



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

2015 Advocacy Convening

September 22 – 24, 2015

Washington, D.C.

*Deliberative Discipleship,
Deliberative Democracy*





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September 26, 2015

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

From his book on being a bishop, William Willimon writes this: "Our great task is not to stabilize, standardize, or harmonize, the people of God but rather to be the church in motion." The Risen Christ is on the move, always has been, since that Easter morning. From Willimon again, "social justice and evangelism are the same movement: Jesus' 'Come unto me' linked to Jesus' 'Go into all the world.' Today it is more important to experience by the wild, untamed, uncontained power of the Holy Spirit...than a set of uniformly enforced ways of being the church."

For me there is great power in a bishop or community leader claiming her public voice in service of "God on the move" in this world. The movement of God's mission in the world moves toward justice, renovation, reconciliation, renewal. It moves toward the margins, toward the vulnerable, toward the cross and resurrection of Jesus comprehending it all. Pope Francis has given voice to this "God on the move" and we will be honored to share public space of mission with him in Washington.

As we gather for two days of learning together and conversation with members of Congress, I am encouraged by the your willingness to put your voice and hope, on behalf of the People of God, in the public arena. At a time when the divisions between "left" and "right," "conservative" and "progressive," have brought the legislative process to a standstill, the Gospel ignites our imaginations and encourages us, as disciples of Jesus, to walk in his path.

We will be spending time with Republicans and Democrats, exploring ways that we, as faith and community leaders, and as those who have committed our professional vocations to the particular tradition of the ELCA, can create common ground. To uncover shared values — across the political and theological spectrum — and create messages that can be heard by any number of audiences; conservative and progressive alike.

We are called, as church together and as Lutherans in particular, to model openness and listen with the spirit of courage demonstrated by Jesus, by the pope, by our bishops, and by our baptized members who join the moving God every day of their lives of discipleship. We do this not because it is nice or as a way of manipulating the other to get our point of view across; we do this for the sake of the world. For the more time the faithful spend playing into the current culture of divisiveness and partisanship, the more time the people we are called to serve languish in the margins. Communities of hope and wholeness will never come to fruition if we don't step out in faith, in broad daylight, and speak with those whom others say we shouldn't. The Resurrected Christ, moving into the world, beckons us and leads us.

My hope for these days together is that we astonish others by our openness, listening and dialogue. Thank you for your commitment to the difficult and sacred work of advocacy.

Finally, these words from Willimon: "[We] must relinquish need for control and bless a certain amount of holy chaos and apostolic risk-taking by the faithful as they experiment with new forms of mission to learn again the delight of working with a resurrected Savior and a pushy Holy Spirit who love to revolutionize through the meek and lowly."

Dear missionary bishops and community leaders, I look forward to being with you in Washington.

In Christ,

Stephen P. Bouman

Executive Director, Congregational and Synodical Mission

THE
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Dear fellow advocates,

On behalf of The Episcopal Church, I am pleased to welcome you to Washington. I eagerly have anticipated the time we will share together in prayer, formation, and practice of our baptismal mandate to strive for justice and peace.

In the Episcopal tradition, the catechism of the *Book of Common Prayer* tells us that the mission of the Church is “to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ,” and explains that the Church lives out this mission “as it prays and worships; proclaims the Gospel; and promotes justice, peace, and love.” The pursuit of a world that more closely reflects God’s dream for it – *thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven* – is central to basic Christian discipleship, and to the identity of all who are baptized.

I am delighted that, for the last four years, The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have been in intentional partnership around our advocacy ministries in Washington and beyond. The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (the name under which The Episcopal Church is incorporated and carries out our mission) and the ELCA share staff, jointly operate state public-policy networks and offices, and collaborate bilaterally on events like the one that brings us here this week. I believe our relationship is unique within the community of U.S.-based Churches involved in advocacy ministry, and is a direct fruit of the full-communion relationship between our Churches known as *Called to Common Mission* that will be 15 years old this winter.

I pray that our work together this week might bind, sanctify, and strengthen us for partnership in the years ahead, and that together we may be in solidarity with all those standing at the center of brokenness in the world God sent his Son to save.

With every prayer for our work this week, I am

Sincerely yours,



Alexander D. Baumgarten,
Director,
Public Engagement and Mission Communication

OFFICE of GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

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Advocacy in the ELCA and The Episcopal Church

About ELCA Advocacy's Washington, D.C. Office

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. The ELCA's advocacy efforts are guided by the experiences of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world, and by our ELCA social messages and statements. We work to create and influence public policies that embody the biblical values of peacemaking, hospitality to our neighbors, care for creation, and concern for our brothers and sisters facing poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

Contact: 202-626-7947 www.elca.org/advocacy

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About The Episcopal Church Office of Governmental Relations

The Office of Social Justice and Advocacy Engagement is responsible for engaging Episcopalians in building, resourcing, and empowering advocacy movements and networks for social justice at a local and community level. Together with people in the pews, lay leaders, and clergy, the office develops and supports diocesan State Public Policy Networks, which build and support locally led coalitions for social change according to the policy positions of The Episcopal Church.

The Office of Social Justice and Advocacy Engagement executes creative leadership initiatives to mobilize Episcopalians on issues of social change, and seeks to build and enhance communities committed to transforming unjust structures in societies, and to accompany and enrich the ministry of Episcopalians working to be catalysts for equality, justice, and transformation within their communities.

Contact: 202-547-7300 episcopalchurch.org/eppn

The Episcopal Church Office of Governmental Relations staff:

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Deliberative Discipleship, Deliberative Democracy

About the 2015 Advocacy Convening

This year's event focuses on developing inclusive ways to address divisive issues, and is summed up in our theme, "Deliberative Discipleship, Deliberative Democracy." During the event, we will learn about linking our personal discipleship to advocacy, conducting productive conversations about policy in our communities by developing a deliberative dialogue process, and how to effectively tell our stories to decision makers.

