



FAITH VOICES FOR A HEALTHY CLIMATE

COMPILED BY

M O M S *clean air* **F O R C E**



At its best, a strong sense of faith nurtures love, hope, comfort—and moral leadership. Think back on the history of sweeping change in this country—and the world over—and you will find spiritual leaders at the heart of transformational moments.

Moms Clean Air Force salutes the many people of faith, from world leaders to citizen congregants, who are doing so much to lead the way in tackling the most urgent problem humanity faces: global climate change.

Whatever your beliefs, there is much to learn, and admire, in the thoughts that follow. Hope springs from many sources.

We honor them everywhere, and in everyone.

-DOMINIQUE BROWNING, CO-FOUNDER, MOMS CLEAN AIR FORCE

INTRODUCTION

Interfaith Moral Action on Climate got started around 2011 when a number of us realized that only sounding the science on climate change wasn't going to wake people up to the problem. We needed the moral voice and fervor of people of faith and spirituality to help drive the message deep into people's hearts.

But no one would ever have thought I would work as a religious organizer – certainly not me. My last connection with religion was as an errant teenager leaving Mass after taking communion at my Catholic girls' boarding school, and heading, while the nuns' heads were still down, into the cloister (it still scares me to talk about it) to steal the biggest box of Marshall Field Frango Mints you ever saw.

When we started up our coalition, a friend consulted her astrologer (covering all our bases here), who read my chart and remarked, “She has been looking for this work for a long time.” She was right, but that search was deep down inside of me.

Not long ago I could barely say hello to a colleague because she was an Evangelical. I just assumed she wasn't my type. I can say this now because I worship the ground Deb walks on. She and other courageous faith leaders have imbued this new experience with a grace, dignity and resolve that is divine. And I don't say this lightly.

There's a lot I didn't “get” about faith leaders that I get now – the respect, tenderness towards life, humility and the profound commitment to stewardship even when taking on action that is frightening. It sure has taught me a lot about myself.

After 25 years of being a psychiatrist I know that more than anything else, we seek a sense of purpose in life. It is difficult knowing that I am working with so many extraordinary faith-based activists because civilization is on the precipice – but I consider myself lucky beyond words to be shoulder to shoulder with some of the finest people around.

**-LISE VAN SUSTEREN
CO-FOUNDER, INTERFAITH MORAL ACTION ON CLIMATE**

“The human family has received from the Creator a common gift: **nature**.

Nature, in a word, is at our disposition and we are called to **exercise a responsible stewardship** over it.

Yet so often we are driven by greed and by the arrogance of dominion, possession, manipulation and exploitation; we do not preserve nature; nor do we respect it or consider it a gracious gift which **we must care for** and set at the service of our brothers and sisters, including **future generations**.”

– POPE FRANCIS





“It is time for mothers, all concerned parents,
and all who care for our children’s future,

to call upon their representatives to

SPEAK OUT

for the critical importance
of clean air for their families.”

-RABBI WARREN STONE, KENSINGTON, MARYLAND

"EMINENT SCIENTISTS HAVE SAID
THAT GLOBAL WARMING
IS AS DANGEROUS FOR OUR FUTURE
AS NUCLEAR WAR.

WE HAVE ENTERED THE UNCHARTED TERRITORY
OF A GLOBAL EMERGENCY,
WHERE "BUSINESS AS USUAL" CANNOT CONTINUE.

WE MUST TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO REPAIR AND
PROTECT THIS WORLD, ENSURING A
SAFE-CLIMATE FUTURE FOR ALL PEOPLE
AND ALL SPECIES."

-THE DALAI LAMA





“Our economy can never be so desperate that we sell off our children’s right to fresh air...

African American children are 5 TIMES more likely to DIE of asthma and 3 times more likely to be admitted to the hospital for an asthma attack.

This is directly related to unbridled carbon pollution in the air. When combined with the other toxins that come from power plants such as arsenic, mercury, and lead, carbon pollution creates a lethal gas chamber – a death dome – which hovers over our communities and snuffs out lives prematurely.

