

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, November 13, 2018

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**Iowa Religious Leaders Pray for Victims of California Fires and Call for Faith-based Climate Action**

Tomorrow, Iowa Interfaith Power & Light (Iowa IPL) will release [the 2018 Iowa Religious Leaders Statement on Climate Change](#). The statement “We can no longer wait” calls on Iowans to draw on our religious traditions to find and implement solutions to climate change.

The statement, signed by 217 Iowa religious leaders from 16 faith traditions and 61 cities and towns across the state, will be released at an interfaith prayer service and press event at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines. Those gathered will also pray for victims of the wildfires in California.

The service and press event will include Iowans of faith reading the statement and praying for climate action.

**We can no longer wait: Interfaith Prayer Service for Climate Action  
Capitol Hill Lutheran Church  
511 Des Moines Street, Des Moines  
November 14, 11:30 AM**

With the release of this statement, Iowa’s religious leaders are clear—the world needs all Iowans from all walks of life and a diversity of experiences, passions, and worldviews to work together to create and implement faith-based solutions to climate change. We can no longer wait.

This year’s statement includes an increase of endorsements by more than 60% from judicatories (i.e. dioceses, synods, conferences), organizations, and individuals over previous years.

“We’re seeing a dramatic increase in the number of Iowans motivated by their faith calling for climate action,” says Matt Russell, executive director of Iowa IPL. “Tragedies like the fires in California are happening more frequently. More Iowans are speaking out. Our voices are getting louder. And increasingly we’re speaking from our faith.”

The statement also includes new endorsements from three religious colleges: Central College in Pella, Loras College in Dubuque, and Luther College in Decorah. Individual religious leaders from six additional religious colleges and universities also signed on to the statement.

Iowans are uniquely positioned to lead on climate action including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and farming practices that capture carbon and reduce emissions. Last month, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report indicated we have about a decade to

act to keep Earth's temperature from rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

According to the report the challenges are daunting and failure to act is catastrophic. However, according to authors, we must work together immediately to find and implement equitable and just solutions to climate change that will usher in a world of hope and abundance.

“In light of the IPCC SR15, climate action is an ideal opportunity for Iowans to come together to work across political, geographic, generational, and ideological lines. Our interfaith prayer service will celebrate the common values we share as people of faith. These are the very values needed for taking action to stabilize the climate,” says Russell.

Religious leaders endorsing the statement come from the following Iowa communities:

Adel  
Ames  
Ankeny  
Baldwin  
Belle Plaine  
Bettendorf  
Cedar Falls  
Cedar Rapids  
Charles City  
Clinton  
Coralville  
Council Bluffs  
Cumming  
Davenport  
Decorah  
Des Moines  
Dewitt  
Dubuque  
Ely  
Evansdale  
Fort Madison  
Grinnell  
Hiawatha  
Hudson  
Indianola  
Iowa City  
Iowa Falls  
Johnston  
Kalona  
Lone Tree  
Marion  
Marquette

Marshalltown  
Mason City  
Mcgregor  
Mt. Vernon  
Muscatine  
Nevada  
Newton  
North Liberty  
Norwalk  
Osceola  
Oskaloosa  
Pella  
Prairie City  
Red Oak  
Reinbeck  
Sergeant Bluff  
Sioux City  
Sloan  
Story City  
Tipton  
Urbandale  
Van Meter  
Walker  
Waukee  
Waverly  
West Branch  
West des moines  
West Union  
Windsor Heights

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