



United Methodist Advocates for Public Schools

Advocacy ideas for Public Education

Target audience	Congregations/Districts	Families, children, teachers educators,	General Public, Policy makers, Public officials.
Level of Engagement			
1. Awareness <i>Listening, sharing, participating with others</i>	Basic facts about the state of education in NC; Study the Biblical narrative about education. Get facts about the state of your local school.	Providing basic legal information; brochures; social media information; connect parent groups from different parts of the town.	Learn about public and official attitudes and practices IRO education resources; learn about the state education budget; establish public forums to listen.
2. Education <i>Providing "just" knowledge and skills</i>	Current state of the law and its enforcement; look for evidence of unfairness and injustice; listen to real stories.	Share information about school management, finances and state education policy; legal rights information and briefings; provide opportunities to share stories.	Inform public of problems at your school through letters to the press; letters to the press; letters of advocacy to elected representatives.
3. Discernment <i>Building advocacy skills</i>	Empowering/educating congregations to research and examine the issues. Gather lots of data. Build multiple advocacy strategies to suit each issue	Run lots of listening sessions with parents, teachers and administrators to gather facts and problem solve.	Start building a relationship with your local School Board members and other elected representative. Find out their voting patterns on education issues.
4. Proclamation <i>Declaring justice</i>	Let the community know about what you find, the problems and the opportunities for mobilization. Declaring injustices; collaborate with other advocacy groups. Preach justice.	Find leaders among these groups to build a power base with them and within themselves.	Build some form of basic policy about public schools and declare this to your school management, the school Board, and your state representatives.
5. Advocacy <i>Acts of Mercy and Charity</i>	Create support groups for the parents in your local school. Provide coaching for immigrant families, plus coaching in parenting responsibilities for disadvantaged children.	Supporting schools through programs like C4C. Support teachers and school administrators in their efforts to improve resources.	Deepen you relationship with elected representatives and keep them informed about the state of things through letters, petitions, briefing sessions, and face to face discussions.
6. Advocacy <i>Acts of Justice</i>	Mobilizing congregations to advocate to improve the application of constitutional law on education; vote for candidates who support public education	Mobilizing communities to advocate to improve the application of constitutional law on education; vote for candidates who support public education	Build strong advocacy approaches to change public policy and funding for public schools. Challenge poor decision by public officials and advocate for improvements