



# VISION & VOICE

FAITHFUL CITIZENS AND HEALTH CARE

Finding a Faith Voice:  
Speaking Up on Faith & Health Care

FACILITATOR MANUAL SESSION THREE





## SESSION 3

# FINDING A FAITH VOICE: SPEAKING UP ON FAITH & HEALTH CARE

### THEME

Learning to raise a faith voice for change in health care

### OUTCOMES

#### People in your group will leave this session with:

- Knowledge of some actions people took since the last session and ideas for other possible next steps — both for individuals and the faith community.
- An understanding that people of faith have a unique role in communicating a moral message grounded in the teachings of their faith traditions so that they — as individuals and a faith community — can raise this voice in the public arena.
- A brief personal statement about why people of faith need to be involved in creating change in U.S. health care OR a personal vision statement of the U.S. health care system you envision for the next generation.

### PREPARATION

#### Supplies/resources needed:

- DVD segment “Communities of Faith and Public Conscience Work”
- Depending on the format and equipment available you will need one of the following:

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- + Laptop, LCD projector and screen
- + DVD player and TV monitor
- Paper and pen/pencil for each participant
- Copies of the participant pages for this session, one for each person
- Printed version of faith leader statements (See “[download materials](#)” on Vision and Voice website)
- Copies of the “commitment and action check-in” sheet for each participant (optional)
- Copy of the “faith community action list” from session four (See “[download materials](#)” on Vision and Voice website), one for each participant
- Opening and closing words/prayers (See the document in “[download materials](#)” on Vision and Voice website)

Note: Activities marked as “optional” are for sessions longer than one hour.

### Before the session:

- Post the wall mural “The Road to Our Health Care Future”
- Post chart with overview of the four sessions (see session one page 15 for sample)
- Set up equipment to show DVD or video
- If you invited people to take the survey on priorities for children’s health care, download and print the results for your group [see the directions in Session Two, [page 9](#)]
- Consider which of the “What to do between now and the next session” activities you will invite people to take

## OPENING

### **Arrival Activity: What have you heard about health care this week?**

*As people arrive invite them to paste or add to the wall mural any articles or additional information they have gathered since the last session. Invite people to walk along the mural to see what has*

*been added.*

***If you have more than an hour session:***

*Invite participants to share “snippets” of what they are hearing or reading about health care — both in the news as well as in their day-to-day lives — by posting articles they have brought in or writing summaries of what they are hearing on the wall mural.*

*Invite people to take a brief walk along the mural and look at what has been added. Ask two or three people to share briefly about what they have added.*

**Opening words that tie faith with action**

5 min

**Welcome, introductions and overview of the session.**

5 min

**Some Assumptions of this Session**

- Our faith calls us to care for others through healing ministries AND to care for the future by working to change broken systems, like health care, that can create human suffering.
- As people of faith, we are called to speak up about the connection between our faith values and the future of U.S. health care.
- Our Faith Values + Our Active Citizenship (learning about issues, voting, etc.) = Power for Change

**REFLECTION**

**Activity: Debrief on actions for children’s health care**

10 min

*Use this time to do a crisp debrief on actions participants took last week. There are a number of ways to do this. The key will be to give people an opportunity to debrief while staying within the timeframe you set.*

*One way to do this:*

- 1. Invite people to form triads.*
- 2. Have each person do a two-minute check-in on the action(s)*

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*they took from last week using these guiding questions:*

- a. What action did you take?*
- b. What is one thing you learned about your faith and U.S. health care?*
- c. What does the action suggest about further faithful action on health care, both for you as an individual and for us as a community?*
- d. After all have shared: What one or two powerful ideas do you want to share with the full group?*

*Note: You may want to use some signal to let people know when two minutes is up, to help keep the triads moving. You can use a kitchen timer or watch the clock and ring a bell or chime to signal when two minutes have passed.*

*Invite each triad to share one to two of the most important ideas from question 2d above in the large group. Record these ideas for use during session four.*

### **Alternate Activity: Our Priorities for Children’s Health Care**

- 1. Distribute copies of the survey results to each participant.*
- 2. Individually, have them reflect:*
  - a. How did the group priorities compare with your priorities?*
  - b. What do you find surprising? Curious? Challenging?*
  - c. What do the survey results say about what needs to be communicated about health care to elected officials?*
- 3. Have people briefly share their reactions in pairs.*
- 4. Invite two or three people to share their responses to question 2c in the large group.*

## LEARNING

### **Activity: Communities of Faith and Public Conscience Work**

15 min

**Introduction:** Throughout U.S. history, communities of faith have often been leaders in calling our nation to pay attention to injustices.

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Theologian and health care ethicist, Jack Glaser, refers to this as public conscience work.

