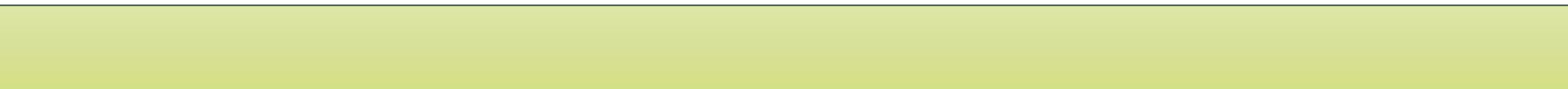




Climate Conversations Advocacy

St Mark's Creation Care Ministry
Kathy Minsch and Richard Hartung
January 2023



Agenda

- Land Acknowledgement and Introduction
- Opening Prayer
- A Framework for Advocacy
- Discussion
- Advocacy Opportunities
- Sharing and Q&A
- Closing



What is Advocacy

- Organizing support for your cause
- Educating about an issue
- Developing positive, ongoing relationships
- Engaging on a long-term basis
- Advocacy is broader than lobbying
 - Advocacy is voicing support for an issue, policy or cause
 - Lobbying is a specific type of advocacy, focused on influencing legislation and elected officials



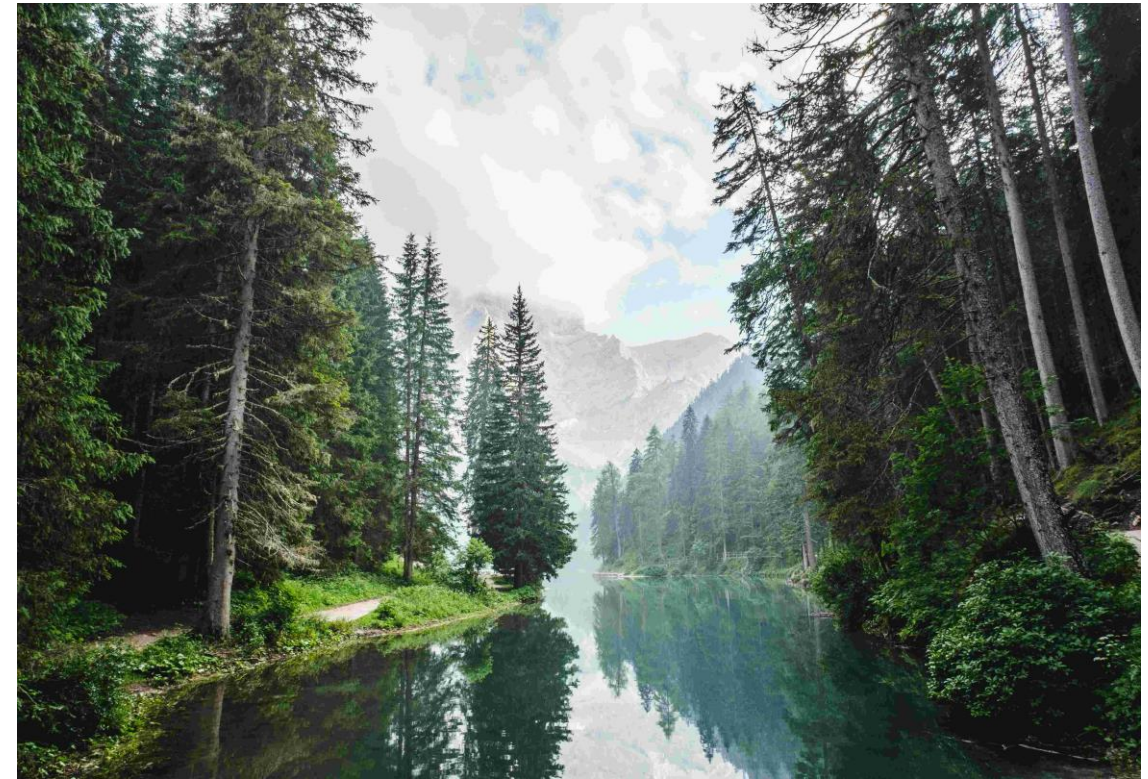
Why Advocate?

- Seek to change systems that degrade creation
- Become a catalyst for change
- Promote problem-solving
- Educate the community
- Create respect for a cause or policy



Why Advocate for Creation Care?

