



United
Women
in Faith

FAITH-BASED SOCIAL ACTION

Presentation by Joyce Pratt
Greater New Jersey United Women in Faith



AGENDA

SOCIAL ACTION STRATEGIES, PRINCIPLES, AND MODELS

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. WHAT IS SOCIAL ACTION?
- III. SOCIAL ACTION IN THE BIBLE
- IV. FAITH-BASED SOCIAL ACTION
- V. UWFAITH FUNDING SUPPORT
- VI. LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLAN FOR SOCIAL ACTION
- VII. YOUR STORY



I. INTRODUCTION

*FAITH-BASED SOCIAL PROGRAMS INTEGRATE
SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES.
THIS PROGRAM EXPLAINS HOW!*





II. WHAT IS SOCIAL ACTION?

Social action is distinguished from mere behavior – preference based on familiarity. It is:

- intentional, meaningful behavior toward others
- to create positive change in society and to
- improve community welfare

It is often practiced by those who either

- traditionally have little power in society or
- by any group that feels its concerns are being ignored.

II. WHAT IS SOCIAL ACTION?

- Types include
 - advocacy, protests, policy reform, community organizing, and public awareness campaigns.
- Examples are
 - participating in a housing rights campaign or organizing a community health initiative.
- It highlights the **power of purposeful, collective, and ethically guided actions** to create social change and improve community welfare.





II. WHAT IS SOCIAL ACTION?

German sociologist Max Weber categorizes social action into four types:

- taken efficiently to achieve a specific goal (**Instrumental-rational**),
- guided by ethical, religious, or cultural beliefs (**Value-rational**),
- driven by emotions or feelings (**Affective**), and
- based on habits or customs (**Traditional**).

This presentation is “value-rational.”

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH PURPOSE

“to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.”



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III. SOCIAL ACTION IN THE BIBLE

The Bible emphasizes social action as a vital expression of faith.

It calls for believers to

- care for the marginalized,
- pursue justice, and
- demonstrate compassion in their communities.





III. SOCIAL ACTION IN THE BIBLE

Biblical Foundations of Social Action include:

- Micah 6:8 calls believers “to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.”
- Inherent dignity and value on all people - Genesis 1:26-27. And
- The “call to action” is echoed throughout Scripture to defend the weak and uphold the cause of the poor. Psalm 82:3-4.

III. SOCIAL ACTION IN THE BIBLE



Jesus' example and teachings include:

- Ministering to outcasts and the needy. Matthew 25:40 (“Whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me.”)
- Addressing social injustices and urging His followers to advocate for the oppressed and act justly.

III. SOCIAL ACTION IN THE BIBLE

Bible commands for pro-active social action include:

- Caring for the poor. Proverbs 19:17
- Community engagement to address poverty, discrimination, and injustice.

Example: Christian organizations such as Samaritan's Purse and Compassion International.

- Holistic Faith. Authentic worship must be paired with just treatment of others. Amos 5:24





IV. FAITH-BASED SOCIAL ACTION

Programs by religious organizations or in partnership with them to address social issues such as:

poverty, addiction, mental health, homelessness, and family support.

UW Faith volunteers mirror this in our programs and donations, which we call “in-gatherings*.”

*convening, assembling to gather harvest or gifts for those in need – ingathering, gather in.



Programs can:

- Provide community support through Fellowship, mentorship, and shared activities.
- Offer spiritual guidance
Rooted in religious teachings,
Emphasizing values like compassion, forgiveness, and responsibility.
- Deliver wrap-around services such as
Counseling, job training, housing assistance,
And health education.
- Promote accountability and personal growth through
Structured programs and peer support networks.
- Collaborate with secular agencies
To integrate with existing social services

IV. FAITH-BASED SOCIAL ACTION

IV. FAITH-BASED SOCIAL ACTION

UWFaith provides education and training via its:

- Annual assemblies and
(Assembly 2026 is scheduled for May 15-17, 2026
in Indianapolis, Indiana)
- Mission u transformative educational programs that encompass
both Bible-based curricula and events.

The 2026 theme of *Experiencing Emmanuel* will
take place in conference and local events across
the country beginning in the summer of 2026.

UWFaith: *We believe love in action can change the world.*



V. UWFAITH FUNDING SUPPORT

UWFaith offers financial support for projects that improve life for women, children, and youth and their communities. GNJUWF and CAD UWFaith applied for and were awarded a seed funding grant to “interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.”



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V. UWFAITH FUNDING SUPPORT

We currently:

- have a committee which you are invited to join,
- are actively seeking a U.S. Senator commitment to present our issue at a Senate Assembly on behalf of UWFaith (this can only be voiced by a U.S. Senator),
- continue to research new similar bills introduced, and
- planning Washington, D.C. round-trip bus transportation with meals.



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V. UWFAITH FUNDING SUPPORT

The bills we are pursuing, introduced by U.S. House Representative from Massachusetts Ayanna Pressley and New Jersey Senator Corey Booker, are:

- Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act (H.R.2739/S.3214) [<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3214?hl=S.3214&s=3&r=17>] and
- Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2025 (H.R.2738/S.1338) [<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/2738?hl=H.R.2738&s=2&r=24>].



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VI. LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLAN

Following are a few legislative advocacy tools and upcoming events that can assist you in your planning.

- **Strategic Plan.** A process to define your direction, set goals, and determine the actions and resources required to achieve success.
- **SWOT Analysis.** Assessing internal strengths and weaknesses and external opportunities and threats you must know before start-up to reach goals.

Forms and templates available to guide you through the above processes will be available on our website shortly at: www.gnjuwfaith.org.

For more training, we are presenting “Do it! Strategies for Developing an Advocacy Action Plan” at UWFaith 2026 Assembly, May 15 and 16, 2026.

VI. LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY PLAN OTHER TOOLS

- “Toolkit: Legislative Advocacy” by ILRC, published 8/14/24, 14 pages with links: www.ilrc.org/advocaoc-toolkit.
- The Campaign Workshop “Advocacy Plan: Where do I begin?”
<https://www.thecampaignworkshop.com/blog/advocacy-campaign/advocacy-plan>.



VII. YOUR STORY

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

1. All people are created in God's image. [Story]
2. God identifies with the poor and oppressed.
3. Followers of God must "do justice."
4. God hates injustice.
5. Speak up for those who cannot speak.
6. Love your neighbor as yourself.





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VIII. SUMMARY

When engaged with humanity, grace, and reliance on the Spirit's wisdom, biblical social action can bear powerful kingdom fruit.

--Ncole Sands, [Answer the Bible, 12.25.23](#)

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THANK YOU

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