

# Demystifying

the Work of People of Faith in the Political  
Process

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann

# Biblical and Theological Foundations

God's love and God's power  
seek *shalom*

Human sin is human  
brokenness and distorts  
the calling to work for the  
well-being of all



# Biblical and Theological Foundations

God's people approach civic  
life with trust in God and  
realism and humility about  
human efforts

We affirm that civic  
institutions remain God's gifts



# Biblical and Theological Foundations

Our baptismal vocation may  
be fulfilled in civic places  
of responsibility

Seeking the well-being of the  
community is using God's gifts



# Biblical and Theological Foundations

Liturgy prepares people to join  
God's work in civic life

We have a calling to encourage  
discernment and provide  
spaces for difficult  
conversations



# Biblical and Theological Foundations

There is a prophetic task for  
those who follow Jesus

Was Jesus political? What  
about the prophets or Paul or  
other Biblical examples?



# Biblical and Theological Foundations

Politics is essential to civic  
well-being and of concern to  
God's people

The Lutheran tradition -  
respect for and cooperation  
but also a responsibility to call  
to account



# Biblical and Theological Foundations

Does government and political  
authority increase power and  
its beneficial use among the  
people governed?





# Legality & Ethics

The First Amendment does not prohibit or discourage the application of religious convictions to public life



# Legality & Ethics

“Work with civil authorities in areas of mutual endeavor...and in a relation of functional interaction.”

Christ's church should not bless any particular political theory





# Ways to Engage

Social Service

Self-Help

Research and  
Education

Advocacy

Direct Action  
Organizing



# How an Idea Becomes Legislation





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# How an Idea Becomes

Idea

Bill

House  
Committees

Senate  
Committees

## SF 11 as introduced - 93rd Legislature (2023 - 2024) Posted on 09/14/2023 02:49pm

KEY: ~~stricken~~ = removed, old language.     underscored = added, new language.

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### Current Version - as introduced

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to housing; establishing a state rent assistance program for low-income,  
1.3 cost-burdened households; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes  
1.4 2022, section 462A.05, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in  
1.5 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 462A.  
1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 462A.05, is amended by adding a subdivision  
1.8 to read:  
1.9 Subd. 42. **Rent assistance program.** The agency may administer the rent assistance  
1.10 program established in section 462A.2095.

1.11 Sec. 2. **[462A.2095] RENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**  
1.12 Subdivision 1. **Program established.** The state rent assistance account is established  
1.13 as a separate account in the housing development fund. Money in the account is appropriated  
1.14 to the agency for grants to local housing authorities for the purposes specified in this section.  
1.15 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
1.16 meanings given them.  
1.17 (b) "Eligible person" means an individual or family with an annual income of up to 50  
1.18 percent of the area median income as determined by the United States Department of Housing  
1.19 and Urban Development, adjusted for family size, that is paying more than 30 percent of  
1.20 the individual's or family's annual income on rent. Eligibility is determined at the time an  
1.21 individual or family first receives rent assistance under this section. Eligible person does  
2.1 not include an individual or family receiving federal tenant-based or project-based assistance



Idea

Bill

House  
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Floor

Senate  
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# islation



Idea

Bill

House  
Committees

House  
Floor

Passage

Conference  
Committee

Governor

Senate  
Committees

Senate  
Floor



# How an Idea Becomes Legislation





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