Advocacy on Capitol Hill

This convening occurs in the midst of Pope Francis' visit to Washington, when he will meet with President Obama, speak to a joint session of Congress, and address the United Nations as it adopts new global development goals and a new agreement to address climate change. Pope Francis is expected to address many of the issues raised in his recent encyclical released this past summer, including global income inequality and caring for creation. **In this providential moment, we have the opportunity to impact policy makers with our unique voices, perspectives and experiences, and give light to the intersection of poverty and climate change in the United States and around the world.**

Of equal importance, during this time Congress will be determining the budget for federal government operations. This includes critical funding for programs that impact our brothers and sisters who experience extreme hunger, poverty, and are forced to flee violence and the effects of environmental degradation.

Our shared faith tradition calls us to seek justice and peace in all the Earth. Our advocacy on Capitol Hill provides a unique opportunity for us to heed this call by advocating for programs that work to ensure every child of God is able to live a safe and dignified life.

Welcoming leaders from across the country

We are excited to welcome church and community leaders from across the United States to the 2015 Advocacy Convening. Participants include:

- Community leaders
- ELCA bishops
- ELCA churchwide staff
- Bishops of The Episcopal Church
- Advocacy staff of The Episcopal Church
- ELCA/Episcopal state public policy staff

Bringing together full communion partners

In an effort to deepen our relationships and to strengthen our public witness to the intersection of faith and issues that affect our communities, the ELCA is partnering with The Episcopal Church for the 2015 Advocacy Convening. We will be joined by a number of Episcopal bishops and advocacy staff as we gather in Washington, DC to learn and advocate for the care of all God's creation – especially our brothers and sisters who face hunger and poverty.



Schedule of Events



Tuesday, September 22

5:00 PM–6:00 PM **Registration** Washington Court Hotel Atrium Ballroom, 525 New Jersey Ave NW
Cash bar available at Washington Court Hotel prior to the Welcome Dinner

6:00 PM–8:00 PM **Welcome Dinner** Washington Court Hotel Ballroom, 525 New Jersey Ave NW
Welcome remarks: The Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director,
Congregational and Synodical Mission, ELCA
Keynote: Dr. Keri Day, Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University

Wednesday, September 23

7:30 AM–8:00AM **Shuttle from Residence Inn to Washington Court Hotel**
Breakfast is available at the Residence Inn from 6:30-7:30AM

7:30 AM–8:30AM **Breakfast** Washington Court Hotel Atrium Ballroom, 525 New Jersey Ave NW

8:30 AM–9:45 AM **Session 1: Deliberative Democracy**
The Rev. Gregg Kaufman, Kettering Foundation
Rev. Kaufman will speak about conducting productive conversations around
policy in our communities through a deliberative dialogue process.

9:45 AM –10:00 AM **Break**

10:00 AM–12:00 PM **Session 1 (continued)**
Rev. Kaufman will facilitate small group discussions around the deliberative
dialogue process. Dr. Keri Day will conclude with a wrap up conversation.

12:00 PM–1:00 PM **Lunch/** Remarks by Sen. John Unger, West Virginia State Senator

1:00 PM – 2:15 PM **Session 2: Telling our stories**
The Rev. Jen Bailey, Auburn/ Faith Matters Network (FMN)
The Rev. Kellie Anderson-Picallo, Auburn
Rev. Bailey and Rev. Anderson-Picallo will facilitate a detailed training on
storytelling for faith-rooted social change.

2:15 PM–2:30 PM **Break**

2:30 PM–3:45 PM **Session 2 (continued)**
Participants will break into small groups for this segment led by The Rev. Jen
Bailey and The Rev. Kellie Anderson-Picallo and will have a designated time to
plan for our upcoming visits with Congressional offices. Dr. Keri Day will
conclude with a wrap up conversation.

3:45 PM–5:00 PM **Session 3: Engaging in Civil Discourse**
Mike McCurry, Wesley Theological Seminary
Timothy Goeglein, Focus on the Family

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM **Break/ walk to reception**

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM **Reception** Mott House, 122 Maryland Ave. NE
This reception will be attended by all convening participants, Administration
officials, and Lutheran and Episcopal partners in Washington. Hors d'oeuvres will
be served.

7:15 PM **Shuttle to Residence Inn/ Dinner (on your own)**



Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 24

7:00AM–7:30AM	Shuttle from Residence Inn to Washington Court Hotel
7:00AM–7:40AM	Luggage drop-off at Washington Court Hotel All attendees should drop their luggage off at Washington Court Hotel. Specific directions will be given by staff.
7:40AM–8:00AM	Walk to Capitol Hill 106 Dirksen Senate Office Building All attendees will walk together to Dirksen Senate Office Building. Due to potential security restrictions on this day, it is important that we enter the building together.
8:00 AM–11:00 AM	Live stream of Pope Francis' address to Congress Attendees will gather to watch a live stream of the address in Dirksen Senate Office Building. Due to security, please plan to remain in the building until the prayer brunch has ended (unless instructed otherwise).
11:00 AM–12:00 PM	Prayer Brunch This brunch will take place immediately following Pope Francis' address. We will gather with Members of Congress and Congressional staff for prayer, fellowship, and engagement. <u>Please bring your printed invitation.</u>
12:00PM–5:00PM	Advocacy Meetings with Congress Attendees will hold a number of meetings with Members of Congress and Congressional staff across Capitol Hill. These meetings will take place throughout the afternoon and are expected to end by 5:00PM. Attendees may rest between meetings at the Methodist Building, 100 Maryland Ave NE
5:00PM	Departure



Speakers

Dr. Keri Day, Keynote Speaker

Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University

Keri Day is an Associate Professor of Theological and Social Ethics & Director of Black Church Studies Program at Brite Divinity School, Texas Christian University. She earned an M.A. in Religion and Ethics from Yale University Divinity School and received her Ph.D. in Philosophy and Religion from Vanderbilt University.

