

**Illinois Conference of Churches
Leadership Meeting
Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, Campaign, Illinois
December 1, 2009**

Public Policy Team Report

The Public Policy Team is guided by that portion of the Illinois Conference of Churches mission statement, which urges the ICC, "*to make public, prophetic witness to Christ's love for all people, and to address in particular, issues of poverty and racism.*" The PPT continues to take a leadership role in issues that impact the ICC and its member judicatories, by being vocal on matters before the Illinois General Assembly and Congress. From time to time the PPT prepares informational materials for distribution to the wider membership grassroots organizations, which target the strategies, set forth each year following the Annual Assembly.

The Public Policy Team gathered for a conference call on November 18, 2009, and the following members participated: Bob Gilligan, Chairperson, Garnet Fay, Linda Harrod, PPT Coordinator, Kevin Laughery, Gary McCants, and Chris Pierson and Beau Underwood. The major portion of our discussion centered on the ICC legislative concerns. The PPT agreed to focus on the following items for the 2010 Annual Assembly year:

- Abolition of the death penalty will be a higher priority than last year.
- Medicaid will be on the radar screen; especially if there is an opt-out for federal healthcare reform.
- Ensuring the safety net for state programs and services that serve the most vulnerable.
- Concerns for those incarcerated; especially the youth who have barriers to employment because of prior convictions.

The PPT encourages public policy leaders to contact Bob Gilligan, at 312-368-1066 or via e-mail @ rfgcci@aol.com, or Reverend Linda Harrod at 217-522-7099 or via e-mail @ lharrod@ilconfchurches.org. Please let us know if you have further ideas, issues, concerns, or strategies about how we might improve our grassroots lobbying efforts to better engage in the public policy debate in Illinois and at the Federal level.

Members of the Public Policy Team (PPT) include: Bob Gilligan, Chairperson, Mr. E. Garnet Fay, Reverend Kevin Laughery, Reverend Linda Harrod, Public Policy Coordinator, Reverend Gary McCants, Reverend Chris Pierson, Reverend Dan Schwick, Beau Underwood and Reverend Michael Winters.