These four sessions invite us to consider how we can help our nation do this public conscience work, during the elections and then afterward, so that we can create a just health care system.

Let's take a closer look at this idea of public conscience work. As you watch the presentation, consider:

1. What is your response to this idea of public conscience work?
2. What do you see as the unique role of faith communities and people of faith in this process of public conscience work?
3. As you consider public conscience work and the role of people of faith, what do you find most exciting? Challenging?
4. What do you think this says about our involvement in the upcoming elections and beyond in terms of health care?

*After the presentation, have people do a three-minute debrief in pairs. Then invite two or three people to share responses in the large group.*

### **Activity: Commitment & Action Check**

**5 min**

**Introduction:** During our first session, you were asked to consider your personal commitment to learning about and taking action on health care. In this third session, we again pause to check-in.

*Explain that the next suggested activity is to write an elevator speech or vision statement and that you want to check to see if people are ready to take such an action.*

*Find out if the group is ready to take the next step by either:*

1. *Inviting people to complete and return the check-in sheet (see [page 10](#)). Then collect the check-in sheets and quickly review them to see if people are ready to take action. One way to do this is to post them and ask the group to interpret the results.*
2. *Asking people to close their eyes (for confidentiality) and then*

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*asking for a show of hands for the two questions from the check-in sheet.*

- 3. Asking people to do a “thumbs up/thumbs down” to each question from the check-in sheet to see where the group is.*

*If the entire group is ready for action, go the “Elevator Speech” or “Vision” activities below.*

*If the entire group is not ready to take action, use “Exploring Action” activity below.*

*If part of the group is ready to take action and part is not, divide the group into two sections. Have the group ready to take action proceed to the “Elevator Speech” or “Vision” activities. Have the group not ready to take action proceed to “Exploring Action.”*

**Alternate Activity: Exploring Action** *(This is for groups who are not ready to do the elevator speech or vision statement listed below.)*

*If people are willing to learn more, but are not ready to take action, invite people to reflect silently on the following questions for a few minutes. Then engage in a dialogue, using the questions as a guide.*

### Questions for groups that want to learn more before acting

1. What do you need to learn before you — as a person of faith — take action on health care reform?
2. What are some of the big “road blocks” that keep you from taking action? What would help to remove these road blocks?
3. For you, what would be a comfortable “next step” to take related to your faith and health care?

## ACTION

### Activity: Write an Elevator Speech

15 min

**Introduction:** An elevator speech is a brief presentation that shares an important idea in a few, clear, well-stated sentences. It’s a way to open a conversation with co-workers, friends, family, and fellow members of this faith community. This is one step we can take to raise our vision

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and our voice for change in health care on an individual level. It is an exercise in public conscience work.

**Activity:** Craft an individual statement, in words you are comfortable using with someone else in the faith community. It should explain the moral dimension of health care and why people of faith need to get involved in raising the need for health care reform.

*Invite a participant to role-play giving his/her speech by pretending they get on elevator with another member of your faith community and have 20 seconds to deliver their message.*

### **Alternate Activity: Write a Personal Vision for U.S. Health Care**

**Introduction:** A vision statement is an exercise in public conscience work: it sets out a marker for where we want changes in a system to lead us. Just as people envisioned that childhood could be about education and sports teams rather than factory work, writing a vision statement invites us to envision how health care might be different for the next generation: for parents we can imagine the lives of children and grandchildren; for those who do not have children of their own, we can envision the lives of young children in our extended families, our faith community, our neighborhood and town who are important to us. We extend our vision out that far — to the next generation — knowing that big changes like the one we are trying to make in health care may take some time and may happen in small steps.

**Activity:** Think about the children in you life. If you were to design a health care system for the life-span of these children, what would it look like? *(Note: If you shared results of the group's priorities from the survey for children's health care, the results can serve as a resource.)* Draft a statement that describes this vision.

### **Share the speech or vision**

Practice your statement with one or two other people.

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*Ask a few participants to share their statements with the whole group.*

*In the large group, pose the question: How could we use vision statements to influence change in health care during the election and beyond?*

### **Activity: What to do between this session and the next one**

**5 min**

1. Share your elevator speech or your vision statement with three people and be prepared to report to the group your experience in doing so.
2. Research what leaders of your faith tradition are saying about U.S. health care. What are their main messages about the connection between faith values and health care? What kind of vision statement have they written? How could your congregation engage with this vision statement?
3. Identify actions that leaders of your tradition are inviting groups to take on health care. Learn about your tradition's efforts in the area. If your faith community is not involved, how might you share this with the leaders of your community?
4. Work with leaders in your faith community to have people take the Survey for Children's Health Care. Share the results with your faith community. Use the results to create and publish a list of questions to ask candidates —and later, elected leaders— about the future of health care.
5. Review the faith community actions list. Which of the actions are ones you think this group can take?