Her academic research focuses on how black religious thought addresses global economics, especially among poor women of color. Her articles and essays on religion and economics have been published in a number of nationally regarded journals. Her first academic book, *Unfinished Business: Black Women, The Black Church, and the Struggle to Thrive in America*, was published by Orbis Books in November of 2012. Her second book, *Religious Resistance to Neoliberalism: Womanist and Black Feminist Perspectives*, will be published (Palgrave MacMillan) in December. She is at work on her third book project, which explores the black religious dimensions of “Resurrection City” associated with the Poor People’s Campaign Movement. She also will be the Visiting Associate Professor of Theological and Social Ethics & Black Church Studies at Yale University Divinity School Spring of 2016.

Alongside her scholarship, she also engages public policy leaders. In 2011, she was the keynote speaker at the Mayor’s Prayer Breakfast in Springfield, Illinois, highlighting the importance of interfaith dialogue within local communities. In addition, she was part of the 2012 delegation of scholars who participated in the White House Religious Scholars Briefing in Washington D.C. to discuss issues related to economic policy, religious freedom, faith-based initiatives, human rights efforts, and peace building efforts around the world. She has been a guest political commentator on KERA/NPR, DFW/FOX News, and Huffpost Live with Marc Lamont Hill on issues related to faith and politics. She has written for the Dallas Morning News’ Faith and Politics Blog and The Huffington Post.



Rev. Gregg Kaufman

Kettering Foundation

Rev. Gregg Kaufman marked the 40th anniversary of ordination in June 2015. A native of eastern Pennsylvania, Kaufman graduated from Waterloo Lutheran University (B.A. Political Science, 1971), Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (M.Div. 1975), and Princeton Theological Seminary (Th.M. Homiletics, 1998). Kaufman is on the ELCA retired roster of the Florida Bahamas Synod and in November 2014, he retired from Georgia College. He developed a consulting endeavor, The Deliberative Voice (www.thedeliberativevoice.com) in an effort to remain committed to a ministry that links discipleship and citizenship. Kaufman sought and was chosen to be the developer and director of the Coverdell Institute at Georgia College, Georgia’s Public Liberal Art University, Milledgeville, GA in 2004. He worked with colleagues to engage students and faculty in civic engagement efforts. During his tenure, Kaufman became associated



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Speakers

with the Kettering Foundation. Among several research initiatives, Kaufman and a colleague represented Georgia College as one of eleven institutions chosen for a Kettering initiative called Organizing Centers for Public Life out of which Kaufman and his colleagues developed the GC Public Voice Partnership.

Over his last four years at the university, deliberative democracy or public deliberation became his teaching and community engagement focus. He served as the principal investigator of a Kettering Foundation project entitled *Cultivating Deliberative Democracy in Milledgeville, GA* (2012-2014) and, with his students, Kaufman organized and facilitated several deliberative democracy events in Milledgeville and on the GC campus. Kaufman also serves as a director of the National Issues Forums Institute advisory body (2013-2016). NIFI is affiliated with the Kettering Foundation and publishes and promotes deliberative dialogue issue books as well as an online deliberative process, Common Ground for Action.

Senator John Unger II West Virginia State Senate

Pastor John Unger has committed his life to being a servant-leader by bringing together his many experiences in theology and public life. Unger has worked with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, India during the monsoons and riots in 1990. He also provided relief for Kurdish refugees in southern Turkey and northern Iraq following the Persian Gulf War in 1991 and later provided direct relief and recovery assistance to orphanages, children's hospitals, senior care homes and homes for the mentally disabled in Iraq during the second war in 2003.



Unger is currently serving as a West Virginia state senator. He was first elected to the West Virginia Senate in 1998 at the age of 28 – making him one of the youngest elected state senator in West Virginia history. Unger made West Virginia one of the first states in the nation to have universal early childhood education through the West Virginia Early Child Education Act. He has combated child poverty and hunger with the Feed to Achieve Act and fought to protect our water and environment through the Water Resource Protection Act and the Farmland Protection Act. Also, Unger is currently the pastor of the three historic Harpers Ferry Civil War churches that makes this the first ministry in the nation where a pastor is serving three different denominations (Lutheran, United Methodist, and Episcopal) at the same time. His ecumenical ministry was recently featured on PBS Religion and Ethics.

Unger is a Rhodes Scholar who graduated from WVU with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Liberal Arts / Biology, Oxford University with a BA/MA (Oxon) in Philosophy, Politics and of Economics and Wesley Theological Seminary (along with Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg) with the M.Div (Honors). He is currently pursuing a Doctorate.



Speakers

Rev. Jennifer Bailey

Faith Matters Network (FMN)

Named one of 15 Faith Leaders to Watch in 2015, Rev. Jennifer Bailey is an ordained minister, community organizer, and emerging national leader in the multi-faith movement for justice. As Founder and Executive Director of the Faith Matters Network (FMN), Jennifer believes that people of faith can be game changers in the fight to build a more just, compassionate, and peaceful world. She comes to this work with nearly a decade of experience combatting intergenerational poverty in her hometown of Chicago and her adopted home, Nashville, Tennessee.



A child of the food justice movement, Jennifer worked to increase access to public benefits for food insecure families in Middle Tennessee and organized residents of food deserts to advocate for transformational public policies in their communities. After years of listening deeply to the stories of community members living with hunger, Jennifer realized that the immediate issue of food insecurity was a symptom of much larger issue: structural economic injustice. At the same time, she noted that the regions of the country with the greatest economic disparities are also the areas with the highest rates of religious participation in the United States.

A Truman Scholar, Jennifer earned degrees from Tufts University and Vanderbilt University Divinity School where she was awarded the Wilbur F. Tillett Prize for accomplishments in the study of theology. She is an ordained itinerant elder in the African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, the oldest historically-black denomination in the United States. Jennifer is currently a Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellow, an elite cohort of innovative leaders combatting issues of economic and social inequality with outside-the-box thinking.

