

Southeastern Synod Advocacy Policy Council

We continue to move forward engaging and mobilizing more people to live out our baptismal call to pursue justice and seek peace no matter how long the journey or wide the chasm.

Advocacy Policy Council

There have been a few changes to the Advocacy Policy Council.

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The Policy Council meets every month via Zoom. On our last call, it was determined that we should re-focus on our Ready Benches and that we should make every attempt to be invited to deanery meetings to re-introduce our work and possibly identify people within the deanery with a passion for this ministry. Policy Council members will work to engage and communicate with these folks. We are also working with colleges to identify students who might need an internship; they would serve as legislative trackers in each state and communicate with the Policy Council members.

2019 Priorities - It is really too early to determine the legislation we will be addressing. We will continue to watch legislation in our 4 state synod; our priorities remain to be Human Trafficking, Criminal Justice Reform, Immigration and Detention, Care for Creation, Education funding, Hunger, and Medicare Expansion. We know that Medicaid Expansion will be an issue in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Legislative sessions begin January 8th in Mississippi and Tennessee, January 14th in Georgia, and March 5th in Alabama. By our 4th Annual Advocacy Gathering on February 2, 2019, we should have a pretty good idea what legislation we will be supporting or opposing.

Hunger Fellow – Jordan has been a great addition. Jordan continues to meet with congregations, work with the Policy Council, develop brochures, and develop new advocacy partners in Tennessee and Georgia. He has a great passion for being present in the community. Jordan is currently tracking legislation as we move toward the legislative session and helping coordinate our annual advocacy gathering.

MLK Day of Service – We are cosponsoring MLK Day of Service with Lutheran Services of Georgia. The day will kick off with exciting, intergenerational and interactive learning

for all: Children's Activities (grades K-5) will feature learning about the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. *Fearless Dialogues* will feature learning for Youth (middle and high school) and adults. Following *Fearless Dialogues*, SES Advocacy will have a station setup for letter writing concerning current state and national legislation.

2019 Advocacy Gathering

You are encouraged to attend.

St John's Atlanta February 2, 2019 9am to 3pm

Keynote Speaker – Amy Reumann, Executive Director of Advocacy ELCA

Tour of new Synod office

Lunch

Your choice of 5 workshops

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Hilton Austin Jr.

SES Director of Advocacy