- To be caretakers of creation
- Use your time, talent and treasure for the good of God's creation and your community
- Support putting in place laws, regulations or policies with a focus on creation care
- Change peoples' behaviors so their values incorporate activities that help the environment



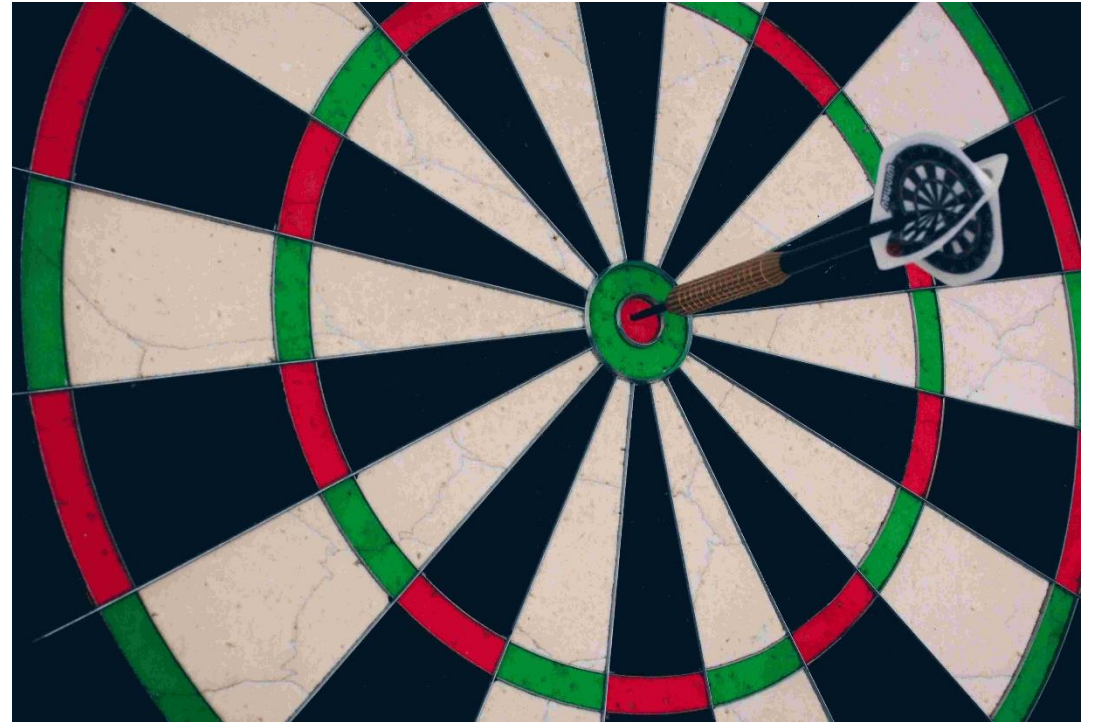
A Biblical Framework for Advocacy

- Proverbs 31: *Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves*
- Isaiah 55: *So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*



