

Faith Leader Pledge in Support of Domestic Workers

As faith leaders we believe that all people have been created in the image of the Creator and that each person has divine worth. We believe that work is meant to be an invitation for all of us to participate in God's continuing acts of creation. To deny workers their basic human rights is to deny God's creative designs.

Therefore, we declare our solidarity with domestic workers. Domestic workers are the nannies, house cleaners, and home care workers whose work makes all other work possible. In the DMV area, domestic workers are overwhelmingly women of color and the majority are immigrants. These workers power the economy by freeing up the time and attention of others to fulfill their calling.

Historically, domestic workers have been excluded from basic labor protections. These exclusions are a direct result of a long legacy of racism and sexism. The domestic workforce has always been and is still a majority women of color workforce. When the bedrock labor protections of the Fair Labor Standards Act and the National Labor Relations Act were being passed in the 1930s, domestic workers, along with agricultural workers, were excluded from these laws. This compromise was struck in order to gain the votes of southern lawmakers, who did not want to grant these protections and power to the overwhelmingly Black workforce that performed domestic and agricultural work at the time.

The 47,000 domestic workers who live in the DMV area need a Bill of Rights to protect their basic dignity as workers. The Domestic Workers Bill of Rights must include:

- The same human rights protections and occupational safety and health protections for domestic workers as all other workers;
- Require written agreements between domestic workers and their employers to ensure workers know their rights and employers are aware of their responsibilities; and
- Establish a Domestic Work Outreach and Education Program within the Department of Employment Services (DOES). DOES will collaborate with organizations that work with domestic workers and employers to provide education and training on labor standards in the industry.

Signed (organizations for informational purposes only):

Mark Andersen
First Communion Teacher
Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Father John Benson
Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle

Rev. Karen Brau
Luther Place Memorial Church

Father Martin J. Burnham, PSS
Society of St. Sulpice

Rev. Amy Butler
National City Christian Church

Norma Cindy Canedo-Estrada
St. Matthew's Cathedral

Rev. Andrew Cheung
Washington Community Fellowship

Dora Currea
Co-Chair, Sanctuary Ministry
Washington National Cathedral

Ken Cooper
Blessed Sacrament School

Stephen Cox
Co-Chair Beckner Advancement Fund
All Souls Unitarian Church

Merwyn DeMello
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

Michele Dunne
Executive Director

Franciscan Action Network

Brandon Enoch
President
ELCOR

Rev. Patricia H. Fears
Fellowship Baptist Church

Rabbi Charles Feinberg
Executive Director
Interfaith Action for Human Rights

Rev. Barbara Gerlach
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Rev. Russ Gordon
Lutheran Church of the Reformation

Rev. Andre Gray
Agape Family Ministries

Rev. Graylan Scott Hagler
Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ &
Director & Chief Visionary, Faith Strategies, LLC

Rev. Brian Hamilton
Co-Pastor
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Rev. Ruth Hamilton
Co-Pastor
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Rev. Amanda Hendler-Voss
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Rabbi Lauren Holtzblatt
Adas Israel

Rev. Ellen Jennings
Cleveland Park Congregational Church UCC

Rev. Paul Johnson
Hughes Memorial United Methodist Church

Rev. Rob Keithan
All Souls Unitarian Church

Ashley Klick
Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Rev. James P. Marsh, Jr.
Bread of Life Church

Rev. Kaeley McEvoy
Westmoreland United Church of Christ

Bill Mefford
The Festival Center

Rev. Darryl LC Moch
President, Washington Area Covenant Union
Senior Associate Minister of Inner Light Ministries UCC

Ryane Nickens
Founder
The TraRon Center

Rev. Dexter Nutall
New Bethel Baptist Church

Rev. Dale H. Ostrander
First Congregational United Church of Christ

Rev. Julie Pennington-Russell
First Baptist Church

Rev. Ben Roberts
Foundry United Methodist Church

Alfonso Sasieta
Spiritual Growth Educator and Coordinator
8th Day Faith Community

Clayton Sinyai
Executive Director
Catholic Labor Network

Janice Smart
Migrant Solidarity Team
All Souls Unitarian Church

Rev. Donna Claycomb Sokol
Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church

Rabbi Hannah Spiro
Hill Havurah

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea
Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries
National City Christian Church

Rev. Mahogany S. Thomas
Executive Minister
Peoples Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Susan Walker
Deacon
St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church

Rev. Rose Wayland
Sixth Presbyterian Church