



Church of the Brethren

Fighting Poverty with Faith Action Alert September 2nd, 2010

“Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’” (Matthew 25:45)

The people of [The Church of the Brethren](#) have walked with, ministered to, and cared for the least of these in our society for generations – Through Brethren Volunteer Service, Disaster Response, and participating in [Church World Service CROP walks](#), we respond to the needs of the world in which we live. Through the [Global Food Crisis Fund](#), the Church of the Brethren contributed grants of more than \$200,000 to local food banks in 2009. And through [workcamps](#), like the [one hosted by the Brooklyn congregation in New York](#), Brethren youth have the chance to directly respond to the needs of communities throughout the country.

Click here to learn more about this years Fighting Poverty with Faith mobilization, focusing not doing harm to and creating economic opportunity for people living in poverty as we continue to deal with an economic crisis in our country.

But the plight of those living on the margins of our society calls for more than compassionate service – it calls for our witness toward a transformed society – to give voice to the needs of those without the resources to speak. Fighting Poverty with Faith is an interfaith mobilization that gives local communities the opportunity to do just that. **“Fighting Poverty with Faith is building a nationwide movement to cut domestic poverty in half between 2010 and 2020.** We are a diverse coalition of national and local faith groups that refuses to accept the status quo of poverty in United States. We bring the moral authority and the organizing power of the faith community to ensure that meeting the needs of those living in poverty is a national priority, and to highlight solutions that policy makers, community leaders and concerned individuals can take to address the root causes of poverty.”

Click here for more information on a webinar on how to interpret the new census data released at the beginning of September.

Click here to learn more about this years mobilization, focusing not doing harm to and creating economic opportunity for people living in poverty as we continue to deal with an economic crisis in our country.

Church of the Brethren Policy:

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