### **For Further Study**

- Download the article “What Would the Good Samaritan Do?” and accompanying study guide from The Center for Christian Ethics at Baylor University [www.baylor.edu/christianethics/index.php?id=44272](http://www.baylor.edu/christianethics/index.php?id=44272).
- Use the internet to learn about health care efforts within your faith tradition. Read an article or page of interest.

## PRAYER

### Closing Words

*Note: For a one-hour session, the closing prayer needs to be brief, fitting within the timeframe set for “What to do between this session and the next.”*



## OUTCOMES FROM SESSION THREE

You will leave this session with:

- Knowledge of some actions people took since the last session and ideas for other possible next steps – both for individuals and the faith community.
- An understanding that people of faith have a unique role in communicating a moral message grounded in the teachings of their faith traditions so that they – as individuals and a faith community – can raise this voice in the public arena.
- A brief personal statement about why people of faith need to be involved in creating change in U.S. health care OR a personal vision statement of the U.S. health care system you envision for the next generation.

## SOME ASSUMPTIONS OF THIS SESSION

- Our faith calls us to care for others through healing ministries AND to care for the future by working to change broken systems, like health care, that can create human suffering.
- As people of faith, we are called to speak up about the connection between our faith values and the future of U.S. health care.
- Our Faith Values + Our Active Citizenship (learning about issues, voting, etc.) = Power for Change

## ACTIONS FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH CARE

- a. What action did you take?
- b. What is one thing you learned about your faith and U.S. health care?
- c. What does the action suggest about further faithful action on health care, both for you as an individual and for us as a community?
- d. After all have shared: What one or two powerful ideas do you want to share with the full group?



## PUBLIC CONSCIENCE WORK

1. What is your response to this idea of public conscience work?
2. What do you see as the unique role of faith communities and people of faith in this process of public conscience work?
3. As you consider public conscience work and the role of people of faith, what do you find most exciting? Challenging?
4. What do you think this says about our involvement in the public policy arena in terms of healthcare?

## WHAT TO DO BETWEEN THIS SESSION AND NEXT

Possible actions for the time between this session and the next:

1. Share your elevator speech or your vision statement with three people and be prepared to report to the group your experience in doing so.
2. Research what leaders of your faith tradition are saying about U.S. health care. What are their main messages about the connection between faith values and health care? What kind of vision statement have they written? How could your congregation engage with this vision statement? Visit the “Perspectives” section of [www.faithfulreform.org](http://www.faithfulreform.org) for statements from a variety of faith traditions.
3. Identify actions that leaders of your tradition are inviting groups to take on health care. Learn about your tradition’s efforts in the area. If your faith community is not involved, how might you share this with the leaders of your community?
4. Work with leaders in your faith community to have people take the Survey for Children’s Health Care. Share the results with your faith community. Use the results to create and publish a list of questions to ask elected officials about the future of health care.
5. Review the faith community action list. Which of the actions are ones you think this group can take?

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

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- Use the internet to learn about health care efforts within your faith tradition. Read an article or page of interest.

## WHAT IS DIALOGUE?

In dialogue, we pay attention to the wisdom of the group. We listen for new thinking and ideas that help us address complex and challenging issues. A conversation is a dialogue when people in a group agree to:

- Listen deeply to one another, giving full attention to each other, looking for common ground.
- Respect the ideas and viewpoints of each person, trusting that others have part of the answer.
- Give voice to their own ideas and thinking.

In dialogue, each person also monitors her/his participation, taking responsibility for getting her/his ideas out there, while making sure that others in the group have both the clock time and a respectful environment in which to share their ideas. In dialogue, we see changes in thinking and often see new ideas emerge.

Dialogue is usually in danger when people defend their point of view, assume there is one right answer, criticize others' thinking, ask questions that are really opinions or judgments, and look only for conclusions that agree their thinking.

Quoted from [www.OurHealthcareFuture.org](http://www.OurHealthcareFuture.org).

## WHAT WILL SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

Here is what success will look like for these Vision and Voice sessions:

- People of faith who participate in these sessions will have a



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deeper understanding of moral issues related to U.S. health care.

- Individuals and faith communities will have some tools to help them talk about the future of U.S. health care in a way that reflects the values of their faith traditions.
- Communities of faith will learn ways to share these messages in the media and election events.

For those who are ready to take action, success for these sessions might also include:

- Your/our faith community — or a group of individuals within it — will commit to activities that will help keep health care front and center with elected officials as they engage in health policy reform.
- Your/our faith community — or a group of individuals within it — along with other faith groups will take action to help keep the conversation on health care active and growing in your faith community, local area, state and the nation.



# VISION & VOICE

FAITHFUL CITIZENS AND HEALTH CARE

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