

How You and Your Congregation Can Be Involved During the 2009 Legislative Session

- Pray for all legislators and governmental leadership to make wise, just and compassionate decisions and laws that work to benefit all people in the community, state and nation, and that work to uphold the needs and realities of low-income families and individuals, recent immigrants, children, elderly, people with disabilities, minimum wage workers, recently unemployed workers and so many others who are in need or lacking for basic necessities.
- Pray for all advocates and organizers, that they may do effective and meaningful advocacy work to effectively help get laws and decisions made that work for the benefit of all people in the community, state and nation.
- Join the [Iowa United Methodist Legislative Network](#) — Receive Action Alerts and updates on legislation, upcoming events and ways you and your congregation can take action on federal and state legislation.
- Join the General Board of Church and Society [UM Power Network](#) to learn more about federal legislation.
- Track one of the [six Iowa United Methodist priority areas](#) for this legislative session: Immigration, Health Care, Economic Justice, Environment, Criminal Justice and Equality/Human Rights — follow [state legislation](#) in that area; educate people in your church about the issues using the listed resources for the specific issue you are working on; invite [Naomi Sea Young](#) to come to your congregation and help lead a discussion and training on the issue or advocacy in general; get connected with local agencies and other faith communities who are passionate about the issues; contact your elected officials about legislation and advocate on a position.
- Write a personal letter, send an email or make a phone call to your elected officials (state and federal) on an issue about which you are passionate. Several legislators have mentioned while they appreciate mass or stock cards, emails or letters on an issue, they are much more likely to look through and consider a personalized or handwritten letter/note, as it shows extra effort was made by the constituent to address an issue. So if you are hoping to do advocacy with your Senator and Representative, please consider writing a personalized note to them with your position on a bill or issue!
- Visit the Iowa State Capitol with your youth group, confirmation class, Sunday School Class or Bible Study group, UMW or UMM group. Organize a congregational day on the Hill. Contact [Naomi Sea Young or Kristin](#) for more information.
- Organize a Social Action and Mission group at your local church — gather weekly to talk about social issues, community specific concerns, mission and justice opportunities, and ways to get involved in your local communities to help bridge the church and community.
- Clergy: Contact Your Local Representative or Senator to see if you can serve as “Pastor of the Day” to offer the morning prayer on the House or Senate side of the Iowa State Legislature.

- Organize a District Legislative Event — Invite all of the legislators from your district to attend as well as other congregations and advocates, Naomi Sea Young and other conference staff, the broader ecumenical and interfaith community. Create a list of issues you want to discuss with the legislators — arrange a panel discussion or “Question & Answer” session; ask legislators to take turns sharing their perspectives and work on a series of specific issues.
- Invite Naomi Sea Young to come preach during worship or to speak with your Sunday school or other church group.
- Create a Legislative Calling Network that can be activated when various pieces of legislation come up and need constituent support from different districts. Organize a few coordinators for the Legislative Calling Network who can provide other people in your network with resources and information on the issue (contact [Naomi Sea Young](#) or [Kristin](#) for information on bills or for more details on legislation presented through the IAUMC Legislative Network), then can mobilize the group to call their legislators and encourage them to vote for or against an issue.
- Please feel free to contact [Naomi Sea Young or Kristin](#) for additional ideas, resources or to share some ideas or activities you are working on in your local church!



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