

## **Your Organization's Visit to Congressional Representatives**

### ***Gamaliel's Season of Prayer, Reflection and Action For Justice after Katrina***

The chairs of Gamaliel national leadership bodies ask that you consider asking members of your board to visit your federal representatives and ask them to support legislation that adheres to the following principles:

- that the federal government help meet the needs of displaced people; and
- that the people impacted by Hurricane Katrina must participate in the decisions being made about their lives.

#### **SUGGESTED STEPS:**

1. Call the offices of the US Congressional Reps and of the US Senators. Ask each for a half-hour appointment with the congressman/woman (or senator) to discuss their work in Washington, DC on behalf of the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Push to meet face to face. Make repeated calls for the meeting. Offer to meet the representative at some other venue where he/she is speaking locally. Last resort: ask to meet with the Chief of Staff.
2. Once you get the meeting . . .
  - a. Your leader/chair introduces him or herself, with title and congregation. Chair gives thanks to the representative for the time to meet. Chair asks the delegation to introduce themselves with title and congregation.
  - b. Clergy leader offers brief prayer for the success of this visit.
  - c. Chair (or another leader) explains our membership in Gamaliel. Chair (or another leader) introduces Gamaliel's Season of Prayer, Reflection and Action for Justice After Katrina. Present the letter from Gamaliel Chairs, other press clippings.
  - d. Chair (or another leader): "We in Gamaliel and our local organization stand behind two principles, and we ask that you do the same. Those principles are the following:
    - that the federal government help meet the needs of displaced people; and
    - that the people impacted by Hurricane Katrina must participate in the decisions being made about their lives.
  - e. "Senator (or Congressman/woman): do you support these principles?"
  - f. Let the representative respond.
  - g. If he/she says "YES," thank him/her, and ask what he/she intends to do to support or enact legislation that follows these two principles. If he/she says "NO," then push back, argue why you think the principles are important.
  - h. Ask the representative to make sure that your leader (give name, phone, e-mail) is contacted by the representative's staff with any news of the representative's efforts. Thank the representative and staff for their time and efforts. Close with prayer, depart, evaluate in the hallway or parking lot.