It is unbridled carbon pollution that is the number one driver of climate change. Those most impacted by climate change are the most vulnerable members of society we are called to serve.”

~ Reverend M. Dele, United Church of Christ, Virginia

“As people of faith, we have a sacred duty to
LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

Burning **FOSSIL FUEL** creates pollution,
HARMS OUR NEIGHBORS' HEALTH,
and is causing unprecedented climate change.

Our nation must move rapidly
toward renewable energy alternatives.”

– THE REVEREND CANON SALLY BINGHAM,
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT



REV. CANON SALLY G. BINGHAM



"AS A PASTOR,
AS A FATHER,
AS A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD,

I'M HERE TO SAY WE NEED TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT
AND ALL THOSE OF GOOD WILL
WHO WANT TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE.

WE OWE IT TO OUR CREATOR
AND OUR CHILDREN."

- REVEREND CHUCK CURRIE, PORTLAND, OREGON

"I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF
CLIMATE CHANGE ON GOD'S CREATION,

ON OUR MOST VULNERABLE
BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
AND ON GENERATIONS TO COME.

I BELIEVE THAT AS STEWARDS OF
CREATION, IT IS OUR MORAL
IMPERATIVE TO ACT NOW."

- REVEREND CHARLES MORRIS, MICHIGAN
FOUNDER OF MICHIGAN INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT





“Children, both born and unborn,
are our most precious gift.

EACH CHILD SHOULD BE BORN INTO A WELCOMING WORLD,
NOT ONE THREATENED BY A CHANGING CLIMATE.

For people like me who are pro-life evangelical Christians
and life-long Republicans, defending our children,
the unborn, and those yet to be born,
is at the heart of who we are.”

– Reverend Mitchell C. Hescox
President/CEO, Evangelical Environmental Network
York County, Pennsylvania

“As people of faith, we can let justice roll
like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream
by speaking out.

We can love our neighbors as ourselves in the way we use our
resources and the way we speak out against expanding our
fossil fuel consumption through drilling and pipelines.

Most of all, spreading awareness about climate change will enable
us all to be good parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles.”

- BRIAN SNOW, LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA





"OUR REFORM JEWISH VALUES
CALL ON US TO BE

STEWARDS OF THE EARTH,

NOT JUST FOR OUR OWN BENEFIT AND THE WELL-BEING
OF THOSE WITH WHOM WE SHARE THIS PLANET TODAY,
BUT BECAUSE OF

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE GENERATIONS THAT WILL SUCCEED US.

THESE GUIDING PRINCIPLES INSPIRE OUR SUPPORT
OF MEASURES TO STEM THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE -
INCLUDING THE EPA'S PROPOSED REGULATIONS ON CARBON
EMISSIONS FROM NEW POWER PLANTS."

-BARBARA WEINSTEIN,
RELIGIOUS ACTION CENTER OF REFORM JUDAISM

“EVERYTHING NOW POINTS TO THE FACT
THAT MANKIND HAS NEGLECTED ITS RESPONSIBILITIES
AS KHALIFA [GUARDIAN OF THE WORLD]

IN THE WAY IT IS DESTROYING THE NATURAL WORLD.

SCIENTISTS ARE CONFIRMING THAT OUR ACTIONS HAVE INDUCED
GLOBAL WARMING AND CLIMATE CHANGE, WHICH IS

DISRUPTING THE VERY PATTERNING OF ALLAH'S CREATION

THAT HAS UNIQUELY ENDOWED PLANET EARTH WITH A CLIMATE SUITED
TO THE PROPAGATION AND SUSTENANCE OF LIFE.”

-IFTIKHAR AWAN, UNITED KINGDOM





"WE VIEW CLIMATE CHANGE AS THE MORAL ISSUE OF OUR TIME,
AND FEEL WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION
TO REVERSE THE IMPLICATIONS OF OUR CARELESS ACTIONS.

.....

AS CHRISTIANS, WE ARE CALLED TO BE STEWARDS
OF THE LAND THAT WAS GIFTED TO US
AND ENSURE THAT WE LEAVE THIS PLANET
BETTER FOR THE NEXT GENERATION."

