

North Carolina Council of Churches 2013 Legislative Seminar

Thursday, April 11, 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 4801 Six Forks Rd., Raleigh

PROGRAM

- 8:30 Registration** (coffee, juice, pastries and fresh fruit)
- 9:15 Opening Session: Worship** led by **Rev. Joseph Brown**, Presiding Elder, AME Zion Church
Plenary led by **Rev. Fletcher Harper**, Executive Director, GreenFaith, *Communicating the Values We Believe*
- 10:30 Workshops – Session 1**
Tax Reform
Energy Policy
Immigration
Public Education
Affordable Housing and Consumer Finance
- 11:40 Lunch and Networking**
Lunch provided by Interfaith Food Shuttle's Catering with a Cause
Annual Assembly and Awards:
Brief Legislative Updates
Awards
Luncheon Address: *It's Better Not to Be Poor in NC*
Gene Nichol, Director of the Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity at UNC-CH School of Law
- 1:15 Workshops – Session 2**
Grieving Legislative Losses
Tax Reform (repeated)
Voting Rights
Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles and Public Policy
Agricultural Policy
Building Relationships at the Legislature
- 2:25 Workshops – Session 3**
Implementing the Affordable Care Act
Farmworker Issues
Gun Violence
Voting Rights (repeated)
Legislative Process and Advocacy
- 3:30 Closing Session: Worship** led by **Rev. Ben Williams**, Pastor, St. Mark's UMC, Raleigh
- 3:45 Adjourn**

The 2013 Legislative Seminar is designed to provide information on critical issues facing the General Assembly and to equip grassroots activists for social justice. All interested persons are invited to attend.

Register at www.ncchurches.org or by calling 919-828-6501. Cost, including lunch, is \$10 for students; \$25 for all others.

For directions and a map to St. Mark's, visit: www.stmarksraleigh.org/content/directions/
Be sure to follow these directions if you are coming in on I-440 as you cannot turn left from Six Forks Road into the church parking lot. You must turn at Northbrook.

WORKSHOPS

Of General Interest Across Issues

Grieving Legislative Losses. The current General Assembly session continues to be a discouraging one. This workshop is designed to support progressive and prophetic advocates. How can we cope with the discouragement and how can we find signs of hope? Led by the Rev. Dr. Sally L. Harbold, Director, St. Paul's Center for Hope and Healing.

Building Relationships at the Legislature. More than half of the members of the General Assembly are in their first or second term, with more than half of these new this year. How do we go about building relationships with legislators who are new and who may not be in sympathy with us on our issues? Led by **Susannah Tuttle**, co-director of NC Interfaith Power & Light.

Legislative Process and Advocacy. What do you need to know about how a bill become law? How can you use this knowledge to be as effective and efficient as possible? Led by **George Reed**, Executive Director, NC Council of Churches.

On Specific Legislative Issues

Tax Reform: Who Gains? Who Loses? Led by **Alexandra Forter Sirota**, Director, NC Budget & Tax Center, NC Justice Center.

Energy Policy. Led by **Fletcher Harper**, Executive Director, GreenFaith.

Immigration. Led by **Mauricio Castro**, Executive Director, NC Latino Coalition.

Public Education. Led by **Christopher Hill**, Education and Law Project, NC Justice Center.

Affordable Housing and Consumer Finance. Led by **Carley Ruff**, Policy and Outreach Coordinator, NC Housing Coalition.

Voting Rights. Led by **Bob Hall**, Executive Director, Democracy NC.

Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles Through Public Policy (including physical activity, nutrition, and tobacco-use cessation). Led by **Betsy Vetter**, Director of Government Relations, American Heart Association and immediate past chair, NC Alliance for Health.

Agricultural Policy. Led by **Scott Marlow**, Executive Director, RAFI-USA.

Implementing the Affordable Care Act. Led by **Linda Walling**, Executive Director, Faithful Reform in Health Care, and **Nicole Dozier**, Assistant Project Director, NC Health Access Coalition.

Farmworkers. Led by **Carol Brooke**, Workers Rights Project, NC Justice Center.

Gun Violence. Led by **Marcia Owen**, Executive Director, Religious Coalition for a Nonviolent Durham.