The Pennsylvania Council of Churches is urging you to **GET CONNECTED**! Why...?

Christian faith and scripture both speak to government. Scripture is teeming with stories of people of faith accepting the challenge of God’s call to speak truth to power and step into the political world. Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and other Hebrew prophets confronted the power structures of their day to demand change in how the people were ruled. In the early church, Paul lectured on the duties of citizenship. Jesus’ life and, indeed, his death exemplified the cost of speaking truth to power.

Church reformers took these scriptural imperatives to heart. John Calvin, a father in the Reformed tradition, referred to civic participation as “the most sacred and honorable” calling. Martin Luther “wrote over one thousand letters to civil authorities, including letters regarding their public policies; fervently admonished preachers to preach against economic injustice and against economic practices and public policies that thwarted the well-being of the poor; called for modes of trade and commerce that defied the emerging capitalism where it oppressed the poor; and insisted that if civil authorities call Christians to actions that disobey God, then Christians must resist.”

In other words, our faith, grounded both in scripture and tradition, calls us to responsible civic engagement.

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1 Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, in *Public Church: For the Life of the World*, p. 42.