Dear Friends,

As we approach this historic election, it is important that rural faith communities hold true to our values. Congregations are spaces of spiritual comfort, joy, hope, fellowship, and renewal. Faith communities play an anchoring role in rural communities often providing physical support like food, clothing, and other direct aid to their neighbors.

As clergy and lay leaders, we work with our congregations to address the changes we want to see so that everyone can be treated fairly no matter their race or background. America’s small towns, small cities and rural regions share a common set of values, a commitment to the common good and working toward unifying and strengthening our communities through the following commitments:

- Love and welcome our neighbors
- Respect for the God-given dignity of every person
- Commitment to supporting the community through acts of compassion and mercy
- The importance of family unity and reunification
- Safety during COVID-19
- Access to affordable health care to heal the sick

Creating opportunity for everyone to thrive regardless of where they come from. As our community members prosper, our congregations have a greater opportunity to prosper. As rural America works to build a more vibrant future, our rural and small town congregations can take on the challenges and difficult issues to shape our future.

We look to our faith communities as a bedrock to build up our communities. We know that together we can make sure no one is forgotten and that our towns remain resilient. We pledge to vote this election year with our values of compassion, love, mercy and love for our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Paula Clayton Dempsey, Alliance of Baptists, Mars Hill, NC
Rev. Dr. Jim Latimer, Cong. Church of East Hampton, East Hampton, CT
Reverend Dale Hempen, Durham, NH
Caroline Theiss-Aird, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Carlsbad, CA
Bishop Karen Oliveto, Mountain Sky Conference of The United Methodist Church, Greenwood Village, CO
Rev. Melody Pajak, Faith Communities Organizing for Sanctuary, Black Mountain, NC
Rev. Carla Dietz, OPAWL, Fairfield, CT
Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, Madison, WI
Brother Brian McLauchlin, Divine Word Missionaries, Epworth, IA
Rev. Jeffrey Dodson, First Congregational Church UCC, Ripon, WI
Rev. Sandra L Strauss, Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Harrisburg, PA
Mr. Roger Yockey, Mr., Yakima, WA
George Kanuck, UUCL, Bluffton, SC
Pastor Lisa Gaston, Edwards Congregational UCC, Davenport, IA
Rev. Robert Thaden, United Christian Church (UCC/DOC, Miles City, MT
Mra. Jo A. Vredenburg, AFN and Desert Palm UCC, Tempe, MESA, AZ
Michele Mudrick, Southern New England Conference UCC, Glastonbury, CT
Dr. Jesse Ford, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Corvallis, Philomath, OR
Pastor Virginia Olson-, Saint Peter Lutheran Church, West Union, IA
Rev. Tezenlo Thong, The Mountain Sky Coneference of the United Methodist Church, Aurora, CO
Rev. Vicki Kemper, First Church Amherst, UCC, Amherst, MA
Sister Dominica Lo Bianco, Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Aston, PA
Rev. Nurya Love Parish, Holy Spirit Episcopal Church, Belmont, MI
Rev. Robyn Bles, Wakonda Christian Church, Des Moines, IA
Ms. Kristin Freeman, Missoula Monthly Meeting- Quakers , Missoula , MT
Sister Rosemarie Milazzo, Maryknoll Sisters, Maryknoll, NY
Mrs. Lenore Isleib, St. Anthony of Padua Social Justice Ministry, Hightstown, NJ
Rev. Robert Wulff, Trinity United Methodist Church, Wilmette, IL
Rev Dr Sid Mohn, Interfaith Action of SW Michigan, Buchanan, MI
Rev. Dr. Neil G Thomas, Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, Dallas, TX
Ms. Patricia Roehrig, St. Michael's, Milwaukee, WI, Milwaukee, WI
Mr. Kevin Cahalan, Roman Catholic/ Pax Christi New Orleans, Kenner, LA
Rector David G Hamilton, All Saints Episcopal Church, South Burlington, VT
Pastor Drew Yackel, Urland Lutheran Church, ELCA, Cannon Falls, MN
Pastor Anne, Hall, Lopez Island, WA
Bonnie Murphy, Full Circle Faith Community , Coralville , IA
Russ Jennings, Love in a Dangerous Time (podcast), New York, NY
Pastor Jerrold Foltz, Wellspring United Church of Christ, Centreville, VA
Rev. Diane Mettam, United Methodist Church, Eureka, CA