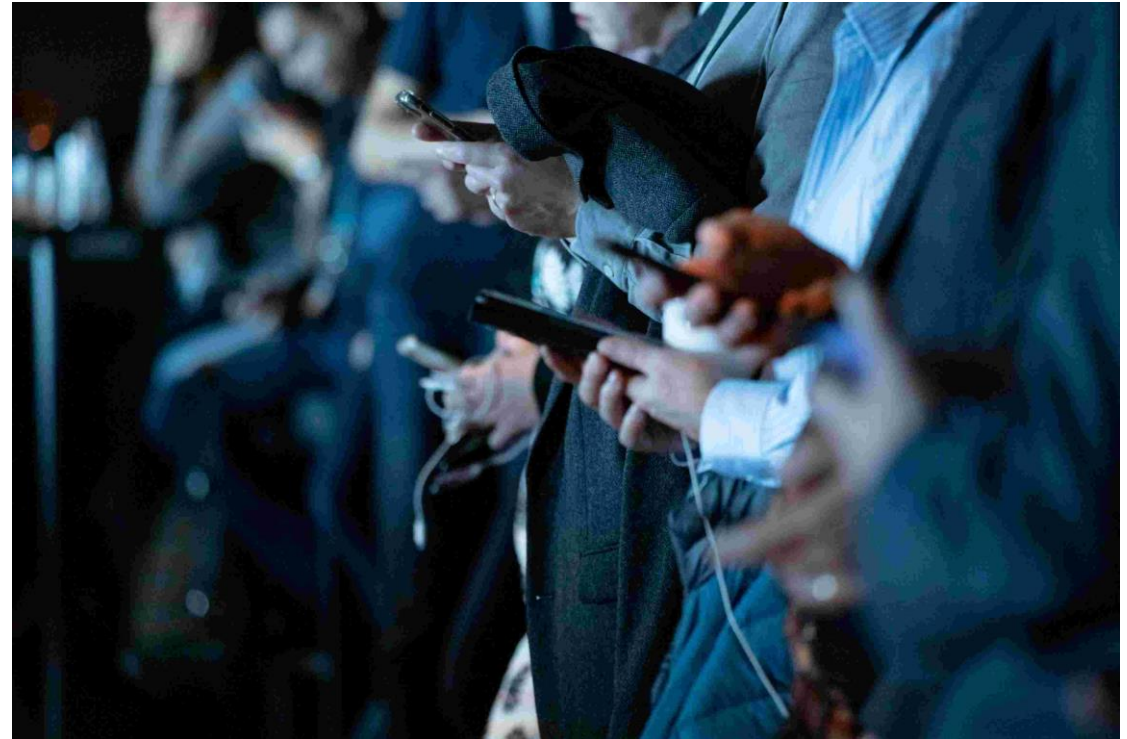
Framework for Advocacy

- Start with the end in mind
 - Determine the goal
- Identify the target
 - Policymaker
 - Company
 - Community
- Positioning: Advocating on behalf of yourself or for an organization



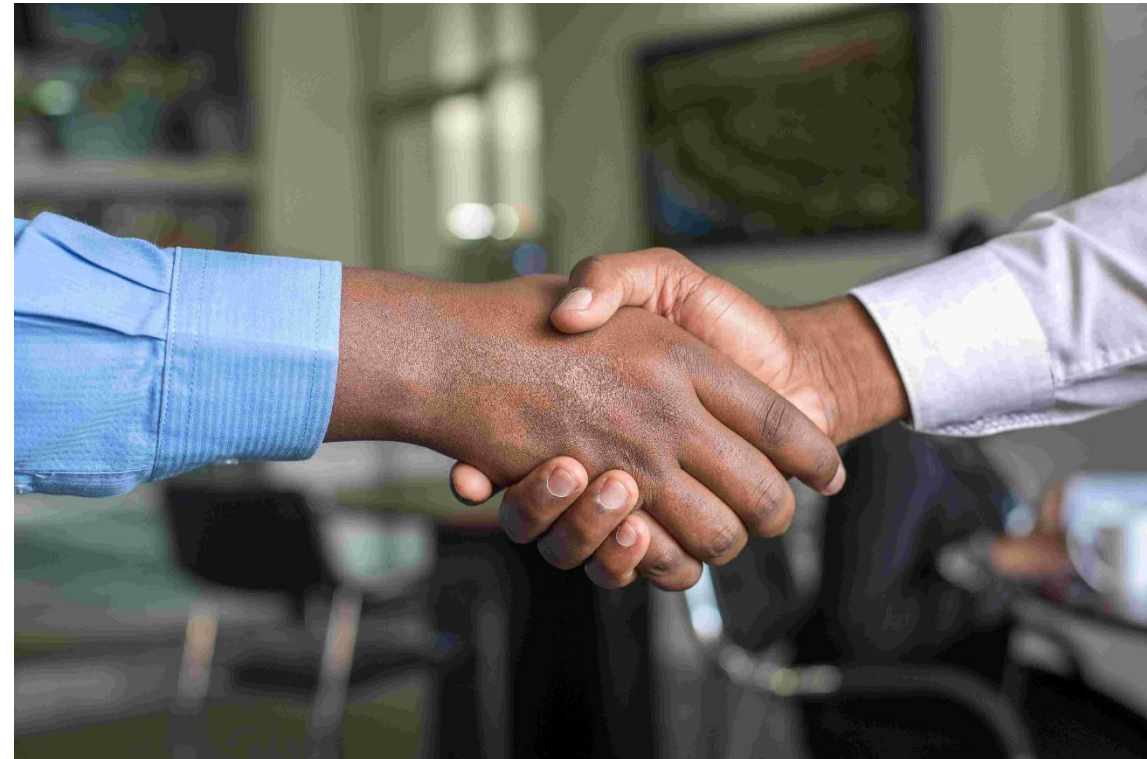
How to Advocate Effectively

- Contact legislators & policymakers via
 - Meetings
 - Emails and letters
 - Phone calls
 - Invite officials to speak
 - Social media
- Partner with local organizations
- Alert individuals to legislation that protects creation
- Encourage engagement in civic activities and development of public policy