Rev. Kellie Anderson-Picallo

Auburn, First Presbyterian Church of Englewood

Reverend Kellie Anderson-Picallo is a minister and media professional. A first-career award-winning producer for PBS and the Discovery Channel, she is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary in NYC with an undergraduate degree in journalism. She currently consults in religion and media including her work as Coordinator of ON Scripture at Odyssey Networks, an online pastoral resource that approaches the Bible and Lectionary through the lens of current events. A PC (USA) minister at First Presbyterian Church of Englewood in the Presbytery of the Palisades, Kellie helped develop a video ministry called 90 Second Sermon that teaches pastors how to create digital sermon deliverables. Kellie has been part of the Auburn Media Training team since its founding workshop. Kellie lives in NYC with her husband and two children.



Speakers

Mike McCurry

Public Strategies Washington, Inc., Wesley Theological Seminary

Mike McCurry is a principal at the Washington, DC public affairs and communications consulting firm Public Strategies Washington, Inc. He is also co-director of the National Capital Seminar for Seminarians and a Distinguished Professor of Public Theology at the Wesley Theological Seminary in the nation's capital.

McCurry is a veteran political strategist and spokesperson with nearly four decades of experience in Washington. McCurry served in the White House as Press Secretary to President Bill Clinton (1995-1998). He also served as Spokesman for the U.S. Department of State (1993-1995) and Director of Communications for the Democratic National Committee (1988-1990). McCurry held a variety of leadership roles in national campaigns for the Democratic ticket from 1984 to 2004 and worked as a Press Secretary in the United States Senate from 1976 to 1983, serving Senators Harrison A. Williams, Jr. (D-NJ) and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY).

In 2000, McCurry joined the Board of Governors of the Wesley Theological Seminary and served two terms while also completing a graduate degree. He is the Lay Leader of his local church, the St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Kensington, MD.

McCurry serves on numerous boards or advisory councils including Share Our Strength, the Children's Scholarship Fund, the White House Historical Association, and the Global Health Initiative of the United Methodist Church. He is Co-Chair of the Commission on Presidential Debates, which organizes the fall general election debates between the major candidates for President and Vice President of the United States.

McCurry received his Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University in 1976 and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Georgetown University in 1985 in addition to his MA degree from Wesley Seminary which he received in 2013.



Timothy Goeglein

Focus on the Family

Tim Goeglein champions God's welcomed role in the public square. His years of public service and private initiative have been devoted to faith, freedom, and family. Tim is the Senior Advisor to the President and Vice President for External Relations at Focus on the Family in Washington. He served in high-level government posts for the past two decades. He worked as Special Assistant to President George W. Bush, where he was the Deputy Director of the White House Office of Public Liaison from 2001 to 2008. He was the President's principal outreach contact for conservatives, think tanks, veteran's groups, faith-based groups, and some of America's leading cultural organizations. He was a member of the President's original 2000 campaign and White House staff, serving for nearly 8 years.

Goeglein is the author of the political memoir *THE MAN IN THE MIDDLE: FAITH AND POLITICS IN THE GEORGE W. BUSH ERA* which was published in September, 2011.



Speakers

From 1988 through 1998, Tim was first the Deputy Press Secretary, followed by Press Secretary and Communications Director for U.S. Senator Dan Coats of Indiana (who was in the Senate for a decade). Between his time with the Senate and Bush campaign, Tim served as Communications Director for Gary Bauer at the Campaign for Working Families and in the Bauer presidential bid.

Tim was an intern for then-U.S. Senator Dan Quayle in 1985, and for then-Representative Dan Coats and for NBC News in 1986 during his college years at Indiana University's Ernie Pyle School of Journalism. When he graduated in 1986, he was the Richard Gray Fellow in his senior year. Tim's first job upon graduation was as a television news producer for the NBC affiliate in his hometown of Fort Wayne, Indiana. During high school and college, he produced a show for WOWO Radio, then owned by the Westinghouse Broadcasting Corporation. The program was heard in 28 states.

Tim holds Honorary Doctorate degrees from Concordia University, New York City; and from Faith Evangelical College and Seminary, Tacoma, Washington. Tim is the secretary of the Coalitions for America Board and the American Conservatives Union Foundation Board, a member of the board for the National Civic Art Society, and a member of the board of governors of the Young America's Foundation which owns and operates the Ronald Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara, California. Goeglein serves on the American Conservative Union Foundation Board of Directors. Also, he is a member of the Council for National Policy, the Philadelphia Society, and the Capitol Hill Club. Tim serves on the Sanctity of Life Commission for his church body, the 2.5 million- member Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and has served as a deacon in his church for 25 years. His hobbies include reading, tennis, swimming, biking, and the fine arts. He has been married to Jenny for 24 years; they have two sons Tim and Paul; and they live in the Washington metropolitan area.



Advocacy toolkit – taking it home

Introduction

When many people think of advocacy, they imagine protests or heated debates about contentious political issues. While these activities can be considered advocacy action, **some of the most effective advocacy happens with people we know through engagement and education around topics that affect our communities.**

For this reason, it is important to bring advocacy home. We can do this a number of ways: by **communicating with our elected officials on important issues affecting our communities**, by **engaging with the media**, and by **sharing our stories and working to build a common sense of community beyond the physical walls of our homes or churches.**

Before leaving Washington: follow up after your Congressional visits

Social media is a great tool for following up on meetings with lawmakers to amplify the impact of your advocacy message and to remind them of the issues you care about. It is also a great way to tell your family and friends about your involvement in advocacy efforts.

Congressional offices often use social media to help gauge public opinions. Almost every member of Congress uses at least one social media platform. It is an excellent way to strengthen your relationship with the office!

- **Pictures Count-** Take pictures during your meetings with officials. Adding pictures, videos, and visuals to posts attracts more views, likes, and shares on social media.
- **Tagging Elected Officials-** You can notify your members of Congress that you shared a message about your visit by “tagging” them in your post. This is the best way to maximize your impact. Using the “@” sign before an office’s social media title on Facebook or Twitter will notify the office of your message (see example below). Sometimes the official will respond!
- **Hashtags:** You can draw in more followers and views by adding hashtags (“#”) to your issues. Other interested social media users often search for tagged words, and can find your post in a search-list. This is often the best way to earn new followers and maximize your views.
- **Sharing with Lutherans!** On Twitter and Facebook, use the handle [@ELCAadvocacy](#) and [@TheEPPN](#) to notify us of your message, and we will share your post with our networks!



