

Interfaith Climate Advocates Network (ICAN)

March 25, 2026



**INTERFAITH
CREATION CARE**
— OF THE TRIANGLE



**North Carolina
Council of Churches**


What Does It Mean to Advocate with Compassion?

- Learn how and why others do what they do. Try to understand their beliefs and values.
- Ask others about what they love. Ask what their positive hopeful vision for NC is as an opener, before you jump in to discuss the issues you care about.
- Love our enemies as our neighbors.
- Include everyone. It's not about us against them.
- Love ourselves through the process. If you are becoming overcome with anger and bitterness it is time for a break!
- If we are practicing creation care then as a part of that we must care for ourselves and for each other.

ICCT Guiding Principles

- We offer motivating and inspiring responses to urgent concerns for Creation and our changing climate, based on accepted scientific knowledge.
- We are guided by our faith, loving and listening with respect to one another as we care for Creation and foster interfaith harmony.
- We recognize that low income people and people of color are disproportionately affected by environmental abuses and the changing climate. We will work to decrease the negative impacts on these groups and enable their participation in jobs and other benefits that solutions bring.

ICAN Legislative Advocacy Goals

- Support ICCT in becoming one of the most influential organized groups in the Triangle Region
 - Build healthy and productive relationships with ICAN participants and N.C. policy decision makers
 - Develop legislative advocacy strategies in partnership with expert policy partners across North Carolina
 - Deliver policy wins that protect the people and places that we love!
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How do I talk about my faith and advocate?

Elected officials have communicated that they want to hear what the faith community has to say about issues that impact North Carolina.

Policymakers do not expect people of faith to speak “as experts” in the field of science or the technology of energy but rather look to the faith community for guidance on the morality concerning these issues.




What is the difference between advocating and lobbying?

The simplest explanation is lobbying happens when you ask an elected official to vote a certain way on legislation.

Advocating is when you are educating officials on specific issues, expressing your opinion on issues, and/or asking for their opinion on a problem.


PREPARING TO MEET WITH LEGISLATORS

- Team Roles
 - Planning Checklist
 - Outcome / Goals
 - Thank You Letters / Emails
 - Review Meeting Notes
 - Next Steps
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RESOURCES

- [ICCT's network of communities](#)
 - [ICAN participant legislative districts](#)
 - [GovTrack: Members of Congress](#)
 - [NCLCV Legislative Scorecard \(2024-2025\)](#)
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ICAN's Goals for First Meetings

1. That they will remember us when we call or write emails, and that they will want to meet with us again.
 2. That they will support a future ask.
 3. To influence our legislators to support policies through the lens of ICCT's guiding values.
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Q&A DISCUSSION

