

Organizational Commitment Pledge



Our religious traditions teach us that work is a sacred act, that when we labor we are “God’s hands” on earth. Those who work and those who cannot work must be treated fairly.

“Woe to him who builds his house on unrighteousness, and his upper room by injustice, who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages.” (Jeremiah 22:13)

“O you who believe! Be steadfast witnesses for God in equity...Deal justly, that is nearer to your duty” (Quran 5:8)

The greatest advance in social policy for U.S. workers in the 20th century occurred during the Great Depression. Franklin Delano Roosevelt ran for election in 1932 on a platform that included balancing the budget, which was absolutely the wrong response to the economic nightmare. However, the President and Congress responded to the mass labor movement, organizing efforts with the unemployed, and other progressive forces to pass the National Labor Relations Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, and Social Security, and to use all the tools available to the government to put people to work. In the middle of WWII, Roosevelt called for a new Bill of Rights, an Economic Bill of Rights, including:

- “The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries or shops or farms or mines of the nation”
- “The right to earn enough to provide adequate food and clothing and recreation”

As people of faith, we too call for an economy that provides a job for everyone who wants and needs one. We affirm that all jobs should be good jobs, paying living wages and benefits, ensuring workers’ health and safety, and allowing workers dignity and a voice at the workplace.

Throughout 2010, the official unemployment rate remained close to 10 percent, a statistic that does not include those who are too discouraged to look for

work or are forced to accept part-time work when they need full-time employment. While the entire society is reeling, the unemployment rate for African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, youth, older men, and people in particularly hard-hit cities and regions is disastrous, which in turn has led to huge increases in foreclosures, homelessness, and despair. National unemployment rates can obscure large regional disparities. In cities and regions such as Detroit, Cleveland, the Gulf Coast, and the Central Valley of California, the unemployment crisis is truly another Great Depression.

Faith Advocates for Jobs calls for a national program that includes the following priorities:

- Priority attention should be given to job creation and retention efforts to reach the most vulnerable populations and regions.
- New jobs that are created should provide living wages and benefits and, wherever possible, the possibility of long-term employment.
- The safety net must be restored for the unemployed and the poor, including extended unemployment compensation, income support, and health care.
- The government must step in to provide jobs doing work that needs to be done in particularly distressed communities, whenever the private sector fails to employ all those wanting to work.

continued

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In addition to working for these principles, Faith Advocates for Jobs is committed to organize a network of congregation-based worker support committees. In addition to providing much needed spiritual and emotional support for the unemployed, the committees may also provide emer-

gency financial support, assist in filing for unemployment compensation and other state and federal programs, and help with job training and research.

These priorities and commitments will guide the work of the Faith Advocates for Jobs campaign.

Organizational Commitment to Join the Faith Advocates for Jobs Campaign

Name of Organization

Signature of Representative

Date

Please fax this form to Rev. Paul Sherry, Interfaith Worker Justice, at 773-728-8409.