Advocacy toolkit – taking it home

Begin the conversation in your community

As a church or community leader, you have multiple spaces to engage on issues that affect your community or matter to you. Think about the groups you already belong to that might be open to a conversation. Here are some tips for initiating a conversation and engaging in advocacy back home:

No one is “voiceless”

Stories and personal testimonies are important ways to give witness to an issue in your community. However, remember that the most powerful stories come from those with lived experiences in the issue area you seek to address. When you do share the stories of others, be mindful to use your voice to help lift their voice rather than speaking for them.

Look for existing networks and spaces – don’t “reinvent the wheel”

Before starting your advocacy efforts at home, make sure you map out what your community is already doing on the topic you are passionate about. Look for ways to join efforts with others or to become a bigger leader in the spaces that already exist. Many synods and congregations already have groups dedicated to working on a variety of issues. Several states also have State Public Policy Offices that can help you find audiences interested in your topic.

Lutheran and Episcopal State Advocacy Offices:

CA - Lutheran Office of Public Policy,
director@loppca.org

CO - Lutheran Advocacy Ministry,
pseverson@rmselca.org

IL - Lutheran Advocacy, jennifer.deleon@lssi.org

MN - Lutheran Advocacy, tammy@lcppm.org

NV - Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy,
mp4675@att.net

OH - Faith Coalition for the Common Good,
nick@oneohionow.org

NJ - Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy
Ministry, slilja@learnj.org

NM - Lutheran Advocacy Ministry,
ruth@lutheranadvocacynm.org

PA - Lutheran Advocacy Ministry,
lampa@lutheranadvocacypa.org

WA - Faith Action Network,
Benz@fanwa.org

WI - Lutheran Office for Public Policy,
cindyc@loppw.org

One to One conversations are critical

Take the time to have individual intentional conversations with members of your community to begin or continue a relationship. Your goal should be to discover what is most important to them, to hear their story, to better understand your community as a whole, and to learn how you can support one another in advocacy action. Take care to listen more than you talk! If you find it appropriate, engage new people by asking them to take action. Keep an eye out for engaged leaders around you who would be interested in starting an initiative or helping mobilize your community to take action.

Join the ELCA Advocacy Network/ Episcopal Public Policy Network

Get connected to our advocacy networks by visiting elca.org/advocacy and advocacy.episcopalchurch.org to stay up-to-date on significant advocacy issues. Encourage others to join the network as well!



Advocacy toolkit – taking it home

Hold an in-district meeting with your Congress person

Elected officials in Congress regularly return to their home districts to stay engaged with their constituents. While they are home, there are multiple ways you can engage your elected officials in your policy issues.

Scheduling an In-District Meeting

- **Call** your Member of Congress' state/district office and ask when the Member will be in town. Contact information is found on the Member's website.
- **Request to meet** at a time the member is available or during a key time for your policy issue. When you call the office, make sure you have multiple dates and times prepared in case their schedule is overflowing with meetings. Don't forget:
 - Notify the scheduler of the topic you will discuss.
 - It is possible that your meeting will not be a one-on-one meeting with your Member of Congress, but rather a group meeting with several constituents discussing the same topic.
- **Follow up** via phone 3 days later to confirm that your meeting has been scheduled.

Know before you go

- Consider scheduling the meeting with a group of people. A larger group (usually no more than 5 attendees) may make a meeting with a legislator more likely. If you are in a group, designate who will introduce the group, and ensure that each person makes only one key point.
- Find someone in their district or state that is affected by the policy issue you will discuss.
- Be prepared for a short meeting. Have your agenda set with points to discuss. Even in home districts, Members' schedules can be extremely busy.
- Know what you want! Pick one or two very specific issues that you are concerned with, and strategize on how the legislator can help resolve the issue.
- Know your legislator! Research beforehand which committees or issues the legislator regularly works on, and predict where they might stand on your issue. If you think they may be resistant to your request, research or imagine what arguments or statistics they may reference so you are not caught off-guard in the meeting.
- Bring one or two newspapers articles, fact sheets or other materials that you may leave behind that summarizes your ask.
- Dress appropriately (business casual at the very least). It is often helpful to arrive a little early to be prompt and have time to review your points.

During your meeting

- Introduce yourself and/or the group, mentioning where you come from, who you represent, and thank the official or staff-member for agreeing to meet.
- Start the conversation by sharing the reason for your visit. Continue with a personal story or fact sheet.



Advocacy toolkit – taking it home

- Make a clear, specific request of the legislator (e.g. champion or support a specific piece of legislation or funding level for an issue). It is very fair to ask them where they stand on the issue, or what they have done to help it.
- Stay on topic! Elected officials are often very sociable, and it is very easy to spend most of your meeting time to talk about personal details. While you want the meeting to be enjoyable and personal, pay attention to the time and make sure that you have time to fully convey your message.
- Once you have shared your story, most meetings open up to a back and forth conversation. Listen carefully to what the legislator says, and be ready (if need-be) to politely push back or be encouraging. It is important to:
 - Ask key questions about what they will specifically do on the issue in the future.
 - Inquire as to whether they would be interested in championing the issue if they are already supportive and to encourage other legislators to do the same.
 - Say you will follow up with them or their staff via email to send them materials that relate to your conversation.

Follow up after your meeting

- [Fill out the ELCA In-District Activity Form](#) to record your meeting with the ELCA Advocacy Office.
- Send the legislator any information, reports, or follow up information that you may have offered during the meeting.
- Send the office a thank you note or email for the meeting.

