

Asbury Theological Seminary
ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange

Papers, PDF Files, and Presentations

Advocacy on US Government Foreign Assistance

2012

ELCA Org Matrix.

Evangelical Advocacy: A Response to Global Poverty

Follow this and additional works at: <http://place.asburyseminary.edu/advocacypapers>

Recommended Citation

Evangelical Advocacy: A Response to Global Poverty, "ELCA Org Matrix." (2012). *Papers, PDF Files, and Presentations*. Book 18.
<http://place.asburyseminary.edu/advocacypapers/18>

This Document is brought to you for free and open access by the Advocacy on US Government Foreign Assistance at ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Papers, PDF Files, and Presentations by an authorized administrator of ePLACE: preserving, learning, and creative exchange. For more information, please contact thad.horner@asburyseminary.edu.

Organization, Contact information, address, website ⁱ	Organizational Identity: mission, purpose, vision of change, philosophical, religious or political affiliation, theological underpinnings ⁱⁱ	Focus of efforts or target issues or groups they choose to work on or with and the primary audience or audiences for messages/action. Note also any key partnerships ⁱⁱⁱ	Types of advocacy they engage in—public interest, policy, people centered, other or some combination ^{iv}	Methods, tools, approaches, or activities characterize their efforts ^v	Efforts with, by or for those affected (their role); approaches to assuring participation of those affected by the problem ^{vi}	Levels of advocacy—local, regional, national, international ^{vii}	Research, evaluation strategies and results they have seen. Changes they expect and/or how they have changed over time based on needs or new information gained ^{viii}	Sources of funding and other support (constituents)—individual donors, government support, foundations? ^{ix}
<p>Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church in America http://www.elca.org/ ELCA Churchwide Organization 8765 W. Higgins Road Chicago, IL 60631 Phone: 800/638-3522 or 773/380-2700 Fax: 773/380-1465</p>	<p>The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America addresses social concerns as a witness to God's just and loving purpose for all of creation. It does this by equipping and nurturing members for their calling in the world, encouraging learning and moral deliberation around social concerns, developing and enacting social policy in the form of social statements, and interpreting and applying social policy. Under how the ELCA sees advocacy as part of its mission, they write: According to the ELCA's Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, among the purposes of our church in participating in God's mission is to: <i>-serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs (4.02.c).</i> <i>- lift its voice in concord and work in concert with forces for good, to serve humanity, cooperating with church and other groups participating in activities that promote justice, relieve misery, and reconcile the estranged (4.03.g).</i> <i>-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 (4.03.1).</i></p>	<p>The seven areas of advocacy at ELCA include: -Environment and Energy -US Hunger, Poverty, and Economic Justice -Global Poverty and Development -Healthy Policy and Global Disease -Peace and Conflict -Israel and Palestine -Human Dignity and Human Rights With each issue that ELCA votes to address, they mobilize different advocacy efforts organized or active within the ELCA synod. For instance, one of the seven social issues listed by the ELCA is Environment and Energy, under which the ELCA specifically tackles Mountaintop Coal Mining, Climate Change and Poverty as researched by a delegation sent to Nicaragua, and Water Access. For each of these topics within each of the social issues the ELCA addresses, they provide statements and theological reflection, as well as coordinating activities for change. In addition, they include on their website helpful web addresses and resources for more information and action. For example, regarding mountaintop removal mining they gave links to the 1993 treatise called Caring for Creation and the 1999 document Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All, both social statements written by the ELCA. After these documents came links for Appalachian Voices, I Love Mountains, and the US Environmental Protection Agency.</p>	<p>According to VeneKlasen's definitions, the ELCA engages in Social Justice Advocacy through education and highlighting issues that have been ignored or submerged. In addition, I would add that the ELCA also engages in Corporate Social Responsibility, and Community-based advocacy.</p>	<p>-Congregation-based organizing -Tools to write to an editor, call an elected official, meet with a legislator, participate in a Town Hall, or to stay connected to the ELCA e-advocacy network -Mobilizing members to attend the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in D.C. -Social statements which are major documents on social issues adopted by 2/3 majority of ELCA Assembly. -Joining the One Campaign as a ONE Lutheran Congregation Campaign Leader -ELCA Student Advocacy Teams, which are student-led and organized advocacy teams at colleges, universities, and seminaries working for grassroots advocacy through connection with the ELCA Washington office. -The Shareholder's Network, a CSR resource to keep members alert about events, news, and resources for investing and engaging in CSR.</p>	<p>And in its first social statement, "The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective" 1991, the ELCA commits itself to <i>work with and on behalf of the poor, the powerless, and those who suffer, using its power and influence with political and economic decision-making bodies to develop and advocate policies that seek to advance justice, peace, and the care of creation.</i></p>	<p>Regional: Congregation-based organizing reaches the ELCA community nation-wide to keep congregations and leaders connected and to mobilize them to take action locally, regionally, and nationally for the sake of justice. The Director for the Congregation-based Organizing has an advisory team that provides an organizational framework for advocacy and justice activities. These movements help to coordinate members from different denominations and faiths or groups with similar values. These collaborations often form into local affiliate or alliances that serve different national or regional networks. These have led to solid partnerships for ELCA.</p>	<p>The ELCA provides a tab titled Research and Evaluation in their menu bar at the bottom of their webpage which states that the ELCA does the following: -Conduct and coordinate research for churchwide units -Gather, analyze, and interpret data -Provide demographic data and analysis -Evaluate grants, programs, and events -Consult with and provide data to regions, synods, and congregations upon request They also have pdf files of different reports, questionnaires, surveys, and analyses that they have conducted as well as links for ELCA congregants to take certain applicable surveys. However, there was no data or analyses having to do with their advocacy programming.</p>	<p>All of ELCA's advocacy campaigns are considered ministries of the church and are, therefore, part of the ELCA Foundation's responsibility to encourage ELCA members, congregations and synods is generating generous giving to support ELCA's mission and ministry. Through their nationwide network of gift planning staff, the ELCA Foundation helps members to live their role as stewards by assisting them through education and investment management services. Thus, the justice component of the ELCA is funded through planned giving, and endowment services of the ELCA.</p>

ⁱ This should include any individuals you spoke to or communicated with.

ⁱⁱ Include a mission statement here if possible and any brief information about why the organization does what it does (**in relation to advocacy ONLY**). If it is a “multipurpose organization” (doing more than advocacy) you might choose to leave out the mission statement and focus on any purpose statements about why it engages in advocacy.

ⁱⁱⁱ You could include here specific objectives they have developed to guide their work and specific groups or beneficiaries they seek to help.

^{iv} This could be a single type or multiple types. Use the definition sheet handed out in class (based on Tearfund, VeneKlasen and Cohen) for a more complete list of possibilities.

^v This could include demonstrations, public mobilization, lobbying, education, research, etc. You can also describe here links they make between development programming and advocacy.

^{vi} Here efforts could be at multiple levels but try to assess how they build accountability to and assure participation of those affected even if they say they work “with” those affected.

^{vii} This refers to the level at which they seek some change as well as whether the change is in policy, laws, funding priorities, cultural practices, etc.

^{viii} If they have a strategy you might add how they report on evaluation results. Note any indicators they report on regularly. Note the kind of change they are looking for—political, economic, social, etc.

^{ix} You could include here any information about how they allocate resources.