How to Advocate Effectively

- Build relationships before you ask for something
- Be respectful and professional
- Prepare a 60-second 'elevator pitch'
- Define who your idea will benefit, how much it will cost and how it will happen
- Do your homework and be prepared to address both sides of the issue
- Stay in touch to keep policymakers updated about progress and activities
- Always send a thank-you note



Tell a Story

- Stories put a face on an issue and resonate more than facts or figures
- A compelling story is better remembered by policymakers
- Use a story to explain who you are, what you do, where you live and your connection to the issue
- Share why the policy is important and how it affects you
- Create a memorable hook for them to remember you and your issue



Discussion & Breakout Session

Questions:

- What is your experience with advocacy?
- How can you build strong relationships with policymakers?



Advocacy Levels

- Church
- Local government
 - Cities and Counties
 - Agencies, Councils
- State
- Federal



Key Creation Care Issues

- Climate change
- Water quality
- Tree protection
- Habitat restoration
- Biodiversity
- Orcas, salmon
- Plastic pollution
- Growth management
- Transportation
- Budget
- Environmental Justice



<https://kingcounty.gov/services/environment/animals-and-plants/restoration-projects/small-habitat-restoration-program.aspx>

Advocacy at St Mark's

Creation Care Mutual Ministry Goal:
In solidarity with future generations,
grounded in our Christian duty to
preserve and protect God's creation
and promote justice, we will educate,
empower, and support the cathedral
and its members to become carbon
neutral by 2030



Advocacy at St. Mark's

- Creation Care Ministry Practices
 - Carbon tracker
 - Climate conversations
 - Legislative Advocacy



Advocacy Beyond St. Mark's

- Bishop's Climate Justice Taskforce/Report
- New CC Advisory Committee
- New Missioner for Creation Care & Climate Justice
- Follow up from summer and fall conventions
- Follow up from COP 27, Biodiversity 15

Climate Justice Task Force

Report to the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, Bishop Diocesan



Task Force Members:

John Kydd, Chair
Marcy Lagerloef
Nancy McConnell
Emily Meeks
The Rev. Carla Pryne
Valerie Reinke
Marjorie Ringness
The Rev. Gail Wheatley

Photographs by Stuart Meeks

May 2022

Advocacy - Local

- Elected officials
 - Council meetings, committees
 - Ordinances, budget, resolutions
 - City and County
- Agency policies, regulations, plans
- Regional bodies
 - Salmon Recovery
 - Sound Transit
 - Others



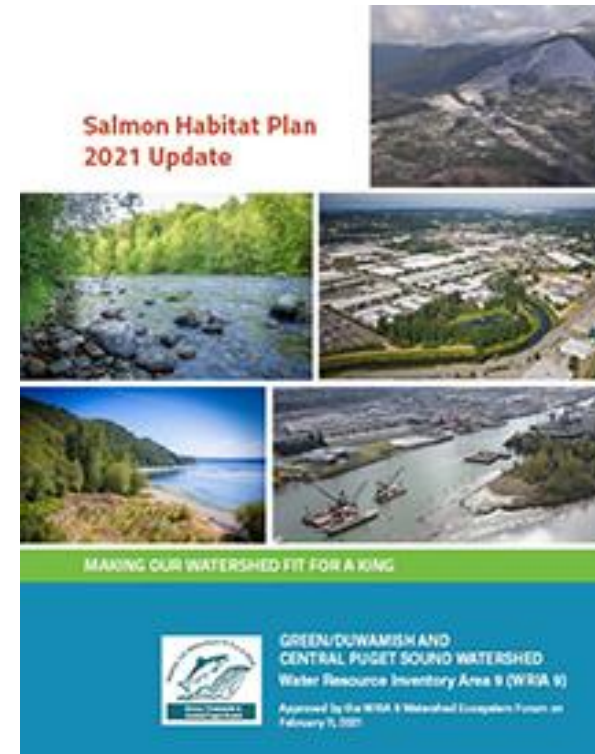
Advocacy – Cities and Counties

- Seattle City Council
 - 7 District reps, 2 citywide reps
 - Relevant committees
- Other cities
- King County Council
 - 9 Councilmembers
 - Relevant committees



