth Ministry/WAIPL's 2023 Priority Bills

Growth Management Act (GMA) Updates

Climate: HB 1181 / SB 5203 (Rep. Duerr/Sen. Lovelett)

UPDATE: Referred to House Rules!! Stalled in the Senate

- Requires counties/cities to address resilience and climate change in land use plans
- Incorporates transit and bike/pedestrian planning



Environmental Justice HB 1723/SB 5651

(Rep. Duerr/Sen. Lovelett)

UPDATE: Stalled in House, Stalled in Rules

- Requires that EJ and climate change are explicitly addressed to reduce health disparities
- Better, more equitable public participation requirements and funding



Earth Ministry/WAIPL's 2023 Priority Bills

WA Recycling and Packaging Act (WRAP Act):

SB 5154 / HB 1131 (Sen. Rolfes/Rep. Berry)

UPDATE: Referred to House Rules!! Stalled in Senate

- Requires consumer product producers to fund statewide residential recycling services for packaging and paper products - graduated fees based on products' ability to be reused, composted, or recycled
- Graduated fees based on products' ability to be reused, composted, or recycled
- Shifts costs/responsibilities to manufacturers

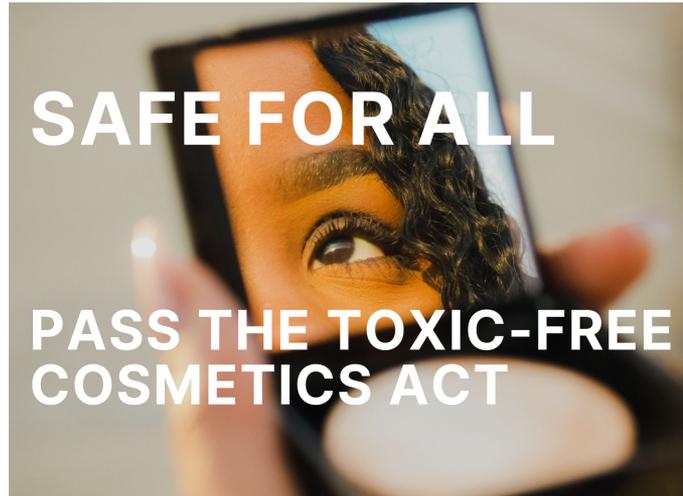


Earth Ministry/WAIPL's 2023 Priority Bills

Toxic-Free Cosmetics Act: HB 1047 (Rep. Mena)

UPDATE: Referred to House Rules!!

- Bans hazardous chemicals including PFAS, phthalates, formaldehyde, and lead in cosmetics and personal care products by 2025
- Fills gaps in info on hazards and provides incentives for small businesses to make safer products



Learn more at: bit.ly/EMWAIPLleg23

Time to practice

1. Take some time to reflect on your own story.
 - a. Who are you?
 - b. What do you value?
 - c. What do you want?
2. Pick one of the Earth Ministry/WAIPL bills
3. Share with someone else your story and how it influences your thoughts on one of the bills.
4. Listen to someone else's story



Ways to get involved

For more information, check out our website:

www.earthministry.org

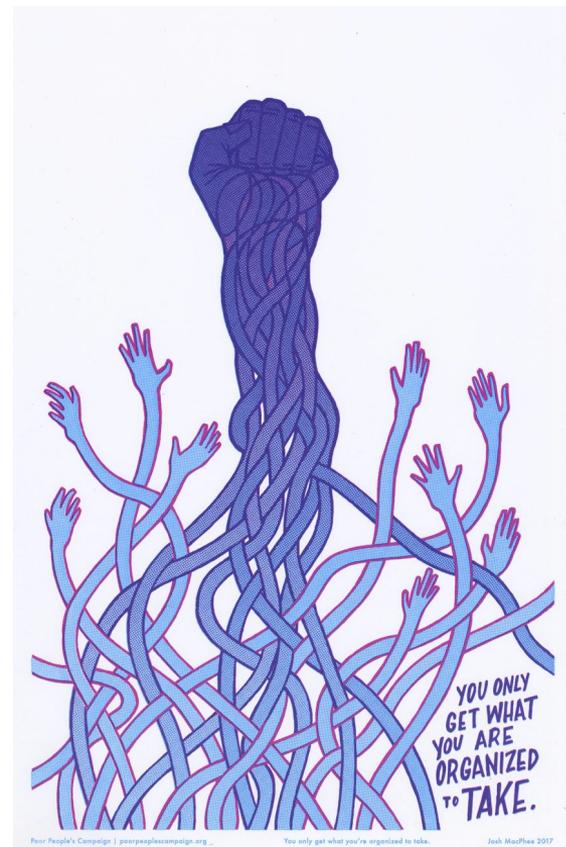
Sign up for weekly legislative alerts:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/ERrh8JwfXke7X8SM8P3C1A2>

My contact information:

Rev. AC Churchill

ac@earthministry.org



Thank you for joining today!



Our work is supported through grassroots funding.

Please consider bringing our mission to life by donating. All gifts, one-time and/or monthly donations are welcomed and appreciated!!