

## New Visions UMC

2400 S 11<sup>th</sup> St      Lincoln NE 68502

### New Visions Justice Work Group

Six New Visions' members attended the Working for Justice Legislative Day on February 12, 2022. We encourage you to review this document to learn more about sharing your voice on issues important to our church and our community.

Nebraska's unique Unicameral Legislature relies heavily on the "second house" – the citizens of the State of Nebraska. Ensuring that members of the public have the opportunity to have their voices heard is vital to the legislative process. This year's session is only 60 days long and will end on April 20, 2022. Time is of the essence for our input into this year's important issues. Here's some rationale from our Book of Discipline for us as New Visions United Methodist Church to take part in the legislative process.

Our faithful response to God's saving grace has both a personal and social dimension as we grow in "[holiness of heart and life](#)." By practicing spiritual disciplines — "[works of piety](#)" such as prayer, Bible study, participation in corporate worship and communion — we grow and mature in our love for God. By engaging in acts of compassion and justice — "[works of mercy](#)" such as visiting the sick and those in prison, feeding the hungry, advocating for the poor and marginalized — we live out our love for God through service to our neighbor. "Our love of God is always linked with love of our neighbor, a passion for justice and renewal in the life of the world" ([Book of Discipline 2012, p. 51](#)). Just as our own discipleship occurs both at a personal and communal level, our work in the world extends beyond helping individuals to transforming the conditions that create injustice and inequality: "it is our conviction that the good news of the Kingdom must judge, redeem, and reform the sinful social structures of our time" ([Book of Discipline 2012, p. 53](#)). Our [Social Principles](#) are the church's prayerful and thoughtful attempt to speak to contemporary issues through a biblical and theological lens, seeking "to apply the Christian vision of righteousness to social, economic, and political issues" ([Book of Discipline 2012, p. 53](#)).

We have been researching some of the 600 bills introduced. Here are some that warrant more study. Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved. Here are some ways to share your voice followed by specific bills to consider. We welcome any questions.

Sharing your voice: You are an important source of information. Contact your senator as well as committee members.

1. Have confidence
2. Tell the truth.
3. Know who is on your side as well as the opposition.
4. Make your connections be known.
5. Admit uncertainty
6. Be specific
7. Follow-up especially if uncertain.
8. Don't 'burn bridges'.
9. Advocate—don't agitate.
10. Thank them and close with: I'd really appreciate your support on this bill. Will you support it?

Methods of contact:

- In-person testimony at Committee Hearing
- Written testimony at Committee Hearing
- "Position Letter"
- Online comments: submit by noon day before hearing
- Personal Letter, Email, Phone Call, Visit with Senators

Here are some links to help you to navigate the state legislative website:

Legislative Page: <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/>

Finding your senator: [https://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator\\_find.php](https://nebraskalegislature.gov/senators/senator_find.php) (click on Senator's web page to find their email address)

Searching bills: <https://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/> (helps determine status & committee assignment)

Commenting: <https://nebraskalegislature.gov/committees/public-input.php>

Justice Working Group: Brian Gebers, Kathy Hunter, Beverly Kellison, Rachel Mulcahy Lowe, Beth Thomas, Marilyn Wilson