

“Seek Justice, Love Kindness, and Walk Humbly” (*)
On Influencing Public Officials

How do we move forward to make a difference in the lives of hungry families?

Accurate Information

We must begin by seeking the truth--being conscientious and persistent in obtaining accurate information on the issues we intend to address. Rather than relying alone on personal or popular opinion, we must grasp the constantly changing facts about the human needs we advocate and public policies we want to impact.

Genuine Prayer and Reflection

Personal prayer is central. As people of faith, we are called to be mindful of those who hunger and are poor as well as our public officials and individuals and groups agreeing with or opposing our viewpoints. Prayer is important for our own clarity of thought, determination, and caring. In addition, Bible study, devotional exercises, and/or small group reflections cleanse our motivations and concentrate our approach.

Mutual Support

Companions sharing our cause help broaden and strengthen whatever we offer. We spread our impact through mobilizing our congregations and civic/social organizations, and coalescing with kindred individuals and groups. Ideally, we are also nurtured by friends and family.

Personal-Professional Integrity

Our effectiveness will be increased by ...

- focusing on realistic expectations.
- clearly understanding many-sided issues and competently (and fairly) expressing our convictions.
- treating public officials and their staff and advocates-with respect whether or not we feel they have earned it.
- being dependable and persistent.

Targeted Advocacy

Personal visits, calls, letters, or email (in that order of priority) to politicians are critical. And in all that we do--since our vision and energy may be short lived--we must act while our convictions are fresh and opportunities are ripe.

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(*) Micah 6:8

