



# Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light

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Dear friend of the earth,

The poet Archibald MacLeish, responding to the Apollo astronauts' vision of the earth from space, wrote that we are all "riders on the earth."

So we are, and so we come to the end of another year, the marker of time's passage that says our beloved planet has once again made it around our star, the sun. But we all know that our lives are not entirely orbital. We have not come back to the place we were a year ago. Much has changed, and the future looks very uncertain.

**For Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light, the high point of the past year was our September conference, "Earth Care: A Faith Imperative."** It was held in Appleton, at First Congregational United Church of Christ. Our keynote speaker, Hope College (Michigan) professor Dr. Stephen Bouma-Prediger, spoke on the inspiration and encouragement we have received from Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, *LAUDATO SI': On Care for Our Common Home*.

Four workshops treated green building; legislative advocacy; creating sustainable practices in congregations; and the health impacts of climate change. Exhibitors from a wide variety of organizations created a lively exchange of ideas and facilitated the kind of networking necessary for our work. Participants included evangelical and other Protestant Christians, Catholics, Jews, Unitarians, Christian Scientists and others. They came from the Fox Valley, Stevens Point, Milwaukee, Madison, and elsewhere.

**The new relationships and connections made that Sunday afternoon will be invaluable for the tasks that face us in the New Year.** Now more than ever, our work is critically important.

**The faith community has a unique role in the public conversation about clean energy and climate change.** While other groups and other voices can address the important scientific, technical and economic dimensions of the issue, we can speak, forcefully and credibly, to the moral and spiritual issues at stake. We can reach across lines of faith, race, class, and politics, partnering to meet the challenge of a changing climate.

**Wisconsin Interfaith Power & Light will continue to engage people of faith in advocacy for responsible and intelligent public policies in this new and challenging political scene.** But there is much else that we can and must do as individuals, households, congregations and communities to curb greenhouse gas emissions and build sustainable practices in our everyday lives.

**As energy consumers, we have many new options for being the change we wish to see in the world.** Our energy landscape is undergoing a rapid and exciting transformation. New technologies are giving rise to new ways of thinking about how we can meet our energy needs without harming our neighbors, future generations, and the other creatures that share this marvelous, precious planet.

We know that at this time of year you have received many worthy appeals for contributions. **But we ask that you consider the unique role that Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light plays as Wisconsin's statewide interfaith creation care organization.**

Much of the work that people of faith are doing to care for the earth and all its inhabitants happens locally, in homes, houses of worship, neighborhoods and municipalities. **In the year to come, WIP&L will work to strengthen our statewide network to share the success stories, resources, opportunities, insights, and inspiration that are springing up in faith communities all across Wisconsin.**

As the Wisconsin affiliate of the national Interfaith Power and Light organization, we seek to build a strong statewide creation care movement. **In the coming year – with your help – we will:**

- **Partner** with other organizations to sponsor a series of local gatherings for learning, networking, and generating new opportunities for collaborative action;
- **Mobilize** advocates for climate and energy policies at the local, state, and federal levels;
- **Launch** a new, improved website that will be even more attractive, useful, and user-friendly;
- **Learn** about what the persons and congregations in our network are doing, how we can help them, and how they would like to be involved with WIP&L;
- **Reach out** through social media – e-newsletters, list serve, Facebook page and Twitter feed, sharing advocacy alerts and news about what faith communities can and are doing to promote a clean energy economy; and
- **Raise awareness** that taking action on climate is a moral and religious imperative through a speaker's bureau for congregations and other gatherings.

**Your gift will help Wisconsin's faith communities face the challenges and grasp the opportunities that lie ahead as we ride our earth into an uncharted future -- a future that is still full of promise and hope.**

***Thank you for your support!* Your contribution will be matched by a generous challenge grant from the Regeneration Project!**

John Helt, WIP&L Board President  
Peter Bakken, WIP&L State Coordinator

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You may complete this form and place it in the enclosed envelope. *Mail to: Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light, 750 Windsor Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.* Please make your checks payable to: Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light. *WIPL is a 501(c)3 registered organization.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_