

Maine Council of Churches Public Policy Committee

Meeting Notes

April 13 at 10 at St. Charles in Brunswick

Mission Statement:

Rooted in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures, our mission is to inspire congregations and persons of faith to unite in good works that build a culture of justice, compassion, and peace.

What difference does the voice of faith make on this issue?

- I. Opening prayer
- II. Introductions: name, denomination, relationship to the Council
- III. Legislative Agenda – Top Five bills
 1. Death penalty – Sen. Diamond withdrew
 2. LD 113 – drug crime reclassification – Sue G will testify on MCC’s behalf – no hearing date set yet
 3. New Mainers benefits (GA, SSI, TANF, etc) – hearing on 4/15 – Allen, Sue, Suzanne all attend

[LD 722](#)
Public Hearing An Act To Strengthen Penalties for Abuse of General Assistance

[LD 1035](#)
Public Hearing An Act To Create a 9-month Time Limit on General Assistance Benefits

[LD 1036](#)
Public Hearing An Act To Prioritize Use of Available Resources in General Assistance Programs

[LD 1037](#)
Public Hearing An Act To Establish a 180-day Residency Requirement for Welfare Benefits

4. Aging bill – Bob Frates will testify with Sue’s assistance, Rev. Mary Ann Hoy (Episcopal) will testify as well.
 5. Solar bill from Rep. Gideon – Solar Lobby day is 4/16 – Andy will testify on MCC’s behalf
- IV. Updates from Partnership Liaisons

Next Meetings:

May 11, June 15

Current Partnerships – Liaison:

Cover Maine Now (healthcare) – Suzanne Lafreniere

- April 30 is the hearing date for Medicaid Expansion – Fr. Senghas will represent the Roman Catholic Diocese, Rev. Suzanne Roberts, MD, will represent the MCC

Environmental Priorities Coalition – Andy Burt

- Andy testified on the ocean acidification bills

Faith Leaders Against Gun Violence – Leslie Manning

- Concealed weapons bill has passed

Maine Can do Better (economic justice) – Suzanne Lafreniere

- We are meeting to discuss the biannual budget on Friday afternoon

Maine Equal Justice Partners and Maine Association of Interdependent Neighborhoods (MAIN)

Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition – Larry Gilbert

Maine Prisoners Advocacy Coalition – Leslie Manning

National Religious Campaign Against Torture – Leslie Manning

- Rev. Jill Saxby has agreed to work with Sue G. and Bill Barter about a meeting with Senators King and Collins about CIA rollback of torture report

Maine Council on Aging – Bob Frates

AG task force on human trafficking – Heidi Schott

Maine Military Family Commission - Marci Clark