

Campaign Goals



The **Faith Advocates for Jobs** campaign, in order to combat the severe unemployment crisis that is devastating so many of America's working people and families, and to help rebuild the foundations of our nation's economy, will:

1. Organize at least 1,000 congregation-based unemployed worker support committees in 2011.

Committees will support working people and families economically, emotionally and spiritually, while also educating members about the unemployment crisis and advocacy avenues available to them. The committees, composed of both the employed and the currently unemployed, will be part of a nation-wide network. In addition to providing much-needed spiritual and emotional support for the unemployed, they may also provide emergency financial support, assist in filing for unemployment compensation and other state and federal programs, and help with job training and job search. They will also help educate members of their congregations and communities and advocate for public policy initiatives to alleviate the unemployment crisis. **Faith Advocates for Jobs will:**

- recruit from existing congregational jobs clubs and support groups
- organize new groups through denominational bodies and other avenues
- provide resources and training materials for committees

2. Advocate for public policy initiatives to address the crisis. These initiatives may include:

- **An economic stimulus package** to create and retain millions of jobs, including revitalizing the manufacturing sector. The stimulus should be targeted to bring the greatest boost to communities, groups of workers, and industries that are most distressed, including African American workers, Latino workers, Native American workers, older male workers, young workers, the long-term unemployed, and cities and regions with the worst unemployment levels.

- **A public jobs program** as a possible component of the economic stimulus package. A public jobs program should create vital and sustainable jobs: jobs that will rebuild our nation's infrastructure; green jobs; mass transit; jobs that the private sector cannot create, such as expanded child care and clean-up of toxic dumps.
- **Support for unemployed workers and families.** This support should include extended unemployment benefits for the long-term unemployed, COBRA subsidies, food stamps, and other safety net programs.
- **Support for states and municipalities** to maintain and strengthen social safety net programs, retain teachers, police, fire fighters, and other essential public workers.

3. Develop educational programs in support of job creation and retention and a restored economy.

- create a team of religious spokespeople, 250 faith leaders, to inspire and educate religious constituencies and the general public
- organize a nation-wide tour to promote campaign goals
- produce a congregational toolkit and other educational resources
- develop traditional media, blog, and social networking communications outreach
- collect sign-on letters by religious leaders in national, regional and local settings, along with action pledges
- regularly contact legislators and other decision makers
- organize inspirational and educational events, for example on the week of the Martin Luther King Holiday and Labor Day

The campaign is directed by a diverse steering committee which will provide ongoing direction for the initiative.