



# NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Death Penalty Repeal Sunday

Sunday, February 24, 2019

## ***Planning for a Postcard Writing Campaign***

These resources will support you as you ask church members to write to their legislators after worship on Death Penalty Repeal Sunday. Feel free to adapt them for your own church and situation.

### **1. Gather the necessary physical supplies:**

- Postcards or note paper and envelopes
- Pens
- Stamps
- Basket to collect letters or postcards
- Handouts or newsprint for contact information
- Clear space to write

**2. Find your legislators.** You can visit [tinyurl.com/Repeal2019](http://tinyurl.com/Repeal2019) to find your state representatives and their contact information. When you find your legislators' contact information, print it on handouts or write it on newsprint so that everyone participating can see it for their postcard.

*For example, if you attend the United Church of Acworth, pull down "Acworth" from the menu and you will get information for Rep. Aron (Sullivan-07) and Rep. Smith (Sullivan-11).*

**3. Provide Internet access.** Some church members will live in a district different than the place where they worship. If your church has wifi, make sure that people have the network name and password to connect their devices to look up [tinyurl.org/Repeal2019](http://tinyurl.org/Repeal2019) themselves.

**3. Write a sample postcard message.** Participants can use it as a starting point for their own words. You can incorporate a Bible verse, phrase or theme from the worship service just ended. Put this sample message on the handout or on newsprint to help others get started.

*For example, you might write “Dear Rep. N, I live in your district and oppose the death penalty as a person of faith. Please vote for HB455 because we can live without the death penalty. Gratefully, (Your Name).”*

Everything written to legislators should be brief, respectful and to the point and avoid name-calling or threatening language.

**4. Designate a clear place to collect letters or postcards.** After writing, no one should be confused about what to do next. If someone can volunteer to mail all the postcards, this takes one thing off the “to-do” list of the church member and makes sure that the letter really gets out!

**5. Indicate next steps.** If you are preparing a handout or newsprint hanging, show resources for ongoing engagement on Death Penalty Repeal. The NH Council of Churches would recommend:

- Signing up for email updates at [nhchurches.org](http://nhchurches.org), as we will share notices of vigils, hearings or another letter-writing campaign.
- Direct people to [nodeathpenaltynh.org](http://nodeathpenaltynh.org) (the NH Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty) for events featuring testimonies from repeal advocates, death row exonerees and family members of murder victim.
- Following both of these organizations on Facebook or Twitter.

**6. Report back.** Please let us know if you participated in this campaign! Email [info@nhchurches.org](mailto:info@nhchurches.org) with your comments. What worked well? What should have been prepared that wasn't thought of? How many churches participated so that we can celebrate?