

FAITH IN TEXAS

Agenda for September 19th Listening Action

1. Introduction: Telling Public Stories (55 min—9:05-10:00)
2. Small Group Listening (60 min—10:00-11:00)
 - Share most impactful stories: 4 minutes each (30)
 - Map themes and systems (15)
 - Report Out (15)
- 10 MINUTE BREAK—DIVIDE INTO ENGLISH AND SPANISH: 11:00-11:10-----
3. Training: Cutting an Issue (40 min--11:10-11:50am)
 - Problems vs. issues, research actions, multi-racial agenda
- 5 MINUTE BREAK—RETURN TO BILINGUAL SESSION: 11:50am-11:55pm-----
4. Form Teams to Plan Research Actions (40 min—11:55pm-12:35pm)
5. Meet in Teams to Set Timeline (25 min—12:35-1pm)

Save the Date! RSVP at www.FaithinTX.org/events

- Thursday, September 24th at 8am. Watch Pope Francis address Congress Live at Life in Deep Ellum!
- Saturday, September 26th at 10am. Rally for Dignity and Justice with Pope Francis, Dallas County Jail. Bring photos of loved ones separated by incarceration or deportation.
- Saturday, October 24th, 2-4pm. Summit to lift up 200 testimonies about predatory lending to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
- Saturday, November 7th. Leadership Assembly: Present findings of Research Actions, Announce Covenant Partners, elect new Faith in Texas Board, set issue priorities.

For Faith in Texas, a good issue is:

P _____

R _____

A _____

W _____

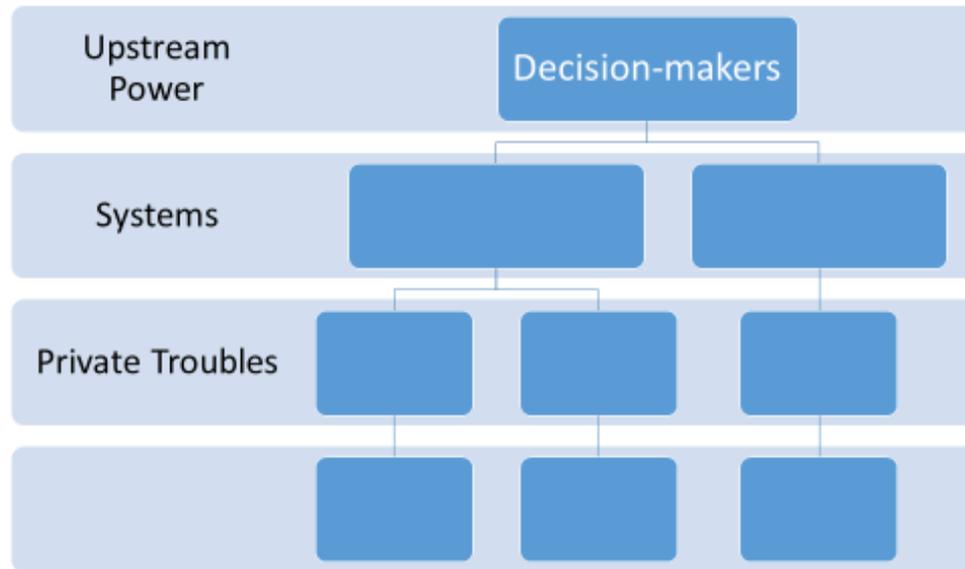
N _____

S _____

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Issue Formula

We want [DECISIONMAKER] to do [ACTION] by [DATE]. It's in your interest to do this because [LEVERAGE].



STRUCTURE OF A RESEARCH ACTION

1. Introductions, Purpose of Meeting, Credential
(A Credential is the authority we have to be at the meeting: who we are, what we represent and work we have done that brings us to this meeting. Faith in Texas is an multi-racial faith movement that.....)
2. Purpose:
 - a. Issue we want to discuss.....
 - b. We thought a first step in looking at solutions to these problems would be to talk with you and learn more about your perspective on these issues.
3. Questions:
4. "Who else should we meet with?"
5. Adjourn and Evaluate.

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RESEARCH GUIDELINES

The Testimony of two witnesses is true - John 8:17 (NIV)

PURPOSE: In the organizing process, research actions have several purposes.

1. To understand the cause of the problem.
2. To understand what can work to address the problem.
3. To understand who has the power to change the problem.
4. To build relationships between congregation members and public officials and institutions influencing our community.
5. To train ourselves to “act” in public arenas.

Research Actions: Meetings that are conducted between Justice Teams or Faith in Texas Teams and people who we believe to have some knowledge about, or people we believe to have some responsibility over the problem we are concerned with.

PICO Principles to remember while conducting Research Action:

1. **Who do you love?:** We know this problem is a real concern because our community told us so. Therefore, even if the person you are speaking to seems to be doing a great job in addressing this problem, we need to ask ourselves, “What is missing that so many of our community are still concerned with this problem?”
2. **Go in dumb - come out smart:** This means that we don’t assume that we know something about a problem (even when we do), because we are interested in important information that we don’t have, or in a particular person’s perspective on a problem. Let the person we are visiting do most of the talking.
3. **Do homework first, then act publicly:** Research actions are informational. We don’t negotiate for solutions or make commitments for our community during a research action.
4. **Power Rests in Relationships and Self Interest Moves People:** As in all of our work, we are engaged in reweaving relationships in our community. Research actions teach us how to develop public relationship, i.e., relationships between our immediate community and public institutions and people who serve and interact with them and about the norms and rules of such relationships.
5. **“Truth is a witnessing of 2 or more”:** Research actions let us hear things as they are in a public arena. Sometimes we hear surprising information. When 2 or more people hear this information, they then have the power to report on it publicly as “truth.” The other side of this is conducting research alone, we are often subject to disbelief when reporting surprising information to people.
6. **Power is often hidden.** How power really operates is not always what appears on the organizational chart.