Reverend Dale A Hempen , Retired UCC, Durham, NH
Peter Harris, Treetop Zen Center, Oakland Me., Waterville, ME
Rev. Timothy Lewis Overton-Harris, Columbia District of the United Methodist Church Oregon-
Idaho Annual Conference, Beaverton, OR
Margina Strouse, Elizabethtown Church of the Brethren, Elizabethtown, PA
Ms. Felicity Figueroa, Irvine United Congregational Church, Irvine, CA
Deacon Steven Beumer, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church , Winter Park, FL
Rev. Robert C. Hamm, Newfane Congregational Church , Newfane , VT
Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi , Islamic Society of Orange County, California , Garden Grove, CA
Mr. Alan Greene, Makom Solel Lakeside, Highland Park, IL
Rachel Williams , Associate pastor of young adult ministry , Ellensburg , WA
Siste Patricia Froning, OSF, Tiffin, OH
Sister Marie Lucey, Franciscan Action Network, Greenbelt, MD
Rev. Joyce Shin, Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, Swarthmore, PA
Sister Colleen Dauerbach SSJ, Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA, Lafayette Hill , PA
Rev. DrRaymond T Moreland, Calvary United Methodist Church, Frederick, MD
Rev Justo Gonzalez II, Spring Hill UCC, Kentwood, MI
Mr. Robert Stevenson, United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd, Lebanon, PA
Patty Lane, Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, TX
Sister Mary McCauley, Crossing Borders Dubuque, Dubuque , IA
Dr. Belle McMaster, Monticello Presbyterian Church, Monticello, GA
Rev. Dr. Jimmy G Cobb, Univ. Christian Church (DOC), Austin, TX
Mr. Dan Esposito, Individual, Manhattan Beach, CA
Robert Meyer, the Church of the Holy Innocents’, Beach Haven, NJ
Mr. Patrick Walker, Church World Service, Rossville, PA
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Rev. Jane Field, Maine Council of Churches, Portland, ME
M. George Bond, St George’s Episcopal Church, New Orleans, LA
Pastor Tom Pasmore, Asbury United Methodist Church, Salisbury, MD
Ms. Lorraine D. Johnson, Gethsemane Lutheran, Seattle, WA
Mr. Darrell Neinast, St. James Catholic Church, Seguin, TX
Sister Frances Cunningham, School Sisters of St. Francis, Shorewood, WI
Retired Education Clara, Refugee Congress, Sioux Falls, SD
Dr. Peter B Vaughan, the riverside church of nyc, Bronxville, NY
Christine Nase, Deering Community Church, Weare, NH
Miss Grace M. Jurgens, St. Patrick’s Church, Delmar, NY
Pam Henager, Family of Faith Church, Kennewick, WA
Erika Felix, Renew Ministry, Santa Barbara, CA
Rev. Teresa Cowan Jones, Sacred Space, Tucson, AZ
Wendy Taylor, United Churches UCC, Lacey, WA
Rev. Linda Theophilus, Emmanuel Lutheran Church and Welcoming Immigrants Housing Project, Pittsburgh, PA
Russell Novkov, First Baptist Church, Madison, WI
Rev. Patricia Jefferis, United Church of Christ, Middleburg Hts., OH
Pastor Lilja M. Behr, First Congregational United Church of Christ, Staples, MN
Sister Angela Fitzpatrick, Ursuline Sister, Roeland Park, KS
Sister Teresa Kotturan, Sisters of Charity Federation, New York, NY
Mrs. Julia Colingsworth, First United Methodist Church, Holland, MI, Holland, MI
Judith Desmarais, Sisters of Providence, Seattle, WA
Emily Kamwesa, First Friends Church of Canton, Canton, OH
Rev. Mary Kay Will, United Methodist Church, Upland, CA
Mrs. Aurora Sauceda, Latinos United for Flint, MI
Sister Martha McNulty, Dominican Sisters of Peace, St. Catharine, KY
Rev. Edward Poling, Hebron Mennonite Church, Hagerstown, MD
Rev. Linda P Jones, Barnesville UMC, Barnesville, GA
Pastor Ole Olson, United Faith Community UCC, Buffalo, MN
Mrs. Suzanne Lind, Florence Church of the Brethren Mennonite, Three Rivers, MI
Rev. Martin Carney, United Church of Christ--Lake Geneva and Williams Bay, WI
Sister Patricia Jelly, Dominican Sisters of Hop, Asbury Park, New Jersey
Sister Jane Schur, Sister of Mercy, Rochester, NY
Reverend Carol Seilhymer, First Lutheran Church, Plains, MT
Reverend Len Schreiner, Troubadour Ministries, Rowe, NM
Reverend Teri Hermsmeyer, Interim Pastor for Small Congregations - ELCA, Casper, WY
Sister Monica Stuhlreyer, IHM Sisters, Monroe, MI
Rev. Deb Hill-Davis, Unity Church of Ames, Ames, IA
Lawrence Gilley, Deansboro United Church of Christ, Deansboro, NY
Sister Charlene M HUDON, Sisters of Providence, Seattle, WA
Steven Smith, Auburn First Congregational UCC, Rocklin, CA