

America: Follow Your Conscience, Vote ALL Your Values

A Call to Action to the Progressive Faith Community

Dear Friends,

At many points in our nation's history, from the struggle for the abolition of slavery, to civil rights, to the effort to fight poverty, the progressive faith community has come together as a movement to offer our nation a message of hope.

Our nation needs us again. We are sacrificing our sacred values to the narrow and ideological agenda of a few – values of truth at all times, justice for all people, and community among all nations and faiths. In the midst of the most important election in a generation, some vocal religious groups are trying to convince America that our faith calls us to vote only on a narrow set of issues and values. Our message to America is: Vote ALL Your Values!

Time is short, and we have begun a 40 day period of prayer, fasting and work. We ask all people of faith to join us in this plan of action:

A) National Day of Action, October 16th – From Sacred Places to Civic Spaces. We ask our movement to come together in a *National Day of Action* on Saturday, October 16th. Through coordinated events across America and a Clergy and Lay person's march in Philadelphia, we hope to make sure the country hears our message. We call upon people of faith to move from sacred places to civic spaces, organizing our faith communities in marches and vigils in front of public offices. If you can't organize a vigil, hold a '**hungering for justice**' fast for the day and meet up with friends in a potluck dinner, to strategize your get out the vote campaign (see below). Start organizing your event now, and advertise your event on an electronic map of America at www.voteALLYourvalues.org

B) Vote ALL Your Values Campaign - We call for a mobilization of our community in a non-partisan voter mobilization effort called 'Vote ALL Your Values'. Together, we will call and visit millions of low income and minority voters before the election. Encouraging these citizens to have a voice in democracy could play a decisive role in the country's future, and research shows that contact by a 'trusted source', such as a member of a faith community, is most effective in persuading people to vote. You can be a part of it by organizing your own get out the vote team in your faith community, or even just by calling voters from your own home. We'll help you every step of the way.

If you are called to act, the next step is to go to www.voteALLYourvalues.org to join the effort. If you find the internet difficult to use, call us toll free at 1-866-456-VOTE. And don't forget to pray, or perhaps fast for a day to ask God's guidance in this momentous time. So much is at stake, our faith calls us to action.

Signed,

Rev. Steven Baines, People for the American Way

Rev. Chloe Breyer, St. Mary's Manhattanville Church

Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock, Director, Lift Every Voice!

Rev. Dr. William Sloane Coffin, Honorary Chair, FaithfulAmerica.org

Rev. David Dyson, Chair, People of Faith Network

Rev. Dr. Robert Edgar, General Secretary, National Council of Churches USA

Maureen Fenlon, OP, National Coordinator, NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby

Rev. Dr. James. A. Forbes Jr., Senior Minister, The Riverside Church

Rev. Dr. C. Welton Gaddy, President, The Interfaith Alliance

Rabbi Steven B. Jacobs, Kol Tikvah Temple

Rev. Peter Laarman, Director, Progressive Christians Uniting

John Podesta, President, and Melody Barnes, Senior Fellow, Center for American Progress

David Robinson, Executive Director, Pax Christi USA

Charles Rooney, Catholics for the Common Good

Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry, Coordinator, Let Justice Roll Coalition

Adam Taylor, Director, Global Justice

Rev. Jim Wallis, Editor, Sojourners Magazine