

Faith and Politics: Background

As people of faith, we are called to live out the responsibilities of both our citizenship and of our discipleship. We seek a reality that is not yet visible.

“Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.” 2 Corinthians 8:13–15

Christians seek this new reality because our personal dignity and quality of life is diminished by the oppression of others and planet. It is through participating in the election process that we can influence our governmental choices and ensure a common sharing of resources for all.

The ways of doing this work are often characterized in the following three ways:

- **Prophetic:** Much public witness draws on the biblical prophetic tradition of speaking truth about the state of society/world and calling for change and transformation to promote life and peace. Isaiah, Micah, Ezekiel, Amos, and Jesus are examples for us.
- **Political:** This word comes from the Greek root polis, which refers to the building up of life, health, and sustainability of the city, our communities, and all within them.
- **Partisan:** Refers, in this case, to a strong affiliation with a specific political party. Partisan politics prioritize party loyalty and ideology over independent or non-partisan approaches. As a church, we seek to work with those who are negatively affected by government policies but remain non-partisan regarding the democratic government of our country. As a registered charity regulated by Canada Revenue Agency, the United Church must remain non-partisan. Nationally, regionally, and locally, the church advocates and comments on particular policies based on our principles but does not advocate for or comment on political party platforms.