

Advocacy MCC offices



The **MCC Canada Ottawa Office** is a conduit of information and bridge for relationships between the federal government of Canada and MCC Canada's diverse constituency. It witnesses to government on issues of peace, justice and human dignity that arise out of MCC ministry at home and around the world. The Ottawa Office works with a number of coalitions while trying to bring a unique, Anabaptist perspective to the work of political engagement.



The **MCC U.S. Washington Office** is a Mennonite and Brethren in Christ presence on Capitol Hill that provides and encourages prophetic witness to the way of Christ on matters of U.S. public policy. To fulfill this mission, the office monitors and analyzes U.S. public policy, facilitates MCC's peace and justice advocacy, and informs, listens to and encourages the church in its witness to the government. The Washington Office is guided by the biblical vision of being restored to right relationship with God, each other and the whole of creation.



The **MCC United Nations Liaison Office** is a voice for MCC's global partners and the worldwide Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches. The office promotes an Anabaptist vision of peace and justice in international affairs while monitoring international issues that relate to areas of conflict where MCC has staff working in relief, development or peace-building. The office communicates relevant MCC activities to U.N. agencies and shares U.N. activities and priorities with MCC and its constituency.



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Mennonite Central Committee
advocacy offices



Loving our neighbor through witness to government



Advocacy Loving our neighbor

Christian political advocacy is a form of public witness and a tangible way of loving our neighbor. The advocacy offices of Mennonite Central Committee—in Ottawa, Washington and New York City—follow Christ's call to engage, encourage and challenge government officials.

Loving our neighbor may mean practicing simple acts of kindness. It also may mean helping them to shed light on an unjust situation, or taking nonviolent steps to transform injustice to justice.

As Anabaptists, we believe that Christ walked in love and peace on this earth and that the mission of the church is to demonstrate this love. The church has a role in promoting the reign of God while holding governments accountable to their God-given task to provide a just, peaceful and sustainable order for society.

The biblical concept of witness means telling the truth as it has been revealed by God, as we understand it and have experienced it. People who advocate to government officials hope that by sharing their beliefs, values and experiences on an issue, their perspective will be heard and applied to policy.



Advocacy Rooted in the Bible

MCC's advocacy offices are motivated by the biblical commands to:

- **love God and neighbor (Matthew 22:34–40) and**
- **show the way of Christ in all aspects of life (Matthew 28:19–20 and Acts 1:8).**

The prophets of the Old Testament spoke of God's vision for nations to beat their swords into plowshares (Isaiah 2:2–4) and called for people of faith to uphold righteousness and justice (Amos 5:21–24).

The book of Revelation concludes with a vision of the nations being healed by the leaves of the tree of life (22:1–2).

Many individuals in the Bible, such as Moses, Esther and John the Baptist, challenged public officials on issues of justice and faith.



Advocacy Reflecting Anabaptist values

Anabaptist experience offers ideas for the best ways to practice advocacy:

- based in humility and love for others
- appreciating the complexity of government while caring for involved individuals
- growing from relationships as an expression of caring and faith in practice
- shaped by church and faith experiences
- communicating principles, not partisan statements

As part of our Christian life, advocacy takes many forms:

- **praying for government officials**
- **writing letters to policymakers**
- **meeting with legislators**
- **raising awareness of issues through the media**
- **participating in public events**