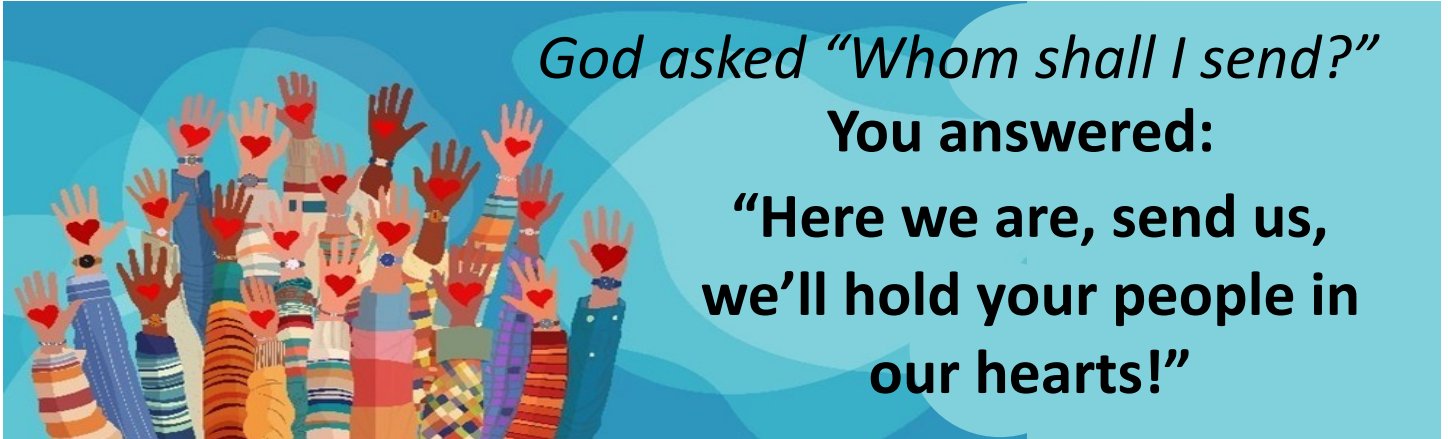


Maine Council of Churches

*Inspiring
Peace,
Justice &
Compassion
through
collaborative
action*



Hundreds learn how to protect those harmed by federal government

Immigrants. The LGBTQIA community. Women seeking reproductive health care. The environment. With so many in harm's way during the first months of the new administration, church folks knew: **We have to DO something.** They just weren't sure what.

But now, **thanks to you, hundreds of Mainers are getting equipped to protect our vulnerable neighbors.** You've been attending our town hall series on defending these vulnerable groups, and you've been supporting this life-saving work with amazing gifts that make it all possible, with help from a grant from UMC Foundation of New England Lexington Social Justice Fund. (See back page for an update on efforts to expand this program in the fall.)

To see a **list of resources** shared during the

*This isn't about right vs. left. This is about right vs. wrong. ...Generations from now will look back at this moment and have a single question — **where were you?***

Senator Cory Booker

four town halls, go to the ["Here we are, send us" page](#) of our website.

In May, you'll show up to learn how to protect women seeking reproductive health care. And in June, how to defend our fragile earth.

Because you show up. It's what you do. Because of your faith and your values. Because **you're someone who makes a difference.**

We are stronger together and together we will resist every effort to harm our neighbors—the neighbors God calls us to love, no exceptions.

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Why I give to MCC

Tom Ewell

“MCC helps me address the fragility of the world”



“At this age, I don’t have the chance to talk this way very often—about **my faith and what it leads me to value**. Thank you!”

That’s how Tom Ewell concluded our recent interview. Tom was MCC’s first Executive Director (1986-2005) and has been an enthusiastic cheerleader and generous donor.

MCC: As a Quaker, how do you explain your faith to others?

Tom: Ten years ago, I was asked to give a talk about my faith. Instead, I decided to talk about my prayers. I begin every day by reminding myself to **expect grace and pray for mercy**. Most of my prayers are for my ability to **address the fragility of the world**. **Giving to MCC is one way I can do that.**

MCC: You write a blog called ["The Saturday Evening Post."](#) What do you hope to give your readers?

Tom: When I write, I try to let the love come through me. That **love, translated into hope**, will give people what they need to **get beyond an outlook of scarcity, death, and doom**. MCC’s work does, too, so it really resonates with me.

MCC: Because you’re a Quaker, **peacemaking** is central to your life. How do you reconcile that with feeling **righteous anger** about what’s happening in our nation today?

