



EPPN Ambassador Program Description of Responsibilities

The Episcopal Public Policy Network (EPPN) Ambassador Program is a curated network of Episcopalians across the Church who help amplify our messaging on advocacy, education and civic engagement. This briefing describes the expectations of the Ambassadors, what our office will provide, and the application process. It is our belief that advocacy and civic engagement are an integral part of following Jesus' example in caring for others and engage in our common life together.

The main goals for each Ambassador are to increase the number of advocacy actions taken and expand the use of our resources. The main strategy each Ambassador follows involves developing local infrastructure for communication and engagement. This also helps raise our visibility as a resource for dioceses and congregations looking for federal advocacy material especially when they do not have the capacity to develop it themselves. This is the case even for more resourced areas of the church which may invest in state-level advocacy but not as much in federal advocacy. Your contributions will be an integral part of our success, and we're grateful you are considering this role.

Ambassador Application Process

There are thousands of passionate Episcopalians around the world who are already engaging in advocacy about issues that matter to them. We celebrate that engagement and wish to channel that into this program. This passion is a huge asset. Relationships with real people are the heart of this work, both existing ones and the potential for new ones, whether with Church members, government officials, or among the other Ambassadors in this program, working in different contexts across the U.S., and the creativity we have collectively.

There are some important considerations before applying. First, we must ensure a respectful, kind nature of engagement for all involved in working with OGR, particularly when it involves engaging with people who disagree. Additionally, advocacy supported by OGR must be guided exclusively by official Episcopal Church policies. We understand that for some this is a more difficult task than for others, as we know very few Episcopalians agree with 100% of the policies of the Church. Moreover, there are some issues for which there is no Church policy or the policy that exists is insufficiently clear. Those who apply to become Ambassadors must know that, while there is certainly opportunity for feedback and discussion throughout the program, the outward communication is guided by the strategy and message coming from OGR, which itself is expert in Church policies, maintains established relationships with government officials in Washington, and is in direct communication with Church leadership on a daily basis.

The Office of Government Relations reserves the right to approve and terminate participation in the Ambassador program as necessary. Acceptance in the program may also depend on geographic need—with the priority of identifying only one Ambassador per diocese with rare exceptions.

Interested parties must first complete this application form and review the code of conduct document. After filling out the form, the applicants may be contacted for a brief 30-minute interview with OGR staff. If accepted, each ambassador will be required to sign and submit the code of conduct form, acknowledging the stipulations for participation in the program. For questions regarding this program or process, please contact the EPPN at eppn@episcopalchurch.org.



Ambassador Responsibilities

This program focuses on U.S. federal advocacy only and does not involve state-level work, as the primary objective of the Office of Government Relations (OGR) and the EPPN is to engage on federal advocacy. There may be opportunities for deeper collaboration with Ambassadors for leveraging local contacts to reach federal officials. Everything Ambassadors do is on a volunteer basis.

All Ambassadors must adhere to General Convention (GC) and Executive Council (EC) resolutions exclusively, following our guidance as provided. The Office of Government Relations does not create the Church's policy—what we advocate for comes only from those resolutions. This information and more are covered in the “EPPN Ambassador Code of Conduct.” *Ambassadors may be removed from the program if this guidance is violated.*

A non-comprehensive list of Ambassador responsibilities follows:

- Maintain an understanding of OGR/EPPN history and mission, including GC/EC resolutions
- Maintain an understanding of OGR messaging on current legislation, policy and other developments
- Develop a local infrastructure for sharing federal advocacy communication
 - Build a diocesan profile that lists what congregations are interested in engaging and in what topics (this involves more upfront work, but the idea is to create something easy to maintain once established)
 - Develop relationships with communications staff to coordinate messages in newsletters, social media, bulletins and other appropriate channels
 - Track involvement of parishes over time
 - Report back to OGR any feedback, inspiration, or successes resulting from the engagement
- Promote EPPN updates, resources, and action alerts in congregations according to the information in the diocesan profile
- Encourage people to follow EPPN social media accounts—send reminders periodically to invite folks to join
- Encourage congregational and diocesan staff to tag @TheEPPN and use #EpiscopalAdvocacy in posts related to advocacy
- Maintain an understanding of resources available from OGR/EPPN like the civil discourse curriculum, election engagement toolkit, faith and citizenship guide, etc. and guide people to them as needed
- Track members of Congress that represent the diocese particularly as it relates to their votes or positions on bills OGR is advocating on
- Attend monthly conference calls for all EPPN Ambassadors if at all possible.

EPPN Responsibilities:

Below is a list of what we aim to provide Ambassadors to help facilitate this work.

- Create and maintain a screening process to determine who becomes an EPPN Ambassador
- Provide weekly information on new releases from the Office of Government Relations with guidance on how to share the information
- Provide a preview of what's ahead, meant for Ambassador consumption only and not for dissemination
- Offer monthly conference calls to discuss ongoing advocacy work
- Leverage Ambassadors for specific member of Congress engagement when focused outreach is needed
- Maintain open communication channels to respond to questions and feedback from Ambassadors to improve our advocacy resources and tools and the operations of the program itself
- Ensure both accountability to our advocacy work and genuine, productive collaboration between the office and the ambassadors