



Church of the Brethren

Fighting Poverty with Faith Action Alert September 30th, 2010

“If a brother or sister lacks food and one of you says, "go in peace," and yet do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?” (James 2:15-17).

Friends, the [Church of the Brethren](#) has for years responded to the needs of those struggling in our midst through [Church World Service CROP walks](#), raising \$200,000 in funds for local food banks in 2009, or supporting global development efforts through the [Global Food Crisis Fund](#). Through [workcamps](#), [Brethren Disaster Service](#), and [Brethren Volunteer Service](#) the church has also directly worked with communities throughout the nation. However, hunger and poverty continue to thrive. Currently 14.3% of the domestic population is poor, according to the 2009 Census.

[Click here](#) to view a chart summarizing the 2009 Poverty Data

Join us for a month of mobilization surrounding issues of domestic poverty. Starting next week there will be a whole month of important events all over the nation dealing with poverty education and advocacy. The Church of the Brethren is part of a large mobilization of faith-based organizations called [Fighting Poverty with Faith](#), dedicated to cutting domestic poverty in half by 2020. To accomplish this goal, we are working to focus new attention to protecting critical human needs programs during these challenging economic times, and advocating for new policies that enable more families to find employment and move forward economic self-sufficiency.



www.FightingPovertyWithFaith.com

How you can get involved:

- 1) [Join the Fighting Poverty with Faith Campaign Kickoff Conference Call](#) on Tuesday, October 5th at 3:00 pm ET. Call 888-690-8774 (no access code) and tell the operator that you are looking for the "Fighting Poverty with Faith" call. We will be joined by Joshua Dubois, the Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, and Martha Coven from the White House Domestic Policy Council. This will be an opportunity to hear about activism that is taking place across the country and also pose questions to our guests from the administration.
- 2) [Support Events Happening In Your Area](#): Check out the list of national events and reach out to partners across faith communities to get involved.

- 3) [Attend a Candidate Forum and Ask a Poverty-related Question](#): Usually called “bird-dogging” this tactic is used to get candidates to take a public stance on important issues by asking direct questions to leaders in public forums with media present.
 - 4) [Hold a Poverty Simulation](#): Community Action Poverty Simulation (CAPS) provides simulations to teach community members about the hardships of living in poverty and lacking access to basic resources.
 - 5) [Place an Op-Ed in Local Papers](#): Use this sample op-ed on poverty and faith according to your needs and submit it to local papers. For a customized poverty-focused opinion-editorial, contact Maricela Donahue, MDonahue@chn.org with the Coalition on Human Needs.
 - 6) [Meet with Elected Officials](#): Use this resource to find the name and contact information for your officials. As their constituent, you have the power to convince them that voters care strongly about human needs programs and job creation legislation.
 - 7) [Send a Letter to Members of Congress](#): Can’t meet with your officials? Send a letter via email to your official asking them to support job creation and help support low-income peoples.
 - 8) [Join Others for an Interfaith Prayer](#): Fighting Poverty with Faith provides an interfaith prayer to use at the beginning of poverty-related events. Work with local synagogues, churches, mosques and temples to coordinate a reading of the prayer among all faiths.
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Church of the Brethren Policy:

2000 Annual Conference Statement: [Caring for the Poor](#)

“We recommend that congregations use their experience in ministry with the poor to inform themselves of legislative and political issues having impact on the poor and speak to those issues with their legislators at local, state, and national levels. The Biblical witness and our own experiences as a community of faith suggest that there is a corporate or societal responsibility to deal with the problems of the poor, such as the Year of Jubilee. This extends beyond personal, hands-on responses and includes advocacy on behalf of the poor.”

2006 Annual Conference Statement, [A Call to Reduce Global Poverty and Hunger](#) reads:

“Through prayer, study, and concrete action, let us resolve to act so that those who know extreme poverty and hunger might enter more fully into the abundance of God’s love.”

For more information about the witness ministries of the Church of the Brethren, contact Jordan Blevins, Advocacy Officer for the Church of the Brethren:

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