

Rector's Column

"You shall not spread a false report. You shall not join hands with the wicked to act as a malicious witness. You shall not follow a majority in wrongdoing; when you bear witness in a lawsuit, you shall not side with the majority so as to pervert justice; nor shall you be partial to the poor in a lawsuit."
Exodus 23:1-3

Dear Friends,

Instead of my usual monthly column, I am providing information about the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations (OGR) and the Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN). Both are significant resources for finding information and advocacy tools, along with the social justice work and commitments of The Episcopal Church. Everyone can become as involved as they want, including developing ministries and local relationships between Trinity and community partners for mutual support, education, and action. By signing up for the EPPN Action Alerts, you will have the most recent information and learn about opportunities about how to involve/inform our congregation and how to apply the advocacy tools of our church. Be sure to watch the YouTube video, "Inside the Episcopal Church with Rebecca Linder Blachly" by clicking on the link provided at the end of this article. Rebecca is the current Director of the Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations.



All Are Welcome!

Pastor Rachel+
The Rev. Rachel Gemba'teh Taber-Hamilton, Rector

The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations

The Office of Government Relations (OGR) represents the policy priorities of The Episcopal Church to the U.S. government in Washington, D.C. and helps to shape the discussion of political issues throughout the Church. OGR aims to influence policy and legislation on critical issues, highlighting the voices and experiences of Episcopalians and Anglicans globally. All policy positions are based on General Convention and Executive Council resolutions. We are one of a group of offices that make up the Ministry Beyond the Episcopal Church team.

Creation Care: As we are called by God to care for creation, The Episcopal Church supports policies that protect the natural resources that sustain all life on Earth. We advocate for policies that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, promote sustainable energy and the safe and just use of natural resources, and support communities impacted by a lack of environmental stewardship.

Racial Reconciliation: Racial reconciliation is a core component of our work, guiding and informing advocacy engagement. The Office challenges long-established policies that perpetuate systemic racism and injustice and strives to change legislation that continues to harm communities of color. The Episcopal Church aims to bring a perspective of transformation to public policy in order to heal communities that have been the most marginalized and discriminated against.

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Ending Poverty: We advocate for policies that will eliminate poverty and help people live with dignity, both in the U.S. and internationally. We advocate for federal programs that provide development assistance and humanitarian relief, including education and healthcare initiatives, as well as support for social safety net programs, care for veterans, and other U.S.-focused anti-poverty initiatives.

Migration, Refugees & Immigration: As a Church, we are committed to advocating for policies that respect the dignity and worth of every human being- including protecting asylum, advocating for Dreamers & TPS holders, advocating for alternatives to detention, and urging long-term protections through comprehensive immigration reform. We work to protect the human rights and safety of refugees by supporting the refugee resettlement work of Episcopal Migration Ministries and advocating for robust refugee resettlement policies.

Human Rights & Peacebuilding: The Church supports legislation and policies that protect human rights and prevent atrocities, promote gender justice, and build peace. We partner with non-U.S. Episcopal diocese and provinces throughout the Anglican Communion to work towards justice.

Engage with Our Office

Our advocacy becomes stronger with your help. From quick Action Alerts to volunteer opportunities, you can help grow our reach with advocacy and civic engagement efforts across the U.S. Go to the OGR webpage for more! <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/>

The Episcopal Policy Network

Additionally, the Office of Government Relations works to educate, equip, and engage Episcopalians through the Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN). As a Church, we raise our voices to ensure that U.S. government policies are in line with our values as Episcopalians and Christians.

We engage in advocacy because federal government legislation and policies affect Episcopalians, our brother and sister Anglicans around the world, and the most vulnerable among us. Together, we can help our nation's legislation and policies to become more just.

Sign Up to learn more and to receive Action Alerts go to this webpage:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/office-government-relations/engage/>

Learn more about becoming an EPPN Volunteer by clicking on this link:

[**Volunteer with our EPPN Ambassador Program!**](#)

Video Interview with OGR Director Rebecca Linder Blachly:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eChyzynMnaA>

Join the Live Updates, with schedule and links provided at:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/organizer/office-of-government-relations/>