.....

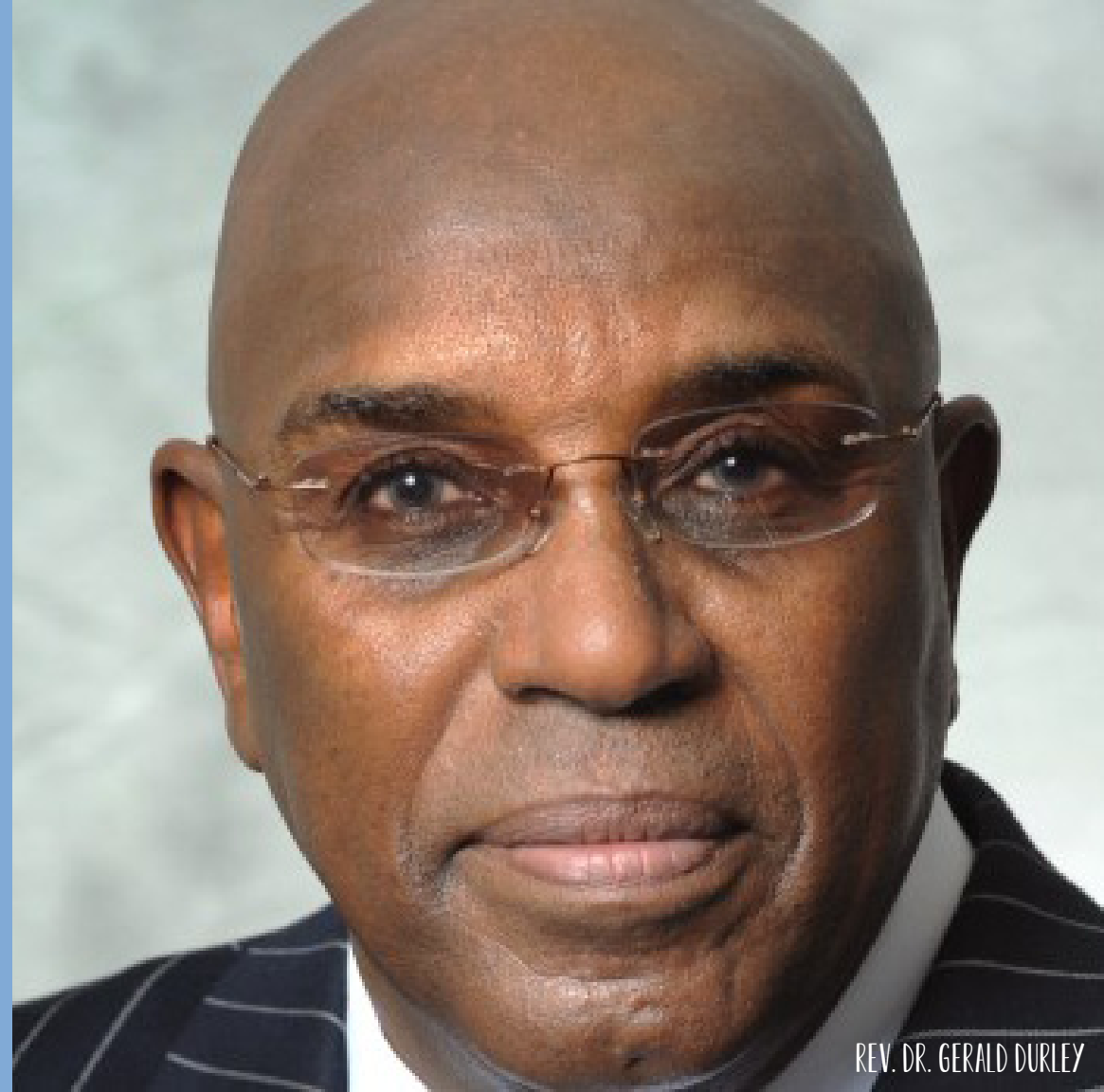
-TRICIA BRUCKBAUER, CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES

"GOD GAVE US THE GIFT OF
A SOUND MIND AND HEART.