Advocacy – Regional Councils

- Salmon Recovery Councils
 - Green Duwamish
 - Cedar River
- Puget Sound
- Regional Water Quality Committee
- Sound Transit
- Puget Sound Regional Council



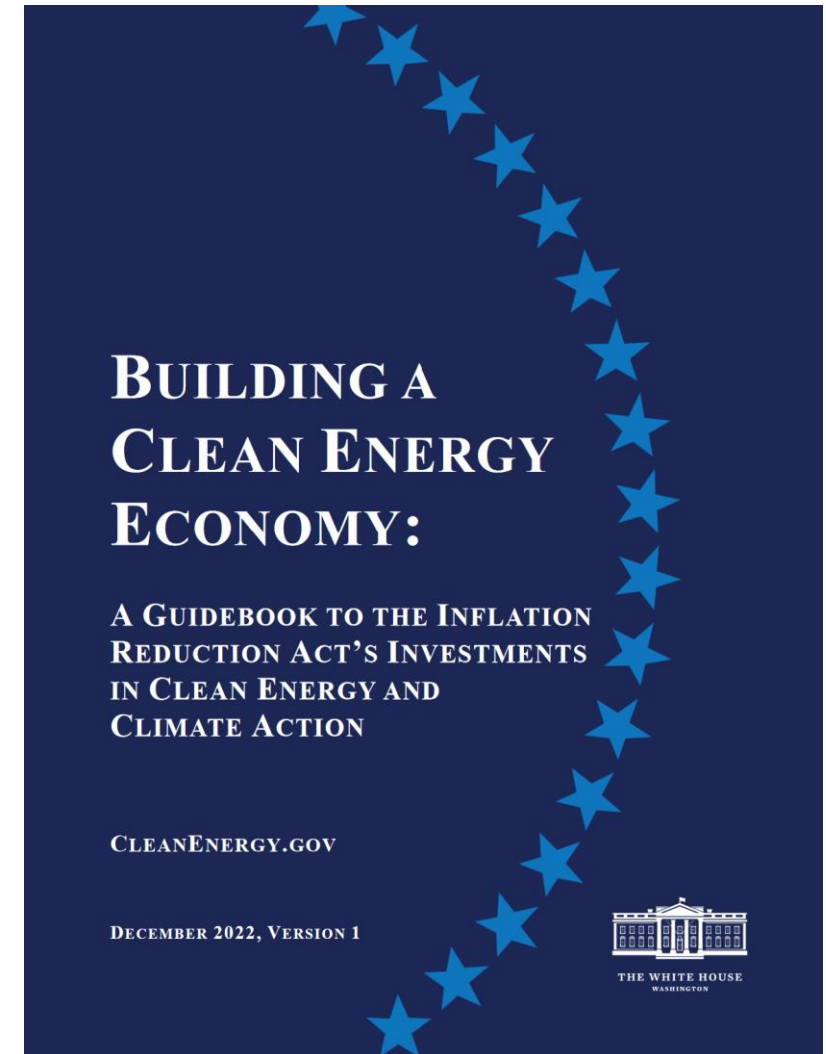
Advocacy-Washington State

- Legislation
 - Session starts January 9
 - New/followup bills climate, toxics, habitat, growth, transportation
 - Budget for implementation
 - Comment via written and/or oral testimony, meet legislators
- Regulations, plans, reports
 - Department of Ecology – toxics
 - Puget Sound Partnership



