

Clergy Support for CROP Hunger Walks

Clergy are a key factor in the success of CROP Hunger Walks. Your promotion of the event and public recognition of participants can make a big difference in the level of participation. Members of a congregation are more likely to become involved when you participate in the Walk. Here are a few simple tasks that you can do to increase the number of Walkers and the amount of funds raised.

- 1. Learn about the local CROP Hunger Walk.

 Details are mailed to congregations, usually four to six weeks before the Walk. Go to crophungerwalk.org to find your Walk listing and register.
- 2. Appoint or help identify a recruiter to pick up the necessary materials, sign up and instruct Walkers, collect funds and return the funds and envelopes to the Walk Treasurer. In a large congregation, having more than one Walk Recruiter is helpful.
- **3. Announce** the event during worship and encourage people to participate as Walkers and donors. Begin three to four weeks before the date of the Walk. Ask Walkers to get a donation envelope from a Walk Recruiter or to sign up online.
- 4. Promote the Walk through newsletters, fliers, bulletins and church Facebook page. Promotional materials are free of charge from your local Walk committee or can be ordered from crophungerwalk.org/forms.
- **5. Walk in the CROP Hunger Walk yourself.** Clergy can demonstrate a personal commitment to neighbors in need by participating.

Other ways to support the Walk

Have a "friendly competition" with a neighboring congregation or clergy. Offer to wear a rival's favorite college sweatshirt if your congregation raises less. Detail a car. Wash windows. Cook a meal. Have some visible, public fun and get folks involved!

Involve the entire congregation by including hunger or justice themes in worship. Worship resources are available online: resources.crophungerwalk.org.

Preach near the CROP Hunger Walk date on hunger and social justice issues.

Teach children, youth and adults about the root causes of hunger and other social justice issues. Educational materials and videos are available online.

Plan events for youth with the hunger or justice theme, such as a fast, sleepover or retreat.

Take photographs of people who sign up to walk and display on a wall or bulletin board.

Say "thank you" and report on results following the Walk.

For some people, participation in their local CROP Hunger Walk is the beginning of a life-long ministry on behalf of the hungry — a development clergy can help foster through their involvement.

For more information, go to <u>crophungerwalk.org</u> or call 888-CWS-CROP.