HOW CAN I TALK ABOUT
ECONOMIC POVERTY AND
INJUSTICES IF
I CAN'T BREATHE CLEAN AIR

AND THE WATER IS SO TOXIC
THAT I CAN'T DRINK IT?"

-REVEREND DR. GERALD DURLEY, ATLANTA, GEORGIA



REV. DR. GERALD DURLEY



**“I BELIEVE THAT ORDINARY PEOPLE
CAN ACCOMPLISH
EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.**

**WE CAN CREATE A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE.
WE’VE GOT TO TELL OUR LEADERS TO PUT
PEOPLE BEFORE POLLUTERS.”**

-RABBI SHARON BROUS, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

“Evangelicals must learn to begin to discuss the environmental crisis with creativity and integrity.

Whether it’s because we know we play an integral role in the healing of the world, in agreement with Wendell Berry, who says our fate is “mingled in the fate of the world.”

Or, because we’ve come to see our responsibility to care for God’s creation as a central aspect of our love of Jesus Christ.

Regardless of our reason – silence can’t be our policy.”

-Dr. A. J. Swoboda, Portland, Oregon





“Science helps me understand how human activities affect global conditions, but it is not my primary motivation in trying to call attention to climate change. That motivation comes from my faith commitment.”

-DOROTHY BOORSE, WENHAM, MASSACHUSETTS
PROFESSOR OF ECOLOGY AT GORDON COLLEGE

“I stand before you today not as a scientist or engineer or even as an environmental advocate, but first and foremost as a person of faith called to care for God’s good creation and to walk alongside my brothers and sisters around the globe who are struggling to survive the impacts of a changing climate... While we in our places of comfort and privilege in the United States have debated the science and argued the statistics and perpetuated our polluting ways, our brothers and sisters around the world – and in vulnerable communities here at home – have suffered.
Now is our time to act.”

-JOHN HILL, GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

“MORE THAN PURELY AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE, THE SETTING OF CARBON STANDARDS IS AN ISSUE OF FAIRNESS, EQUITY AND JUSTICE...

It is not only future generations that will bear the impacts of climate change. They are being felt now, most intensely by those populations around the world who are least able to cope with them. We must act with great conviction and haste to move toward solutions.

THE CENTRAL PRINCIPLE OF THE BAHAI FAITH IS THE ONENESS OF HUMANKIND.

This principle has deep implications for policy in many arenas. It should guide us to seek solutions that are equitable and just, treating all people as members of one human family.

EPA'S PROPOSED CARBON STANDARDS FOR NEW POWER PLANTS REPRESENT ONE WAY THAT THIS PRINCIPLE CAN BE PUT INTO ACTION.”

~ Peter Adriance, US Bahai Office of Public Affairs





"IF ANYONE SHOULD BE ABOVE THE CURVE
WHEN IT COMES TO PROTECTING THE EARTH AND OUR CHILDREN,
IT SHOULD BE THOSE WHO
CLAIM TO HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

.....

IF GOD CREATED THE EARTH AND ALL THAT INHABIT IT,
ISN'T IT BEING DISRESPECTFUL TO PICK AND CHOOSE
WHAT WE ARE GOING TO PROTECT?

.....

WE SPEND SO MUCH TIME FOCUSING ON HUMAN RIGHTS,
YET WE GLOSS OVER THE CONDITIONS IN OUR WORLD
THAT SILENTLY THREATEN THE QUALITY OF OUR LIVES."

.....

- LAURA MICHELLE BURNS, MOM FROM OHIO

“I JOIN THE GROWING CHORUS OF PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS NO MORE IMPORTANT ISSUE FACING OUR WORLD THAN THE DEVASTATING EFFECTS OF POLLUTION FROM OUR CARBON HUNGRY ECONOMY, INCLUDING CLIMATE DISRUPTION AND HEALTH PROBLEMS.”