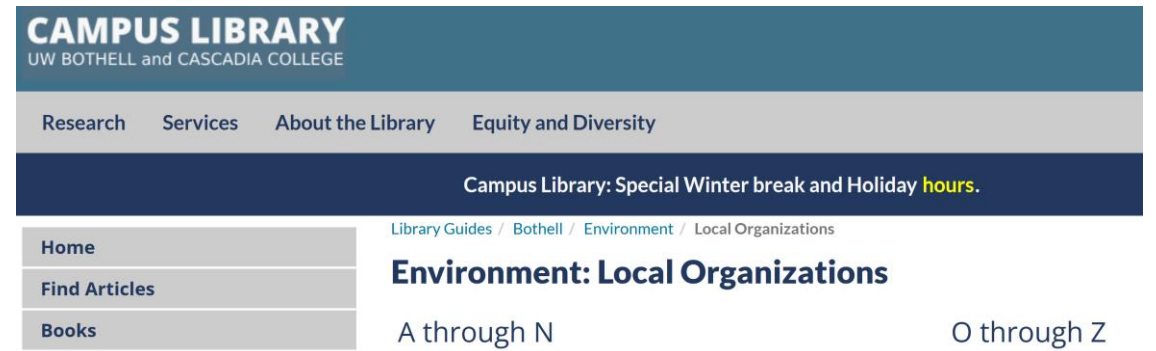
Advocacy - Federal

- Congress
 - Climate bills
 - Budget
 - Communicate with Representatives and Senators
- Key Agencies
 - EPA, NOAA, Transportation
 - Regulations, policies



Partnering with Nonprofits, Tribes

- Local, state and federal nonprofits focused on climate change advocacy
- Earth Ministry/Interfaith Power and Light
- Seattle Audubon, Sierra Club
- Puget Soundkeeper, WEC/WCV
- TNC, NWF, WWF, NRDC
- Tribes
- Activities - letters, campaigns, demonstrations



Seattle environmental organizations

There are [378 environmental organizations](#) in the greater Seattle metro area, including the cities of Seattle, Auburn, Bellevue, Everett, Kent, Lakewood, Redmond, Renton, and Tacoma. Combined, these Seattle metro environmental organizations [employ 1,573 people](#), earn more than [\\$144 million in revenue](#) each year, and have [assets of \\$205 million](#).

Image sources:

<https://guides.lib.uw.edu/c.php?g=345663&p=2329447>

<https://www.causeiq.com/directory/environmental-organizations-list/seattle-tacoma-bellevue-wa-metro/>

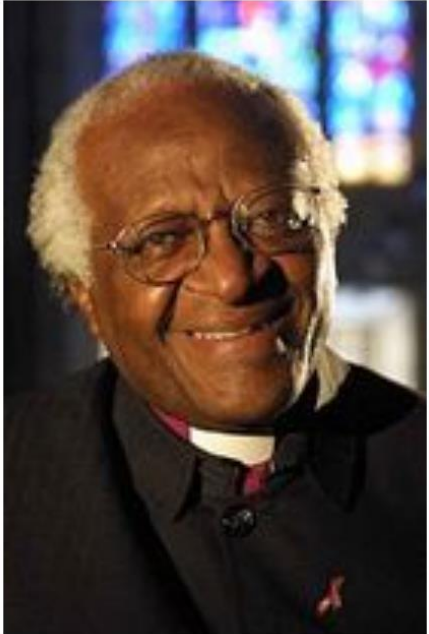
Sharing, Discussion and Q&A

Questions

- What issues related to climate change interest you most?
- How do you think you might want to be involved?



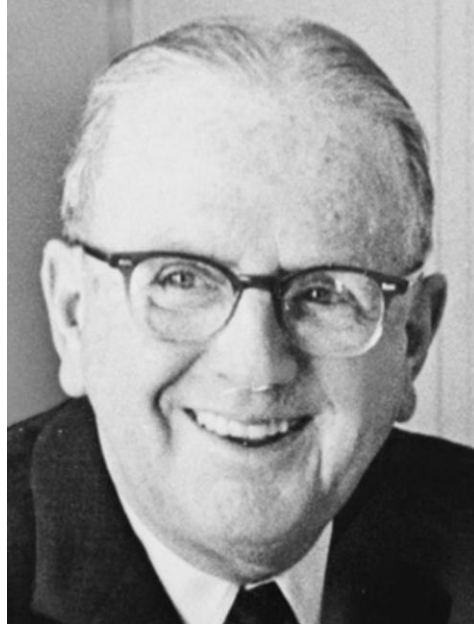
Make a Difference



“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

— Desmond Tutu

tags: [goodness](#), [incrementalism](#), [kindness](#)



One person can make a difference.
You don't have to be a big shot. You
don't have to have a lot of influence.
You just have to have faith in your
power to change things.

— *Norman Vincent Peale* —

AZ QUOTES

Closing

- Closing prayer

