

BEGINNING STEPS FOR ORGANIZING

Build interest and awareness

- Write an article for your congregation's newsletter.
- Sponsor a study of scriptures which call the community of faith to concerns of healing and justice.
- Request that health care issues be the topic of sermon(s).
- Use Mission Moments in worship.
- Make a presentation to the congregation's council or governing body.
- Make a presentation to the mission/outreach/social concerns committee.
- Make presentations to groups in the congregation C women=s, men=s youth, etc.
- Gather the people
- Hold a meeting of interested members of the congregation.
- Make copies of handouts available from the campaign and other resources.
- Begin by using the scriptural and theological principles that form the basis for religious concern and action around access to health care.
- Invite everyone to tell why she/he is interested in access to health care.
- Encourage everyone to tell his/her own personal health care story.
- Talk about the need for universal access to health care, special needs in your community, needs for special groups (youth, elderly, ethnic), issues you think should be addressed.
- Organize congregational forums.
- Identify others in the congregation who are also members of groups or organizations that are studying health care.
- Identify members who work in the health care field.
Possible forum discussion topics:
 - Resolutions/pronouncements made by the national organization of your faith community relating to the issue of universal health care.
 - Resolutions/pronouncements made by other faith groups relating to the issue of universal health care.
 - The status of health care in your community.
 - Current proposed legislation - both in your state and at the federal level.

Initiate advocacy by your congregation

- Schedule an offering of letters
- Organize a delegation from your congregation to meet a legislator
- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper stating the issues of concern and suggested action or reforms.

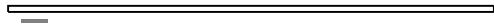
Reach out

- Invite other congregations in your faith community to join your discussion and action.
- Build interest within this larger group, adapting the steps in the section
- Contact your local ecumenical or interfaith council to determine what activities are taking place in the faith community in your area.

- Invite congregations of other faith groups to plan and participate in community-wide forums.
- Determine common concerns and goals around health care.

Act Together

- Plan activities with other members of the community that will mobilize a grassroots constituency for access to health care.
- Issue press releases and invite the media to cover your events.
- Attend legislators' town meetings.
- Get dates for the meetings.
- Organize a group to attend.
- Plan questions to ask the legislator about his/her plans and efforts to make health care accessible and affordable.
- Assign questions to individuals.
- Compile sign-in sheets from events to build a list of people in your community who are interested in working on health care reform.
- Maintain a list of resources in your community - people, organizations, print and visual materials - that address various health care issues. Keep samples of materials so people can see them.
- Contact the state and national offices of your faith group and join the health and social action networks. Join with other people of faith who are addressing this issue in communities all across the country. Get on mailing lists which will provide information and educational materials on health care issues.
- Identify people who would be interested in receiving training to form a Speaker's Bureau for universal health care.



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