# 7 Forms of Religious Civic Engagement

LAKE INSTITUTE on Faith & Giving

| FORM | DESCRIPTION | EXAMPLES |
|---|---|---|
| Service | Meeting peoples' basic needs | Running a food pantry or shelter, starting a school or tutoring program |
| Advocacy | Pressing for policy change | Building coalitions, leading community organizing |
| Public Witness and Protest | Staging public responses to injustice | Making statements, holding vigils, leading marches |
| Public Leadership | Seeking to lead in the community as an expression of faith | Running for office, serving on boards, stewarding vocation |
| Increasing Public Understanding | Illuminating the community's history and current challenges | Hosting lectures, screening documentaries, giving public tours |
| Relationship-Building | Fostering relationships across the community and difference | Engaging in interfaith forums and friendships, neighboring intentionally |
| Repair | Seeking to mend past harms and injustices | Revisiting and revising narratives, removing memorials, expressing repentance |

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

Are there other forms of religious civic engagement we would add to the list?

Where do we see ourselves at work across these forms of engagement?

Where are we still missing connections that could be made ... for the sake of our faith and the common good?

Based on *Still Missing Connections? Religious Presence in the Civic Life of Richmond, Virginia* (2026) | Visit: go.iu.edu/smc2026