

Presbyterian Church (USA)

“The decision to reduce or eliminate the state’s projected budget deficit... does not nullify the moral obligation of the elected leaders of Wisconsin to respect the legitimate rights of workers, including public employees, to organize and collectively bargain...The Presbytery of John Knox...calls up Governor Scott Walker and Wisconsin’s other elected representatives...to respect the rights of all workers to collectively bargain for wages and benefits.”

-John Knox Presbytery

“The Presbytery of Milwaukee...concurs with the statement of the Presbytery John Knox that calls upon Governor Scott Walker.”

-The Presbytery of Milwaukee

American Baptist

“American Baptists have historically affirmed the freedom of the whole person with full responsibility to God for every facet of life. We have stood for workers to have the right to organize by a free and democratic vote of the workers involved in order to protect worker rights and to receive income and benefits which are just.”-**Rev. Dr. Arlo R. Reichter, Executive Minister of American Baptist Churches of Wisconsin**

Judaism

“As leaders of Wisconsin’s Jewish community, we urge you to oppose the proposal by Governor Scott Walker to strip public employees of their right to collectively bargain. Our faith has a strong tradition of supporting the right to employment with dignity. Torah commands, ‘You shall not abuse a needy and destitute laborer, whether a fellow Israelite or a stranger in one of the communities of your land. You must pay out the wages due on the same day, before the sun sets, for the worker is needy and urgently depends on it...’ (Deuteronomy 24:14-15).”

- 16 Wisconsin Rabbis from across the denominational spectrum

United Church of Christ

“In a time of conflict and danger for his community, the prophet Isaiah offered an invitation from God to the people ‘Come, let us reason together’ (Isaiah 1:18)...’Come, let us reason together’ is not a strategy that avoids decisions but is an essential framework of a democratic society and is consistent with the moral and ethical principles that come out of our Christian faith. The right to negotiate is at the core of Wisconsin’s history, and though economic times are not a moment to turn away from these essential rights that provide for fair and just decision making.”-**Conference Minister David Moyer, UCC Wisconsin Conference**

The Episcopal Church

“I believe we can all agree that our baptismal vow to ‘respect the dignity of every human being’ is not served by a majority simply pushing through legislation because they have the votes necessary to do so. As Christians, it is our duty and call to make sure that everyone has a place at the table and every voice has the opportunity to be heard.” -**The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller, Bishop**

“Cutting health care for the most vulnerable people in society and taking away workers’ rights to bargain are values that do not square with the traditions of Christianity.”-**Bishop Provisional Ed Leidel, Episcopal Diocese of Eau Claire**



The mission of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice is to build relationships between the faith and labor communities, to educate and mobilize these communities in the struggle for just wages, benefits and working conditions for all workers and to the support workers’ rights to organize and engage in collective bargaining.

For more information please contact:

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What Wisconsin Faith Groups Say About the Stripping of Collective Bargaining of Wisconsin Workers

Roman Catholic

"[H]ard times do not nullify the moral obligation each of us has to respect the legitimate rights of workers... Every union, like every other economic actor, is called to work for the common good, to make sacrifices when required, and to adjust to new economic realities. However, it is... a mistake to marginalize or dismiss unions as impediments to economic growth.."

-Archbishop Jerome E. Liestecki

Endorsed by the Board of the Milwaukee Archdiocese Priests Alliance

"Our religious tradition teaches us that all working men and women have inherent dignity and the human right to form associations to improve their work conditions.

Our state as well as our nation needs to respect the rights of workers to organize and have a voice. Not only is the right to collective bargaining essential, it has been repeatedly affirmed by the Catholic Church. We... [call] upon Governor Walker and our legislators to respect the rights of Wisconsin public workers to organize and to engage in *collective bargaining*."

- Wisconsin Catholic Sisters

United Methodist Church

"[B]ecause of my belief that far more is accomplished for the best interests of all those we serve when employers and employees work together, I am writing to ask you to reconsider your initiative which I believe would end the possibility for those who are government employees here in Wisconsin to negotiate settlement of labor and management disagreements."

-Bishop Linda Lee

Endorsed by the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church

Unitarian Universalist

"While upholding the right of individual conscience and the responsibility of principled dissent, Unitarian Universalists have routinely transcended their differences to defend the interests of the defenseless, the disenfranchised and the disadvantaged. Thus the members of our movement have consistently opposed onerous restrictions on the ability of workers in the U.S. and abroad to organize and to bargain collectively."

-7 Unitarian Universalist Wisconsin Clergy

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"As faith leaders representing 809 congregations with 468,000 members throughout the state of Wisconsin...we ask that the rights of all workers, public and private, be held in high regard. We ask that decisions that involve the livelihoods of those workers be made with compassion and shared understanding."

-Bishop Thomas Skrenes

Northern Great Lakes Synod

-Bishop Jim Arends

LaCrosse Area Synod

-Bishop Duane Pederson

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

-Bishop Jim Justman

East Central Synod of Wisconsin

-Bishop Jeff Barrow

Greater Milwaukee Synod

-Bishop Bruce Burnside

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

"Whether Republican or Democrat, employer or employee, private or public worker, we who are shaped by the Word of God, share one holy calling to care for one another as one holy family loved by God. The Church has a voice in this debate."

-Bishop Bruce Burnside, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin