

Summary of Stewards Actions/Process on committing Seekers as a corporate body to support or oppose a policy position

January 2017: A visioning for the new year activity identified Social Action as an area of great interest for Stewards for 2017.

February 2017: Stewards approved signing Seekers onto a letter to DC Government concerning Temporary Action for Needy Families (TANF) at the request of Mike Young, a long time friend of Seekers

March 2017: Stewards approved Seekers participating as a congregation in DMV Sanctuary Congregations Network, including signing the statement of commitment

May 2017: Based on the visioning process from January, Stewards broke into two groups to discuss next steps for Social Action and Ongoing relationship with Dayspring/CofS. The Social Action group identified activities already undertaken (bystander training, formation of Progressive Christian Citizen Support Group (e-group) to share political, emotional and spiritual concerns re current political climate; hosting climate change activists) and proposed:

Identifying three to five areas to focus on
Developing a decision making process for signing on, taking other action
Relying on trustworthy denominational resources rather than doing original research ourselves

August 2017: Pat, with decades of experience as a denominational advocate, recommended:

We should have three to five people caring about an issue if we are going to be active on it
We sometimes need to act without perfect information or on less than perfect legislation.
Further, we noted that in the past, Seekers has acknowledged the authority of a few people gathered around an issue.

September 2017: Stewards identified the following as areas of interest that reflect long-standing and/or current Seekers values and interests:

Women and Children
The Environment
Race/Diversity/LGBTQ issues
Immigration
Homelessness/Poverty/Social Insurance
Peacemaking

November 2017: Dave led an exercise around each identified area where Stewards named their level of interest in
Legislative advocacy

Public Affairs
Financial Support
Other ideas

Three areas: Immigration, Race/Diversity/LGBTQ and Peacemaking had no Steward named for Legislative Advocacy (NB Margreta, Vince, Cynthia and Trish were absent from this meeting)

December 2017: Stewards agreed to sign the Boston Declaration as a congregation and to post it on our website

March 2018: Stewards approved a loose process for decision-making re signing on/supporting actions in the above-listed areas of interest in the name of Seekers:

- The stance that is being taken is consistent with our values as a Christian community and consistent with our Stewards commitment statement
- The position being proposed is supported by two or three other Seekers; it is not an individual stance
- We check with SLT before signing Seekers name (other than as an identifier of our personal affiliation) to a position or committing resources

August 2018: Stewards clarified that SLT was designated as the oversight group, able to authorize signing a petition or otherwise to represent Seekers in one of six areas identified in September 2017 because there is often not time to circulate the information for all Stewards to weigh in. *(N.B. An inference to be drawn from this statement is that we will bring matters to Stewards if there is time.)*

February 2019: In discussing this document, we clarified that we, as Stewards, are ordained so we can present ourselves as clergy in situations where that is warranted. In those instances, we use Seekers name as an identifier of our affiliation, not as an endorser of actions we might be taking.