



# *Political Action and Advocacy in Faith Based Community: Possibilities and limits in our US democracy*

**Interfaith Association of Central Ohio (IACO)**

**25<sup>th</sup> Annual Main Event Dinner**

**Sunday, August 27, 2017**

Doors open at 4:30 pm, Program begins at 5:00 pm

**First Community Church**

3777 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43221

In 1954, Congress approved an amendment by Sen. Lyndon Johnson to prohibit 501(c)(3) organizations, which includes organizations that are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes, from engaging in any political campaign activity. To the extent Congress has revisited the ban over the years, it has in fact strengthened the ban. The most recent change came in 1987 when Congress amended the language to clarify that the prohibition also applies to statements opposing candidates. (IRS Publication - Charities, Churches and Politics)

On May 4<sup>th</sup> President Trump signed an Executive Order "Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty" directed at limiting or even abolishing the effect of the Johnson Amendment. As a result, the President has started a conversation and renewed an effort to overturn the Johnson Amendment and to allow charities and faith communities to engage in partisan politics without a threat to their non-profit status.

This year at the Main Event, three distinguished panelists: **Joseph L Mas (José Luis Mas)**, trial attorney representing newly-arrived immigrants and refugees; **James R. Beattie, Jr.**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs/Professor of Law at Capital University and winner of 2002 Teacher of the Year Award from Association of American Law Schools; and **James M. Childs, Jr.**, Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics at Trinity Lutheran Seminary and ordained pastor in Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, will discuss the possibilities and limits of political action and advocacy by faith based community.

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### **Registration Form**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_ Faith/Worldview \_\_\_\_\_

Cost: \$30 per person or \$15 for high school/college student only  
(includes vegetarian meal)

\_\_\_\_\_ #attending x \$30 + \_\_\_\_\_ #attending x \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to IACO and mail with this completed form to: IACO, 65 Jefferson Avenue, Columbus, OH 43215.

**Deadline for non-refundable reservations: August 15, 2017.**

For more information, please contact us:

Phone: 614-849-0290 or E-mail: [iaco@iaco.org](mailto:iaco@iaco.org)

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