

## **YOUR VOICE MATTERS**

### **Letter-Writing Campaign**

Church of the Holy Comforter, Vienna, VA

Dear Friends in Christ,

As members of Holy Comforter, we are called to live out our faith not just within the walls of our church but in the world around us. Our voices matter in shaping the decisions that impact our community, our nation, and the most vulnerable among us. This guide is a resource to help you engage with elected officials and faith-based initiatives that align with our values of justice, compassion, and service. We encourage you to take a moment to review these resources, reflect on the issues close to your heart, and let your voice be heard. Together, we can be instruments of change and hope.

## YOUR VOICE MATTERS – TIPS ON HOW TO FIND CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

### Finding Your Federal Elected Officials

President – Contact the President online (<https://www.whitehouse.gov>) or call the White House comments line at 202-456-1111 during business hours, 9 am to 5 pm. You can also sign up for their updates on the first page. Their site includes information on the Administration, Presidential Actions, Briefing Room and Live Coverage of Events.

Federal Senate Officials – US Senators can be found at (<https://www.senate.gov>). If you live in Virginia, go to Senators Mark Warner (<https://www.warner.senate.gov>) and Tim Kaine (<https://www.kaine.senate.gov>).

Federal District Representative(s)- To find your Congressperson, go to (<http://www.house.gov>) and put in your zip code in the top right-hand box on page 2. Those living in Vienna, parts of Great Falls, Mclean, Fairfax and adjoining areas are in the 11<sup>th</sup> District represented by Congressman Connolly (<https://connolly.house.gov>).

**Note:** Each of your representatives has a website with helpful information such as their priorities, committee assignments and a place to sign up for newsletters. There is also a comment section that you can use to convey your views. If you prefer to do this by mail, their office address is generally on the bottom of the page on their website. If you are interested in sharing your views with one or all of your elected officials, submitting your comments with personal experiences and stories is generally most effective.

### A Good Source of Information – Episcopal Church (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org>)

Based on priorities, policies and resolutions of the national Church, the Episcopal Church has set up an excellent website that contains valuable, comprehensive and interactive information. This includes the Office of Public Affairs and Ministries such as Creation Care, Gender Justice, Episcopal Migration Ministries, etc. The Office of Government Relations link is particularly helpful if you wish to stay engaged on a range of current policy issues, including suggestions on ways to advocate. Other sections also have extensive information and, in some cases, draft Congressional letters that can be sent directly online from their site to your representative. You can also sign up for newsletters and meetings.

We hope you find this information helpful. Please feel free to send your comments or questions to Sue Sottile ([bensueventures@gmail.com](mailto:bensueventures@gmail.com)) and Carl Riedy ([Carl.Riedy@gmail.com](mailto:Carl.Riedy@gmail.com)).