~ SARAH SCHERSCHLIGT
PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

“I GREW UP ON SERMONS REMINDING ME THAT THE EARTH IS A PRECIOUS GIFT FROM GOD. NOW WHEN I HEAR SUCH SERMONS I OFTEN END UP IN TEARS. I SEE THE CHANGES HAPPENING TO MY BELOVED AND BEAUTIFUL STATE DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, AND I AM FRIGHTENED ABOUT WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS.”

~ KAREN MARYS DAUGHTER, MONROE, MAINE





“CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT A SECOND-TIER ISSUE
THAT CAN WAIT UNTIL WE SOLVE
SYRIA, IRAN, ISRAEL/PALESTINE, THE CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC, AND OTHER NATIONS’ CONFLICTS.

IT IS A FORCE OF DESTRUCTION IN OUR WORLD,
AND IT IS ACTIVE NOW, IN PLACES WE DON’T
USUALLY SEE, AFFECTING PEOPLE
JESUS CALLS US TO LOVE AS OUR NEIGHBORS.”

– LIZ SCHMITT, WASHINGTON DC
CREATION CARE CAMPAIGN ASSOCIATE, SOUJOURNERS

"I AM A HUMAN,
A MOTHER,
AN EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN

WHO KNOWS THAT JESUS SAID TO LOVE GOD AND
LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.

THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ARE GOING TO
FALL DISPROPORTIONATELY ON THE POOREST.

WHO DOESN'T BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD TAKE CARE
OF THE POOR AND NEEDY?"

-KATHARINE HAYHOE, LUBBOCK, TEXAS

CO-AUTHOR OF *A CLIMATE FOR CHANGE: GLOBAL WARMING FACTS FOR FAITH-BASED DECISIONS*



KATHARINE HAYHOE



"AN IMPORTANT QUESTION FOR CHRISTIANS, AND FOR ALL PEOPLE OF GOODWILL, IS THIS:

HOW MUCH CARBON POLLUTION SHOULD POWER PLANTS BE PERMITTED TO DUMP INTO THE ATMOSPHERE - FOR OTHERS TO PAY FOR IN HEALTH, AND IN CLIMATE DISRUPTION COSTS?

FROM THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE, IT'S CLEARLY WRONG FOR A BUYER AND A SELLER TO ENJOY ALL THE BENEFITS OF A TRANSACTION, AND THEN LEAVE A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF THE COST FOR SOMEONE ELSE TO PICK UP - THE EXTERNAL COSTS."

-JOHN ELWOOD, NEW JERSEY FARMER
AND MEMBER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“THIS IS ONE FRANCISCAN WHO WILL
NEVER STOP FIGHTING FOR CLEAN AIR,
NOT ONLY FOR HER FAMILY,
BUT FOR ALL OF GOD’S CHILDREN.”

-ELISA BATISTA,
CALIFORNIA MOM AND LATINA ACTIVIST





“I have been called by God to speak out on these issues, because it is my conviction as an Evangelical Christian that we must be stewards of God’s creation.

And, it seems abundantly clear to me that the EPA’s carbon rule is a much-needed tool to carry out this call to be stewards of creation.”

~ Reverend Richard Cizik
President, New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good, Virginia

"CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS TO DESTABILIZE THE
GUIDEPOSTS AROUND WHICH OUR SOCIETY OPERATES,
BOTH HERE IN NEBRASKA AND AROUND THE WORLD.

THE CHANGES THAT ARE PREDICTED WORLDWIDE WILL
HAVE A DISPROPORTIONATE EFFECT ON THE POOREST
AMONG US, BUT ALL OF US WILL HAVE TO ADJUST TO
SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED CIRCUMSTANCES.

ULTIMATELY, THE EARTH WILL DO WHAT IT WILL DO;
IT IS THE HUMAN CONSEQUENCES THAT
CALL ME, A FAITH LEADER, TO ACT."

-REVEREND KIM MORROW, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



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Moms Clean Air Force is a community of moms and dads united against air pollution – including the urgent crisis of our changing climate – to protect our children’s health.

We arm members with reliable information and solutions through online resources, articles, action tools and on-the-ground events.

[Click to learn more about how the changing climate is disrupting our weather.](#)

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**FIGHTING FOR
OUR KIDS’ HEALTH**