



HOUSE MEETING Script, Aug 2020

Time / Hora	ENGLISH: Item	Person / encargado
5 min	Welcome and Introductions Welcome everyone and ask them to share their name.	
3 min	Faith Reflection and Prayer (slide 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite two people to read the short quotes on Slide 2 • Part of our work is developing a new imagination for what our community and and should be like. • Ask someone to lead a prayer 	
2 min	Purpose (slide 3) Ask three people to each read one bulleted item sharing the purpose for tonight's meeting.	
5 min	Credential Slide 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faith in Indiana is building an Indiana where every family belongs, and everyone thrives. • Our network includes 191 organizational members and thousands of individual supporters organize across race, faith, and place in six county • We are Black, brown, white; Catholic, Jewish, Pentecostal. Slide 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Families First agenda includes a range of issues important to our families and neighbors • In the last six months, we've had many concrete wins: around police accountability, getting eight COVID testing sites in communities of color, getting inmates released from County Jails during COVID. • What I love about our work in our county chapter (share a special victory, or why you are involved) Slide 6 Faith in Indiana has experience engaging voters In 2018 we had nearly 30,000 conversations, and increased voter turn-out among people of color, women and youth (we'll look at this in more detail later in the evening)	
10 min	Why does this election matter to you? (slide 7) In two or three sentences, say why this election matters to you. Be specific about how the election impacts your life and people you love. (modeling for others)	

Breakouts: In breakout rooms (2-3 people) ask people to talk about why this election matters to them. In concrete terms, what's at stake for them and their families? (5-7minutes)

When folks come back to big group, ask to share 1 or 2 stories that hit you most about what's at stake this election (city, state, national)

25 min

Dominant Narrative and Faith Narrative

Slide 8

In this next section you may want to toggle between slides and conversation view on zoom.

Framing:

- Political parties treat voters like consumers; the candidates are products they are selling.
- In Faith in Indiana, we care about building a different kind of Indiana – not just about which particular candidate wins. An Indiana that reflects our values of belonging and hope. An Indiana that works for all of our families.
- We're going to spend some time looking at competing set of values that affect our communities, starting with the dominant narrative that rules much of our politics.

Slide 9

- Elements of the dominant narrative (advance with each bullet)
- The dominant narrative uses fear to divide us (describes Mexicans as "rapists," describes protesters as rioters and anarchists to generate fear of Blacks, or describes COVID as the "Chinese virus"); In this view some people have more value than others; some people are disposable.
- The dominant narrative of fear and division holds to hyper-individualism – with phrases like "pulling yourself up by your boot-straps" or blaming individuals "it's your own fault"
- The dominant narrative believes there isn't enough; life is a zero-sum game and we are pit against one another for resources, power, wealth, dignity.
- In this view government is bad. It should stay out of the way. Disgust with government is expressed in different ways: "Let the market does its thing," "the end of big government," "tax and spend," "de-regulation," "starve the beast." Mitch McConnell recently said we should let states go bankrupt.

Slide 10

- Narratives are constructed upstream, the impact is downstream on our families and people.
- **Discussion**
 - Question: How do you see this narrative at work when you walk out your door?

Slide 11

These are some of the concrete results of a narrative of division, fear and scarcity.

Conclusions you are leading the group to name in this discussion about the dominant narrative:

- There is a dominant narrative based on: fear, hyper-individualism, scarcity

- This narrative is a tactic, designed to divide us, because we are weak if we stay divided
- Division benefits the handful of super-wealthy elite to maintain power and control
- The pain we feel is a consequence of this narrative and our buying into its division
- The narrative in our heads (as individuals and as a community) shapes our imagination for what should be and what is possible.

Slide 12

Question: Our faith traditions teach us a competing narrative, what is it?

Elicit:

- Opposite of fear and division.....Belonging -- everybody has value and worth and is to be treated with dignity
- Opposite of individualism.. ..Interconnection and Community
- Opposite of scarcity.....Abundance
- Role of government to serve all and protect the common good

Slide 13

After eliciting responses from the group, test what we have below.

- **Everyone has value and worth; everyone should be treated with respect; everyone is invited to belong**
- **We are interconnected; Everyone should be seen and heard.**
- **There is enough for everyone, if we share and distribute fairly**

In this narrative the role of government is to act to advance the common good.

Question: How would Indiana be different if our politicians governed according to our Faith Narrative? Invite people to be very concrete.

Slide 14

How would Indiana be different if politicians operated out of the narrative of hope and faith? Imagine an Indiana where....

- **every Hoosier has access to health care**
- Full Funding for Crisis Intervention Programs that give people a path off of street life and **dramatically reduce gun violence**
- Jails sit empty because **we chose to fund treatment centers**, mental health programs, and paths out of poverty;
- everyone has the **freedom to drive**, because drivers licenses are for everyone no matter where you were born.

7 min

Faith Voter Program

Slide 15

To get there, we have two windows of opportunity

- One: Nov 3rd: We need people in office who will carry our agenda
- Two: We need to make sure these priorities are included in Indiana's budget that gets decided in 202

On Sept 3rd, we'll launch the Faith Voter Digital Canvass Program

Slide 16

Goals of Faith Voter Program

Slide 17

We know we can do it, because we've done it before!

In 2018, we had conversations with nearly 30,000 people. Our work led to a 21% boost in voter turnout among the African-Americans and women that we talked to and 7% among young people.

(Additional background information for you if there are questions)

- Over four election cycles we've built a voter bloc of more than 52,000 voters. (That's 2% of Indiana's vote share and one third of the margin of victory for any statewide race.)
- In 2018 those voters: unseated the state's most notorious white supremacist legislator, and electing the first open gay man, the first Asian-American, and the youngest legislators ever to the state legislature.

Slide 18

We will be having phone and text conversations with voters on six Thursday evenings in September and October

We will all get on a Zoom call together, then hit mute and get on our phones, and at the end get back on Zoom together to debrief.

We ask everyone who participates to come to one one-hour training on a Tuesday evening (to learn the mechanics of calling and texting)

10 min Acting Together

Slide 19

- Have each person take a few minutes, look at their calendars, and make a personal commitment for the Thursdays, they will attend, and which Tuesday orientation they will be at. You can ask them to put their name, e-mail/phone and dates in the chat. Then you will have record.
- You may want to identify specific Thursdays for your team and urge members to sign up those Thursdays as much as possible.
- Also ask if they have their own computer. If they do, we'll ask them to use phones, we'll also be asking 30 people to commit to lead the text program every week.
- You will want to follow up with phone calls closer to September, to remind them and make sure they have links, and then call again the night before.

Slide 20 Links to register for Statewide Rally, Sept 3; Thursday phone calls and texting and Tuesday technical training (to be developed)

3 min Check-in, Sending and Blessing

Ask for a one-word check-in to hear how people are feeling, thank people for coming, invite someone to pray a prayer of blessing and sending.