

Advocacy Committee Mission and Objectives

Formed in Spring 2019 in response to FPC's Strategic Plan and its emphasis on "Engaging and Embracing the Needs of the City," the Advocacy Committee's mission is to serve as "eyes and ears" for First Presbyterian Church in the community. Through research and deliberate community engagement, the committee seeks to learn about challenges facing our neighbors, to understand our responsibility as a church and as individuals for those challenges and to inform the congregation about opportunities for addressing those challenges.

The Advocacy Committee's objectives are to:

1. Learn about the challenges faced by neighbors in our community suffering from poverty or the consequences of societal problems such as racism and sexism - including , a) jobs which do not pay a living wage, b) inadequate affordable housing, c) unequal access to high quality childcare, education, healthcare and mental health care, and d) mass incarceration.
2. Learn about agencies, officials, community groups and neighborhood leaders who are working toward solutions for these challenges.
3. Understand as a committee and promote understanding in the congregation that systemic and individual racism and injustice are sins which cause harm to others and to us.
4. Bring information to Senior Staff, Session, Diaconate and other church groups about a) the above challenges, b) ways to provide support, and c) initiatives which – if taken by government, private agencies or individual citizens – would improve outcomes for our neighbors.
5. Work with church staff and appropriate committees to educate the congregation and encourage prayerful consideration of how God is calling us to engage as a church and as individual Christians as we seek to be *For Christ in the Heart of Charlotte*.