

Why the Faith Community Should be Part of Clean Water Efforts...

...and what you can do to help!



Pennsylvania
Council
of Churches

Presentation by Rev. Sandy Strauss
Choose Clean Water Conference 2018
May 23, 2018

Education is foundational



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Why education?



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Why education?

- People of faith aren't experts on water issues



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Why education?

- People of faith aren't experts on water issues
- The faith community needs moral/theological grounding



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Why education?

- People of faith aren't experts on water issues
- The faith community needs moral/theological grounding
- People of faith need to understand that knowledge & prayers alone aren't enough—advocacy is essential

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Resources/tools are needed



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- Background/basic information



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- Talking points/fact sheets specific to a given water issue



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- Simple language: clear, concise, understandable
- Guidelines for “telling the story”: why clean water is important

Advocacy is essential



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- Elected officials/policy makers need to hear directly from concerned constituents



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- Elected officials/policy makers need to hear directly from concerned constituents
- People of faith provide authentic moral/ethical voices

Sending a consistent message



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Sending a consistent message

- Working in coalition/collaboration ensures consistent message



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- Once & done isn't enough

Sending a consistent message

- Stories from a faith perspective are especially important



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Sending a consistent message

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 - Personal stories—individual/family (drinking water, recreation, fond memories, etc.)

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 - **Successes—local water projects, collaborations that worked**

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 - Personal stories—individual/family (drinking water, recreation, fond memories, etc.)
 - Community stories—affects on vulnerable neighbors, health, local ecosystems
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**INVITE ELECTED OFFICIALS TO SEE THE FRUITS
OF SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS !**



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