



Social Action Committee Annual Report 2025

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The Committee has been in dialogue all year about actions from Washington that keep raising questions and concerns. Troubling things start without warning then stop; clarity of intent and goals are not communicated; disrespectful suggestions like US hegemony over Canada and Greenland seem unreal; shackling people and making them bend over as they're deported seems unequivocally inhumane; a "no kings" gathering in Augusta, while civil overall, ended with a few people from both sides of the political spectrum loudly and profanely shouting each other down across the road separated by barriers and security people.

As the Social Action Committee of the Maine Conference, we do have official "positions" to proclaim on some matters. We are ONA, in the broadest sense. We are Just-Peace. We respect the "integrity of Creation." We welcome the immigrant. On issues like these, we stand with the Maine Council of Churches, where we have strong representation. The MCC has taken the lead in helping us and its member churches be ready to act on four specific issues as circumstances demand: LGBTQ+; Immigration; Women's Rights; and Climate Change. Information about these issues from the MCC has been made available in many posts of the *Midweek News* of the Maine Conference and is available in our *Social Action Committee Resource Guide* (available at maineucc.org on the *Social Action* page). We continue to advocate for justice in these areas, as well as Wabanaki sovereignty and gun violence prevention. So far, we have watched sadly as Wabanaki land acknowledgements have been removed from Acadia by the federal government, as well as any mention of climate change. In March, however, we did submit testimony to the State Legislature in support of: LD677, An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of "Machine Gun" and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device; and LD1109, An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices. We have also maintained a fairly regular posting of SAC related matters on our Facebook page.

All the while, many remain outraged by what is happening, others continue to rejoice. There's a powerfully polarizing dynamic at play and that strikes us as a condition that needs to be addressed. That there are some of our congregations where disagreeing folk still share the same pews on Sunday mornings seems worth hearing about and sustaining. Good energy - God energy - drawing us together - a "coming to a common center" dynamic. We have put some effort into the workshop we are offering at Annual Meeting. *All* are welcome to attend. Breathe together. Discern together. And see what we can do together.

Nehemiah said, "Face it: we're in a bad way here. Come—let's build something good."

They said, "We're with you. Let's get started."

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