

MEMO TO ROBB SMITH, JOHN KEEVERT AND DON ODELL

RE: ADVOCACY DAY PAGE

DECEMBER 1, 2017

ADVOCACY DAY: AN INTRODUCTION

As a statewide coalition of congregations and individuals from mainline Protestant, Reform Jewish, Unitarian Universalist and other faith traditions, our mission is to work for the common good through progressive religious advocacy..

Our positions are rooted in the common scriptural and ethical values that we share, which call upon all people to participate in the ongoing work of perfecting the world. We witness boldly, while maintaining the integrity of non-profit religious bodies on whose behalf we speak. We engage in policy; we do not engage in politics.

We organize both as a 501 ©3 (education) and 501 ©4 (advocacy) entity. While our education and advocacy is year-long, we do focus attention on the legislative session. Part of that work is our annual Advocacy Day in Albany. Usually held in the spring after the budget is passed and the Legislature turns to other issues important to us. We invite members and friends to come to Albany to meet their legislators and their staffs.

Following a morning orientation, participants then fan out through the Legislative Office Building and the Capitol to address selected issues (usually 3 or 4) through small group visits to legislative offices. There is an orientation on the issues selected and how to approach them in our visits. In addition we drop off our position papers in every legislative office. At the end of the day there is a debriefing and evaluation.