



As communities of faith, we are grounded in a shared tradition of justice and compassion; we are called upon to hold ourselves and our communities accountable to the moral standard of this tradition. As we look across our country today, we see a nation in which millions of people are lacking life's basic necessities; we see growing numbers of jobless individuals, and even more who work, but whose wages keep them below the poverty line. In addition, more and more people are turning to vital social services to make ends meet, including public health care, food stamps, subsidized housing, and assistance to deal with rising home energy costs.

Our common scriptures present a vision of shared responsibility that endows the notion of "work" with an inherent dignity, yet also commands that we care for the vulnerable among us.

Fighting Poverty with Faith is a diverse coalition of national and local faith organizations dedicated to cutting domestic poverty in half by 2020. To accomplish this goal, we are working aggressively to focus new attention to the causes of poverty, highlight strategies to reduce poverty, and create economic opportunities. The Fighting Poverty with Faith 2010 mobilization will focus on two key strategies:

1. Protecting critical human needs programs during these challenging economic times; and
2. Advocating for new policies that enable more families to find employment and move toward economic self-sufficiency.

Though we believe in responsible economic stewardship of our nation's resources, we are also committed to ensuring that the burden of deficit reduction is not placed on the backs of the most vulnerable members of our society. In addition, we will work for the development of positive economic opportunities for the millions of people who are out of work, underemployed, or displaced from their job.

To this end, the undersigned national faith-based organizations are committed to participating in an interfaith month of action in October 2010 in order to urge our elected officials to make poverty-reduction a key goal, and to protect the interests of the poor while creating economic opportunity for those most in need.

During the month of October, we will provide opportunities for local congregations, student organizations, faith-based service-providers, and other affiliates to engage in candidates' forums, community relations building activities, public education programs, interfaith volunteer projects, and advocacy efforts on the issues of shared economic prosperity and reducing poverty. By coordinating our

messaging, holding joint events, and promoting partnerships among our respective faith groups, we hope to build the political and public will to reduce poverty.

Every day faith organizations serve individuals and families in need within our communities. But our efforts to sustain our brothers and sisters living in poverty must be complemented with a serious plan of action from our elected officials. By speaking out collectively during this month, we will build on our Fighting Poverty with Faith efforts from recent years. We hope that this third annual Fighting Poverty with Faith mobilization will expand the national conversation on the need to protect the needy among us and create economic opportunity for all citizens. It is critical that we create a mandate for our political leadership to aggressively pursue an anti-poverty agenda.

1. African Methodist Episcopal Church
2. Alliance of Baptists
3. Alliance to End Hunger
4. American Baptist Home Mission Societies
5. Apostolic Catholic Church
6. BBYO, Inc.
7. Bread for the World
8. Catholic Charities USA
9. Center of Concern
10. Christian Church, Disciples of Christ
11. Church of the Brethren Global Partnerships
12. Diocese of the Armenian Church of America
13. Disciples Justice Action Network
14. The Episcopal Church
15. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
16. Evangelicals for Social Action
17. Hazon
18. Hindu American Foundation
19. Hindu American Seva Charities
20. International Association of Jewish Vocational Services
21. International Communion of Community Churches
22. Islamic Circle of North America
23. Jewish Council for Public Affairs
24. Jewish Labor Committee
25. Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
26. Jewish Women International
27. Lutheran Services in America
28. MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
29. Metropolitan Community Churches
30. Moravian Church Northern Province
31. Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC)
32. National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
33. National Council of Churches
34. National Council of Jewish Women
35. NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
36. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Office of Public Witness

37. Progressive National Baptist Convention
38. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Institute Justice Team
39. The Jewish Federations of North America
40. The New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good
 - 41. The Rabbinical Assembly
 - 42. The Swedenborgian Church
 - 43. Union for Reform Judaism
44. United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
45. The United Methodist Church-General Board of Church and Society
 - 46. Women of Reform Judaism
47. World Student Christian Federation – North America
- 48.