



VISION & VOICE

FAITHFUL CITIZENS AND HEALTH CARE

Finding a Faith Voice:
Speaking Up on Faith & Health Care

PARTICIPANT MANUAL SESSION THREE

OUTCOMES FROM SESSION THREE

You will leave this session with:

- Knowledge of some actions people took since the last session and ideas for other possible next steps – both for individuals and the faith community.
- An understanding that people of faith have a unique role in communicating a moral message grounded in the teachings of their faith traditions so that they – as individuals and a faith community – can raise this voice in the public arena.
- A brief personal statement about why people of faith need to be involved in creating change in U.S. health care OR a personal vision statement of the U.S. health care system you envision for the next generation.

SOME ASSUMPTIONS OF THIS SESSION

- Our faith calls us to care for others through healing ministries AND to care for the future by working to change broken systems, like health care, that can create human suffering.
- As people of faith, we are called to speak up about the connection between our faith values and the future of U.S. health care.
- Our Faith Values + Our Active Citizenship (learning about issues, voting, etc.) = Power for Change

ACTIONS FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

- a. What action did you take?
- b. What is one thing you learned about your faith and U.S. health care?
- c. What does the action suggest about further faithful action on health care, both for you as an individual and for us as a community?
- d. After all have shared: What one or two powerful ideas do you want to share with the full group?



PUBLIC CONSCIENCE WORK

1. What is your response to this idea of public conscience work?
2. What do you see as the unique role of faith communities and people of faith in this process of public conscience work?
3. As you consider public conscience work and the role of people of faith, what do you find most exciting? Challenging?
4. What do you think this says about our involvement in the public policy arena in terms of healthcare?

WHAT TO DO BETWEEN THIS SESSION AND NEXT

Possible actions for the time between this session and the next:

1. Share your elevator speech or your vision statement with three people and be prepared to report to the group your experience in doing so.
2. Research what leaders of your faith tradition are saying about U.S. health care. What are their main messages about the connection between faith values and health care? What kind of vision statement have they written? How could your congregation engage with this vision statement? Visit the “Perspectives” section of www.faithfulreform.org for statements from a variety of faith traditions.
3. Identify actions that leaders of your tradition are inviting groups to take on health care. Learn about your tradition’s efforts in the area. If your faith community is not involved, how might you share this with the leaders of your community?
4. Work with leaders in your faith community to have people take the Survey for Children’s Health Care. Share the results with your faith community. Use the results to create and publish a list of questions to ask elected leaders about the future of health care.
5. Review the faith community action list. Which of the actions are ones you think this group can take?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Download the article “What Would the Good Samaritan Do?” and accompanying study guide from The Center for Christian Ethics at Baylor University www.baylor.edu/christianethics/index.php?id=44272.
- Use the internet to learn about health care efforts within your faith tradition. Read an article or page of interest.

WHAT IS DIALOGUE?

In dialogue, we pay attention to the wisdom of the group. We listen for new thinking and ideas that help us address complex and challenging issues. A conversation is a dialogue when people in a group agree to:

- Listen deeply to one another, giving full attention to each other, looking for common ground.
- Respect the ideas and viewpoints of each person, trusting that others have part of the answer.
- Give voice to their own ideas and thinking.

In dialogue, each person also monitors her/his participation, taking responsibility for getting her/his ideas out there, while making sure that others in the group have both the clock time and a respectful environment in which to share their ideas. In dialogue, we see changes in thinking and often see new ideas emerge.

Dialogue is usually in danger when people defend their point of view, assume there is one right answer, criticize others' thinking, ask questions that are really opinions or judgments, and look only for conclusions that agree their thinking.

Quoted from www.OurHealthcareFuture.org.

WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

Here is what success will look like for these Vision and Voice sessions:

- People of faith who participate in these sessions will have a



COMMUNITIES OF FAITH RAISING VISION AND VOICE

deeper understanding of moral issues related to U.S. health care.

- Individuals and faith communities will have some tools to help them talk about the future of U.S. health care in a way that reflects the values of their faith traditions.
- Communities of faith will learn ways to share these messages in the media and election events.

For those who are ready to take action, success for these sessions might also include:

- Your/our faith community — or a group of individuals within it — will commit to activities that will help keep health care front and center with elected leaders as they engage in health policy reform.
- Your/our faith community — or a group of individuals within it — along with other faith groups will take action to help keep the conversation on health care active and growing in your faith community, local area, state and the nation.



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