Participate in Congressional Town Hall Meetings

If in-district meetings don't seem like the right setting for you, there are still ways to get involved! Call the local office of your Member of Congress or visit their website to find out if they are hosting a "Town Hall Meeting" near you. Town Hall meetings are great spaces to lift your voice alongside your fellow constituents and community. Use this opportunity to have your questions answered and concerns heard! If you do not see an upcoming opportunity in the near future, subscribe to your elected official's email list or newsletter to stay posted on when they will be visiting a city near you!



Advocacy toolkit – taking it home

Make your voice heard through op-eds & letters to the editor

Op-eds and letters to the editor (LTEs) can be effective in highlighting an issue or opinion that has not been part of the media narrative. By writing an opinion piece or letter to the editor, you can voice your opinion to policy makers and educate your community at the same time. (*For more information on writing letters to the editor, visit elca.org/advocacy and visit our “resources” page.*) Below are some tips for writing op-eds and submitting them to your local, regional, or national newspapers.

Writing your op-ed

- **Be timely.** Your article is more likely to be published if you’re discussing a popular or unusual topic rather than last month’s news.
- **Less is more.** You should plan to make your case in 750 words or less. Neither the newspaper staff member nor newspaper readers will want to read an article longer than this. Keep in mind that national newspapers such as the New York Times or Washington Post have an even shorter word limit.
- **Have a focused topic.** Stick to making one concise point. If you can’t summarize your message in one or two sentences, you’ll want to consider making a narrower claim.
- **Show readers why they should care.** Answer “so what?” This is where your passion comes in; use your own unique language to convey the importance of your message up-front.
- **Make it personal.** Make your readers feel like a person is speaking to them, rather than a textbook. If you can eloquently use words like “I” and “you,” don’t be afraid to. You’re writing a personal piece, not a scientific article.
- **Know your audience.** Mold the message to your audience (i.e. young professionals, policy makers, etc.) Consider the audience of the newspaper where the op-ed will be published. If possible, cite local statistics or tell stories of local people affected.
- **Make sure it is readable.** Use short sentences and paragraphs. Seeing bulky sections of text will discourage readers from reading your whole piece.
- **Address the ‘Elephant in the Room.’** Acknowledge opposing arguments and how you would respond to them. However, make sure most of the op-ed focuses on making your point, not refuting others’.

Submitting your op-ed:

- **Read through submission instructions.** Many newspapers explain on their website how to submit op-eds under their Opinion section. Always include your contact information and carefully follow the instructions given by the newspaper. Make sure to use a phone number that you can easily be reached at.
- **Think about likelihood of being published.** Big newspapers like The Washington Post, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal receive thousands of op-eds each week. While you may be able to get published in these, you’ll probably have better luck going to local and regional newspapers. These local papers will also reach your community much faster.



Advocacy toolkit – taking it home

Connect online with fellow advocates and the public through blogs

Writing a blog is different from writing an essay, op-ed, or article. Blogs are generally expected to be informal while still sharing interesting points and opinions. Stories shared through blogs help your audience connect with you as an advocate, as a community member, and as a person of faith. As a blogger, you have the entire internet as an audience, which allows you to connect with a variety of people.

Components of a good blog

- **A catchy title** - This attracts readers and can add humor, depending on your topic.
- **Links to other pages** - This is one of the wonderful advantages of writing blogs. You can reference documents, opinions, and events by simply linking to other webpages on the internet.
- **Pictures** - A good picture can set the tone and become a symbol of your message. Think of a powerful visual that can illustrate why readers should care about your message.
- **Organized content** - Make lists, concept maps, subtitled-sections, etc. to organize your information in a readable way.
- **Stylized text** - Bold, italicize, highlight or put in a text box areas of language that are key to your message.
- **A call to action or main point** - Depending on your topic, you may want to ask your readers to take a certain stance or action (ex. contact your Congresswoman, join us at an event... etc.). Include a hyperlink to sources where people can take action, such as our online ELCA Advocacy Resources.

Expand your impact by sharing your blog with ELCA Advocacy! If you're interested in a public policy issue, reach out to our policy staff, to help you strategize provide resources.

Already have a blog on a policy issue written? Email washingtonoffice@elca.org or share it on social media with #ELCAadvocacy, and we will share it with our network!



Advocacy toolkit – ELCA Advocacy Priorities

2015 ELCA Advocacy Priorities

The ELCA Advocacy Office works on a variety of issues every year, and selects key priorities based on an issue's timeliness, its relevance to Lutheran theology, and the impact the faith community can make on the issue. Read below to learn about our 2015 advocacy priorities and find out how to connect with ELCA policy staff members who work on these issues.

“This church shall study social issues and trends, work to discover the causes of oppression and injustice, and develop programs of ministry and advocacy to further human dignity, freedom, justice, and peace in the world.”
(ELCA Constitution, Chapter 4.031)

Care for creation

2015 Environmental policy priorities: Work to protect water quality standards, ensure a strong Endangered Species Act, support a strong and proactive U.S. position in the negotiations for the Paris climate change agreement and funding for international climate institutions.

Contact: Mary Minette, Interim Advocacy Director

Email: Mary.Minette@elca.org

Phone: 202-626-7935

Peacemaking

2015 International policy priorities: Advocate for the passage of the Food for Peace Act and the International Violence against Women Act, address funding needs for humanitarian relief, and promote peace in the Middle East.

Contact: Patricia Kisare, ELCA/ Episcopal Church Legislative Representative for International Policy

Email: Patricia.Kisare@elca.org

Phone: 202-626-7932

Hospitality to our neighbors

2015 Migration policy priorities: Improve the treatment of migrants in-transit, seek opportunities to address the root causes of migration in Central America, and ensure all policies uphold human rights and dignity.

Contact: Alaide Vilchis Ibarra, Assistant Director, Migration Policy

Email: Alaide.Ibarra@elca.org

Phone: 202-626-3841

Concern for our brothers and sisters living in poverty and struggling with hunger

2015 Domestic policy priorities: Take concrete steps toward ending hunger by enhancing domestic programs, including reauthorizing the Child Nutrition and WIC Act. Work with state and federal partners to address unjust systems of mass incarceration by passing the Second Chance Act.

