

LABOR IN/ON THE PULPIT MINBAR BIMAH



Celebrate

the sacred link
between
Faith and work.

Interfaith Worker Justice believes that people of faith are an integral part of the effort to guarantee that all workers are treated with dignity and respect. As corporations, unions, worker advocates and workers seek to cooperate and build together, the religious community can urge and help them grow in a moral context.

Since 1996, thousands of congregations have spent Labor Day doing this important work. From San Diego to New York, religious communities focus Labor Day weekend services on the injustices facing low-wage workers and the religious community's efforts to support those workers' struggles for living wages, family-sustaining benefits, and for dignity and respect on the job. Participating congregations integrate worker justice themes into their services, and many invite a worker from within their congregation, a union member or worker advocate to be a guest on Labor Day weekend. Through Labor in the Pulpits, congregations have the opportunity to talk about the connections between faith, work, and justice.

If your worship service or congregation's tradition does not accommodate outside speakers, you could have someone speak before or after the service, or at adult or teen education classes.

If you would like more information on how to become a speaker, host a speaker, or how to organize a Labor Day event, please e-mail info@iwj.org.

"Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression, or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that creates huge inequalities."

-Pope Francis

GETTING STARTED

There are different ways to plan a Labor Day service that lifts up workers within your community and around the country. The suggestions below can help you get started. Many of these can be incorporated into groups and programs that already exist in your congregation.

- **Connect** with your local federation of labor or Interfaith Worker Justice affiliate. Many IWJ affiliates have strong Labor in the Pulpit programs. Reach out to one in your area. A list of affiliates is available at www.iwj.org.
- **Invite a speaker** (worker, union leader, worker advocate). Recruit someone from your community to speak on Labor Day weekend. If no one is available, IWJ and our affiliates can match your congregation with a guest speaker for Labor Day weekend. For more information, e-mail info@iwj.org
- **Focus on education.** Labor Day weekend offers congregations the opportunity to highlight and lift up issues that impact workers within the community. Immigration reform, minimum wage, health and safety, dignity at work, worker organizing and wage theft are among the topics that your congregation can focus on.
- **Get the word out.** Promote your Labor Day service in your congregation's bulletin and/or newsletter.
- **Lead a worker justice bible study.** Throughout the month of September, have someone (maybe you!) teach a Bible study or lead a prayer group focusing on labor and faith.
- **Honor a worker.** Lift up the good work of members of your community. Honor a church worker, volunteer or an outstanding member with a gift to IWJ.