

10 Key Talking Points: The Faith and Climate Connection



The ties between leading on climate change and the foundational beliefs within many faith traditions are deeply interwoven. As leaders, communicating those ties is an opportunity to inspire others to join in caring for our neighbors and being good stewards of God's creation. These key talking points can help you begin the conversation with your members and peers:

1. *We are grateful for God's creation* – The created world is a reflection of the glory of God. We express gratitude for the wondrous gifts we've been given when we fulfill our God-given responsibility to be good stewards of the created world, which includes the people who live within it.

2. *We have a proud tradition of being the leaders in social change* – We have been the driving force behind every transformative movement throughout our nation's history, whether it be slavery, civil rights, domestic poverty, or global development. Today, this sense of vision and mission is needed more than ever to protect our people and our shared home.

3. *Climate change is a moral challenge* – While some may see climate change as a political, economic, or scientific issue, we recognize it, first and foremost, as a moral issue. Leading on climate is part of how we live out our faith and fulfill our mission in the world.

4. *A moral voice is needed* – In a time when partisanship and politics dominate and paralyze conversation; people of faith have the opportunity to inspire and empower Americans on climate solutions as trusted moral messengers for the common good.

5. *We are called to respond to what we see around us* – We weren't always climate change leaders, but we have come to realize that addressing climate is an essential part of how we fulfill our responsibility to protect and provide for our congregation, children, and country. Many of us are already witnessing the impacts of climate change firsthand as we repair, rebuild, and restore communities in the wake of unprecedented storms, droughts, and other disasters.

6. *Caring for creation is caring for our neighbors* – The call to care for others and those in need is central to our faith. As climate change impacts lives and livelihoods throughout the world, we have the power to translate our compassion into action.

7. *We have a responsibility to the poor and vulnerable* – The poorest people and places in America and other nations bear the greatest consequences of climate change, yet are the least prepared for it and to advocate for help. In leading by example and inspiring others on climate change, we serve as a voice for the voiceless.



8. *We will protect the home of future generations* - We believe in leaving a legacy for future generations. Through leading on climate change, we commit to passing down a safer, healthier, more stable world to our children.

9. *Leading on climate change will strengthen our congregation* - Climate solutions will create fellowship, enrich personal faiths, and reduce our costs, freeing up money for mission. It can help us connect with new audiences, especially a younger generation, by demonstrating that we share their values and concerns.

10. *We can be a source of inspiration for others* - Others are inspired when people of faith practice what they preach. We can provide a powerful example that can instill hope and, in doing so, change what is possible.