Contact: John Johnson, Program Director, Domestic Policy

Email: John.Johnson@elca.org

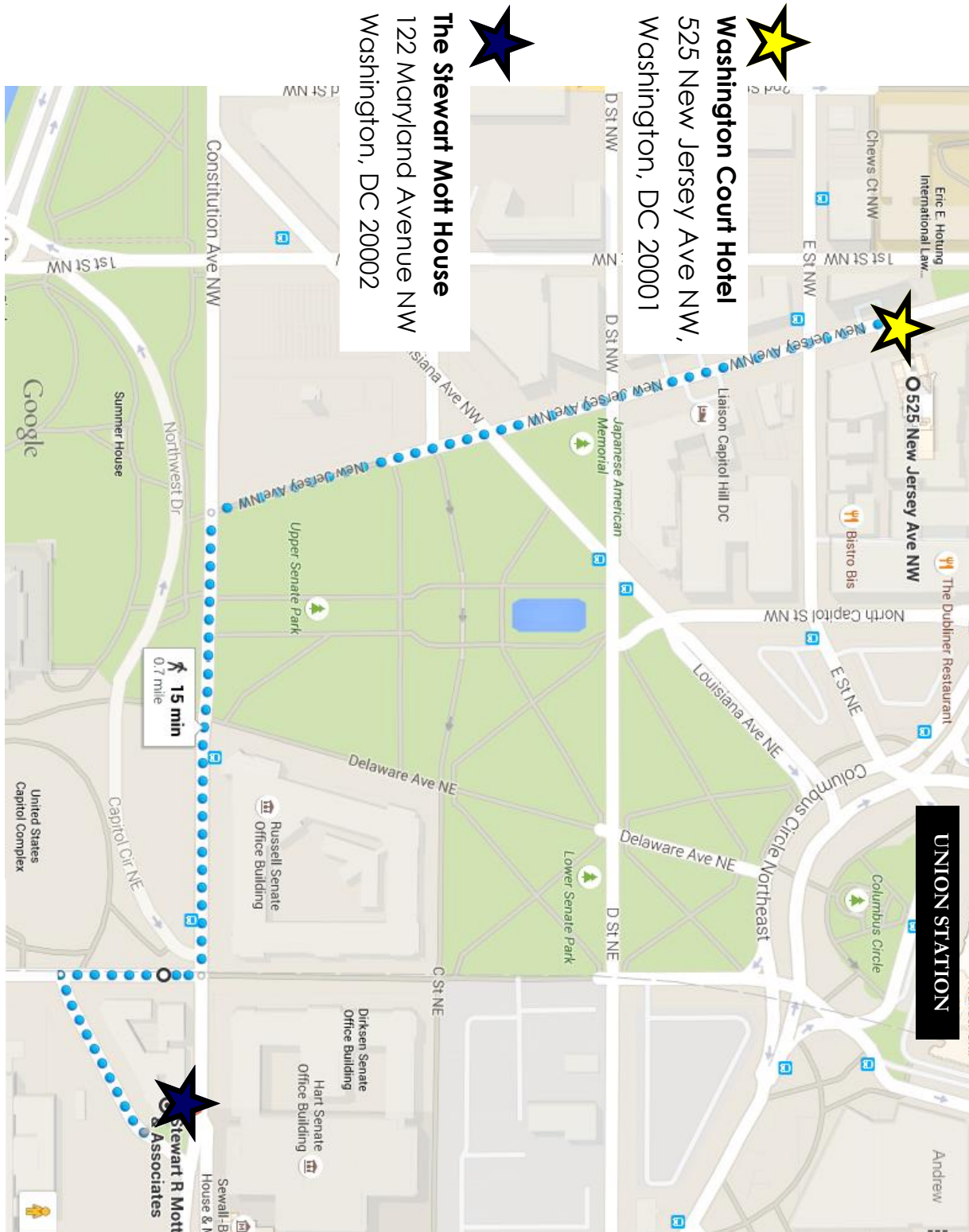
Phone: 202-626-7941



Maps and Directions



Directions from Washington Court Hotel to Evening Reception 5:00 PM, Wednesday September 23



