SECOND ANNUAL STATEWIDE ECUMENICAL ADVOCACY DAY

FEBRUARY 12, 2020 IN ALBANY

NEW POLITICS, NEW ACTION, NEW BUDGET

NEW HOPE FOR ALL OF NEW YORK

We invite you to register for the New York State Ecumenical Advocacy Day in Albany on February 12, from 9 to 4 at Emmanuel Baptist Church. This event brings together religious and non-religious people in common cause to advocate for a moral budget and social justice legislation which lifts up the poor and disenfranchised and just environmental policies. Ecumenical Advocacy Day is intended to build on variety of campaigns which are already underway to address the crisis of poverty and wealth inequality in New York and the United States. We urge participation from people from all around the state. This year, we will begin with an overview of the Federal and State legislative landscape with Christine Ashley, Quaker Field Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Ron Deutsch, Executive Director of Fiscal Policy Institute, Michael Kink, Executive Director of Strong Economy for All.

We will then break out into lobby groups which will focus on:

1. Immigration policy facilitated by Sarah Rogerson, Professor of Law at Albany Law School and others (to be announced) will facilitate.


3. Stopping attempted roll back of bail reform laws combined with promotion of parole reform and the limitation of the use of solitary confinement. Facilitators to be announced.

4. Housing policy and funding and other anti-poverty legislation with Paulette Solitani of VOCAL New York, Rebecca Gerrard from the Upstate-Downstate Housing Alliance and others to be announced.
In the afternoon, we will break into teams for meeting with our legislators in the afternoon. There is a $30 fee to cover lunch, materials and building rental. Scholarships are available.

Many people who are traveling may like to stay at Powell House the night before, February 11, in Old Chatham. A room, dinner and breakfast will be provided for a $75 fee.

During the evening there will be a presentation by Christine Ashley from Friends Committee on National Legislation. To sign up for the State Ecumenical Advocacy Day, [click here](#).

The State Ecumenical Advocacy Day is a pre-cursor to the National Ecumenical Advocacy Days to be held in Washington DC from April 24 to 27. [Click here](#) to register. New York State Council of Churches will continue to organize the New York delegation.

### LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING AND ACTIONS

We are now entering the second week of the legislative session. Last week, we began with the Black People’s State of the State and the Peoples State of the State which sought to offer an alternative vision to what was offered by the Governor at his state of the state. The Fiscal Policy Institute lays out its budget framework through its “Vision 2020: Building a Better New York.” Peter Cook also wrote a commentary in the Times Union, [Our State Needs a Vision Based on Abundance and Not Scarcity](#), which offers a similar framework to the one described by Fiscal Policy Institute. The Governor has not released his budget but you will find the PDF of his 321 page State of the State 2020 Making Progress Happen, by [clicking here](#).

In all of our actions around the budget, we need to begin with the principle that we can and should raise revenue from the very richest New Yorkers and lift the austere 2% spending cap. We invite any group advocating for a just budget to please join a broad statewide coalition and [sign on](#) to a general statement on the need for more revenue and readjusted spending priorities in the state budget. The deadline for signers on the statement is January 17. We are planning the next revenue action for January 21 in conjunction with an action to limit solitary confinement. [Click here](#) to register for the action on solitary action. Watch [WWW.NYSCOC.org](http://WWW.NYSCOC.org) for more information about the revenue action portion of the January 21. There will be buses available from New York City for those wishing to participate in both the stopping of solitary confinement and revenue lobby days.

As we head into next week, we are encountering headwinds from politicians who are seeking to either repeal or modify the cash bail elimination act. There is an [Emergency Action](#) on Thursday, January 15 in Albany to discourage any weakening of the law. There will also be an action in support of Elder Parole (S2144) and Fair and Timely Parole (S497A) initiatives. The bills seek a broader set of considerations for incarcerated individuals coming before the parole board and some easing in parole consideration for people over the age of 55 who have been incarcerated for more than 15 years. As noted above, on January 21 (the same day as the action on revenue), we urge you to advocate for a bill to prevent solitary confinement. [Click here](#) to sign up.
The Poor People’s Campaign will also kick off its first action in the New Year on January 14 with a focus on affordable housing funding and policy and institution of a single payer health system for New York. The Poor People’s Campaign will build on a well attended housing action which took place on January 9 where there was advocacy for better funding for affordable housing including 3 billion for public housing, Home Stability Support, and completion of the rent stabilization law legislative package from last session. Click here to register for the Poor People’s Action Day. There is also an opportunity to sign up for buses leaving from New York City, Syracuse, Rochester, and Buffalo. Earlier in the morning from 9:00 to 10:30, there will be a briefing on the decline in good health coverage for young children in New York. Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy is sponsoring the event. The next day, on January 15, there will be a Poor People’s Campaign Organizing breakfast at St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church from 9:00 to 11:00. Click here to register.

On other note. There will be an action sponsored by New York ReNews to implement and fund environmental efforts to bring New York closer to a clean energy economy on January 27. Click here to register.

Go to our webpage at WWW. NYSCOC.org for all the above-named events and much more in the coming weeks. We update the calendar frequently. If you have actions or events you would like to appear on the calendar or to update information that already appears, please submit a form on our website by clicking here. You can also discuss your promotional needs and ask questions about pending legislation by e-mailing Peter Cook at Pcook@nyscoc.org or 508-380-8289.

In faith,

Peter Cook

Executive Director