Tom: Richard Rohr has it right when he says there’s a place for righteous anger. It’s a sign that things are not OK. I believe when we feel that kind of anger, **we’re called to use our power righteously in the prophetic tradition that includes Jesus**. I’m angry. God’s angry. *However*, I must say to those I’m angry with, ‘I still love you and will stand by you so you will find that place again of beloved community and shalom.’ I appreciate that MCC understands its mission the same way—“speaking with a prophetic voice of faith” *in order to* help build a compassionate and peaceful world. I want to be a part of that!

Under the Dome

Your voice, your values, represented in Augusta

You step to the podium, facing a committee of legislators waiting to hear what you have to say. A large digital clock flashes, counting down, 3:00, 2:59, 2:58... you take a deep breath and begin. That's **what it's like to testify in front of a legislative committee —something we do on your behalf** each session.

"The church must be reminded that it is not the master or the servant of the state, but rather the conscience of the state."
-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr

This year, we've testified on bills related to **gun safety, LGBTQ+ rights, safe and legal abortion, vaccine requirements, shelter funding, farms and food banks, eviction prevention, climate care, internet safety for youth, the child tax credit, transportation access, Wabanaki rights, SNAP and TANF.** (You can read MCC testimony at [Legislative Priorities 2025 page](#) of our website.)

Your support for a coalition of seven mainline Protestant denominations (with 400 local congregations and 50,000 parishioners in Maine) shows **you understand the power**



You help bring the progressive, prophetic voice of faith to the State House.

that comes from standing and speaking together. Every time we (and you as a faith-based advocate!) testify, we get to **talk about the moral imperative for passing laws that promote justice, compassion, and peace.** We get to say we value loving our neighbors. And legislators listen.

When you give to MCC, you make a real difference in the halls of power by making sure legislators hear a progressive voice of faith. And your gift has an **immediate impact**—paying for nitty gritty things like mileage (\$75 each round trip), staff time (\$200 to write and deliver one piece of testimony), printing (\$15 for the 20 copies committees require).

Thank you for investing in our work representing your values and speaking on the issues you care about most.

Your Values, Your Legacy

Consider Including MCC in Your Estate Plan

Planned giving helps you ensure a legacy of continuing to create a more just, compassionate, and peaceful world for years to come. There are also tax benefits for you and your family. Consult with your legal advisor, bank, or financial planner. Call us if we can help you with making decisions or provide more information at (207) 772-1918.

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Preachers Aid Society of New England
Presbytery of Northern New England
Southern Maine Friends Meeting
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
United Methodist Foundation
Vassalboro Quarterly Friends Meeting

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*Please send any corrections to
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Beyond the church's walls

Reaching the wider community with powerful programs

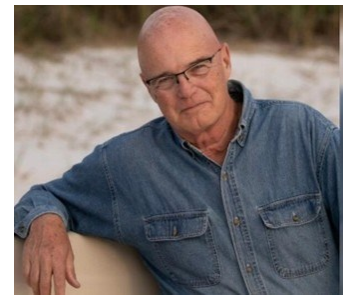
Highlights of your impact



In a time when **telling the truth about history can be dangerous**, your generous gifts, along with a grant from the UMC Foundation of New England Justice In Our Time Fund, helped tell the truth through an MLK Day performance of [Antonio Rocha's](#) **“The Malaga Ship.”**



In March, your support helped MCC co-sponsor a **screening of the documentary, “[Beyond the Bridge: A Solution to Homelessness](#)”** about the “Housing First” approach to ending homelessness.



Thanks to you, MCC was able to join St. Alban’s Episcopal Church (Cape Elizabeth), The BTS Center, and the Episcopal Diocese of Maine in **bringing world-renowned theologian Brian McLaren to Portland** for a day-long symposium in May, “A World Unraveling.”



- Participate
- Advocate
- Witness
- Give

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info@mainecouncilofchurches.org

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Trump cuts already having devastating impacts on tribal communities



Farmers, Teachers & Librarians, Veterans, Wabanaki Nations

Threatened with harm, they need your help!

A gift today will make a real difference for them tomorrow

On the front page you read about a new town hall series focused on **ways people of faith can stand with and for vulnerable groups being harmed** by the federal government. **Can you help us offer four more town hall meetings this fall, focused on farmers, teachers & librarians, veterans, and our Wabanaki neighbors? Make a gift today** to make this possible. **These neighbors-in-need need all of us** to stand up and speak up (and act up!) so they can withstand and overcome the harm coming their way.

Please help by donating online through our website, or by using the QR code below, or by sending your gift in the enclosed envelope. **Thank you!**