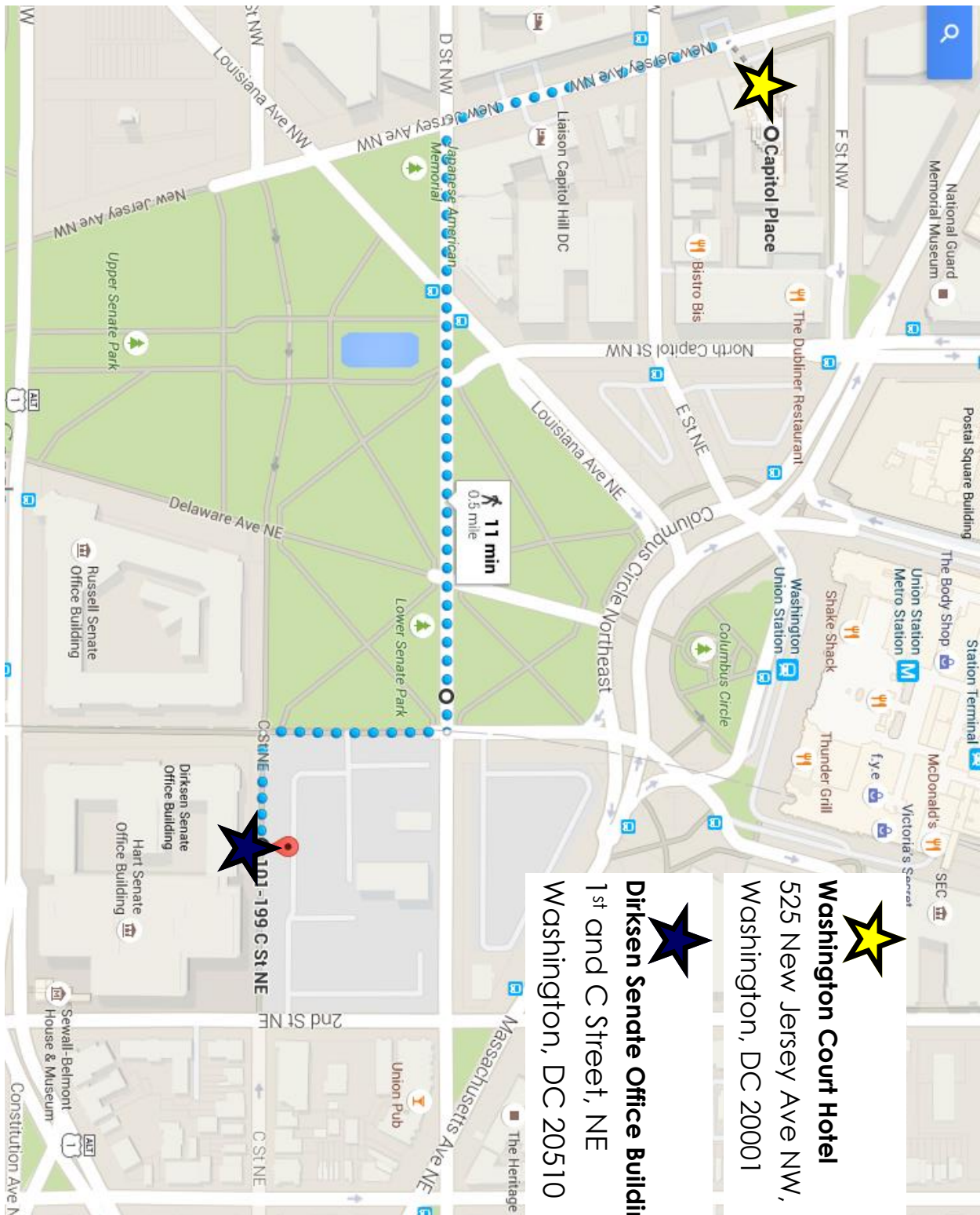
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



Maps and Directions

Directions from Washington Court Hotel to Prayer Brunch (Dirksen Senate Office Building) 8:00AM, Thursday, September 24



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

Maps and Directions

Restaurants near Marriott Residence Inn - Arlington, VA

SOCCI	Italian	\$\$	0.1 miles	2800 S Potomac Ave Arlington, VA 22202
McDonalds	American	\$	0.3 miles	2620 Jefferson Davis Hwy Arlington, VA 22202
Jaleo	Tapas	\$\$	0.4 miles	Crystal City Shops 2250 Crystal Dr Arlington, VA 22202
The Portofino Restaurant	Italian	\$\$	0.4 miles	526 23rd St S Arlington, VA 22202
Legal Sea Foods	Seafood	\$\$	0.4 miles	2301 Jefferson Davis Hwy Arlington, VA 22227
Kora Italian	Italian	\$\$	0.4 miles	Crystal City Shops 2250 Crystal Dr Arlington, VA 22202
Buffalo Wild Wings	American	\$	0.4 miles	2450 Crystal Dr Arlington, VA 22202
Subway	American	\$	0.4 miles	2461 S Clark St Arlington, VA 22202
O'Malley's Sports Pub	American	\$\$	0.3 miles	2650 Jefferson Davis Hwy Arlington, VA 22202
Chipotle Mexican Grill		\$	0.6 miles	Crystal City Shops 2231 Crystal Dr #100 Arlington, VA 22202
We, The Pizza	Pizza	\$\$	0.6 miles	Crystal City Shops 2100 Crystal Dr Arlington, VA 22202

Restaurants near Washington Court Hotel - Washington, DC

Bistro Bis	French Bistro		15 E St NW	\$\$\$
The Dubliner	Irish Bar		4 F St NW	\$\$
Kelly's Irish Times	Irish Bar		14 F St NW	\$
Billy Goat Tavern & Grill	American		500 New Jersey Ave NW	\$
Art and Soul	American Southern		415 New Jersey Ave NW	\$\$\$
Bistro 525	Breakfast		525 New Jersey Ave NW	\$\$\$
Kogod's New York Deli	Deli		441 New Jersey Ave NW	\$
UNION STATION	Au Bon Pain		50 Massachusetts Ave., NE	1st Floor
UNION STATION	Cajun Grill		54 Massachusetts Ave., NE	Basement
UNION STATION	Chipotle		56 Massachusetts Ave., NE	1st Floor
UNION STATION	Chop't		57 Massachusetts Ave., NE	1st Floor
UNION STATION	Crepe Lena		58 Massachusetts Ave., NE	Basement
UNION STATION	Einstein Brothers Bagels		60 Massachusetts Ave., NE	Basement
UNION STATION	Häagen-Dazs		61 Massachusetts Ave., NE	Basement
UNION STATION	Johnny Rockets		63 Massachusetts Ave., NE	Basement
UNION STATION	Kabuki Sushi		64 Massachusetts Ave., NE	Basement
UNION STATION	Le Pain Quotidien		65 Massachusetts Ave., NE	1st Floor
UNION STATION	McDonald's		66 Massachusetts Ave., NE	Basement
UNION STATION	Pizzeria Uno		67 Massachusetts Ave., NE	2nd Floor
UNION STATION	Potbelly Sandwich Works		68 Massachusetts Ave., NE	1st Floor
UNION STATION	Pret A Manger		69 Massachusetts Ave., NE	1st Floor
UNION STATION	Roti Mediterranean Grill		70 Massachusetts Ave., NE	1st Floor
UNION STATION	Shake Shack		73 Massachusetts Ave., NE	1st Floor
UNION STATION	ShopHouse Southeast Asian		74 Massachusetts Ave., NE	1st Floor
UNION STATION	Starbucks		75 Massachusetts Ave., NE	1st Floor

