

2010 Legislative Seminar

*Sponsored by
the North Carolina Council of Churches
& the Presbytery of Charlotte*

**May 20, 2010
9:00am-3:15pm**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
1000 E. Morehead St.
Charlotte, NC 28204**

Registration Fee: \$20 (includes lunch)
Registration Deadline: May 12, 2010

LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR 2010

WORKSHOPS - SESSION 1

THE STATE BUDGET

Elaine Mejia and Meg Gray Wiehe, Budget and Tax Center of the NC Justice Center

How do we maintain a balanced budget in hard financial times? Is it solely by current programs and services? Does it include increases in taxes? And, in either case, how do we do it without hurting the most vulnerable North Carolinians? (Also Session 2)

CLEAN AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

Bob Hall, Executive Director, Democracy North Carolina

How do we reduce the incidence of scandal in government and make government more transparent? How do we cope with the impact of money in political campaigns, especially in light of the recent US Supreme Court decision regarding corporate contributions?

COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING: CONSUMER AND LEGISLATIVE APPROACHES

Noelle Domico, Associate for Fair Food, PC(USA)

Human trafficking is a complex, global and vicious violation of human rights, requiring a multi-faceted response by the church in partnership with others in society. How do our own patterns of consumption drive human trafficking and how can these patterns be redirected? What changes in federal human trafficking legislation need to be made in order to better protect the human rights of trafficked persons and prevent this terrible crime? (Also Session 2)

NORTH CAROLINA IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Ruben Campillo, Advocacy Coordinator, Latin American Coalition & NC State Coordinator of Immigration Reform for America

How can our state's laws reflect the concept of welcoming immigrants? Should they? Why should the children of undocumented immigrants be able to attend our community colleges and universities? (Also Session 3)

GLOBAL WARMING AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Jill Drzewiecki Rios, Program Director for NC Interfaith Power & Light, NC Council of Churches

How can the state promote the use of renewable energy, including wind energy? What would be the benefits of disconnecting energy efficiency programs from the state's power companies?

FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Sarah Beth Mulet, Immigration Attorney
Re-humanizing the un-documented.

HEALTH CARE

Adam Searing and Adam Linker, NC Health Access Coalition, NC Justice Center

What can be done to provide adequate funding for HealthChoice and Medicaid? What is "comparative effectiveness" and how would it impact access to health care?

WORKSHOPS - SESSION 2

THE STATE BUDGET

Elaine Mejia and Meg Gray Wiehe, Budget and Tax Center of the NC Justice Center

(See description under Workshops Session 1)

COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Noelle Domico, Associate for Fair Food, PC(USA)

(See description under Workshops Session 1)

AGE OF JURISDICTION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE

Brett Loftis, Executive Director, Council for Children's Rights

How does the state's policy of treating 16- and 17-year-olds as adults impact their lives? Are there ways to continue to regard them as juveniles, while still protecting public safety?

DEATH PENALTY

Kristen Parks, attorney and lobbyist for the mental health bill & Jeremy Collins, Director of the NC Coalition for a Moratorium

Should people who have severe mental illness be executed?

LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR 2010

UNDERSTANDING AND INFLUENCING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

George Reed, Executive Director, NC Council of Churches

How does the legislative process work? How can grass-roots lobbyists be most effective? (Also Session 3)

PRISONER RE-ENTRY

Bill Rowe, General Counsel and former Executive Director of the NC Justice Center

How can North Carolina lower the barriers facing ex-offenders in accessing jobs, housing, education, training and services? How would this reduce recidivism? Could it also save money for the state?

NORTH CAROLINA IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Ruben Campillo, Advocacy Coordinator, Latin American Coalition & NC State Coordinator of Immigration Reform for America

(See description under Workshops Session 1)

UNDERSTANDING AND INFLUENCING THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

George Reed, Executive Director, NC Council of Churches

(See description under Workshops Session 2)

HOUSING (FORECLOSURES) - STATE HOUSING TRUST FUND

Bill Rowe, General Counsel and former Executive Director of the NC Justice Center

How can the state assist homebuyers facing foreclosure and help to protect them from related scams? What is the Housing Trust Fund and how could state funding help provide affordable housing?

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Karen Parker Thompson, United Family Services, Charlotte

What legislative changes can be made which will reduce and prevent the occurrence of domestic violence? What can be done to support survivors of these crimes and hold perpetrators accountable?

WORKSHOPS - SESSION 3

TAXES AND THE TAX STRUCTURE

Elaine Mejia and Meg Gray Wiehe, Budget and Tax Center of the North Carolina Justice Center

How is the state's tax structure outdated, and how does that impact the state in hard financial times? What reforms would help to balance the state's budget while maintaining or extending the progressive nature of our taxes?

THE REPEAL OF 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL'

Jerry L. Rhyne, Chaplain Colonel, US Air Force (Retired), and Warren J. Lesane, Jr., Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel, US Air Force (Retired)

Since 1993, when the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy was instituted, approximately 14,000 military personnel have been discharged because of their sexual orientation. The repeal of this policy is necessary to do away with the burden of secrecy required of GLBT persons who serve in the military. This is not a moral issue. It is an issue of justice and inclusion.

SCHEDULE

Registration	9:00-9:30
Opening Session	9:30-10:00
with Chris Bishop, HELP (Helping Empower Local People)	
Workshop Session 1	10:05-11:10
Workshop Session 2	11:25-12:30
Lunch	12:30-1:40
Workshop Session 3	1:45-2:50
Closing Session	3:00-3:15
with Warren Lesane, Presbytery of Charlotte	
Adjourn	3:15

Registration Deadline: May 12, 2010

LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR 2010

OUR THANKS TO:

- Covenant Presbyterian Church, Charlotte for hosting the Seminar
 - Workshop and worship leaders and conveners, all of whom give us their time and expertise
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SPONSORED BY



North Carolina
Council of Churches

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Make checks payable to **"Presbytery of Charlotte,"**
and indicate **"2010 Legislative Seminar"** on the memo line.

Name: _____

Church/Organization (if applicable): _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Workshop Choices: (Please choose one workshop for each of the three sessions.)

SESSION 1

- The State Budget
- Clean & Open Government
- Combatting Human Trafficking
- NC Immigration Issues
- Global Warming & Ren. Energy
- Federal Immigration Issues
- Health Care

SESSION 2

- The State Budget
- Combatting Human Trafficking
- Age of Jurisdiction for Juv. Justice
- Death Penalty
- Understanding Legislative Process
- Prisoner Re-Entry

SESSION 3

- Taxes & the Tax Structure
- Repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"
- NC Immigration Issues
- Understanding Legislative Process
- Housing (Foreclosures)
- Domestic Violence

Mail (1) registration form and (2) \$20 registration fee to
Legislative Seminar
Presbytery of Charlotte
5700 Executive Center Drive, Suite 200
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