

# Labor in the Pulpit | Bimah | Minbar

## TOOLKIT



**AFL-CIO**

# Sample Invitation to Faith Congregations

Dear [NAME OF FAITH LEADER],

I am writing to you since your faith group has a long tradition of supporting the right of workers to organize unions. The [NAME OF STATE FEDERATION/CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL/AREA LABOR FEDERATION] represents more than [NUMBER] union members in your area.

The Labor Day holiday is not just a time to celebrate working people and their contributions to our society; it is also a time to remember the struggle working people endured to achieve the many benefits we now enjoy—such as the eight-hour day and the right to organize unions. This day provides a unique opportunity for the faith community and the labor movement to rediscover our common bonds: social justice, democracy, equality, the dignity of all people, economic and racial justice, fair treatment in the workplace and the right to form unions. It is also a time to reflect on the current condition of working people and reaffirm the commitment of the faith community to worker justice at a very challenging time.

The [NAME OF STATE FEDERATION/CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL/AREA LABOR FEDERATION] invites your congregation, [NAME OF CONGREGATION], to participate in the [LABOR IN THE PULPIT, LABOR ON THE BIMAH or LABOR IN THE MINBAR] program this Labor Day weekend, Sept. 1–4, 2023. The program is also available on the weekend before (Aug. 25–27) and the weekend after Labor Day (Sept. 8–10) if this is more convenient for scheduling.

The [LABOR IN THE PULPIT, LABOR ON THE BIMAH or LABOR IN THE MINBAR] program places union leaders as guest speakers in faith congregations so they can make a short three- to five-minute presentation about the values labor shares with the faith community, the issues impacting working people and the importance of the faith community and labor working together to achieve a more just and equitable society for all.

If you are interested in having a union speaker address your congregation or being involved in the Labor Day weekend celebration, please contact me, [NAME], at [PHONE NUMBER] or [EMAIL]. Also, I am available to answer any questions you may have about the program.

Thank you for your consideration, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[NAME]

# Sample News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**[MONTH, DAY], 2023**

**Contact: [INSERT CONTACT INFO]**

**[NAME OF SPEAKER], of [LABOR ORG], to Join [FAITH ORG] Over Labor Day Weekend to Celebrate the Bond Between Faith and Labor**

[CITY]—[NAME OF SPEAKER] of [NAME OF LABOR ORGANIZATION] will join [FAITH ORGANIZATION] on [DATE] for a Labor Day celebration connecting the values of faith and the sacred worth of work and every worker in the United States.

[INSERT SPECIFIC TIME, PLACE AND LIST OF SPEAKERS FOR EVENT]

This event is a part of the AFL-CIO's Labor in the Pulpit, Labor on the Bimah and Labor in the Minbar program. The program aims to demonstrate the ways in which religious communities, unions and worker advocates can work together to achieve social and economic justice and reflect on the shared values between faith and the labor movement.

On Labor Day, interfaith and ecumenical organizations, local religious leaders, state labor federations, central labor councils and area labor federations come together at events across the country to speak out about their faith, work and the labor movement.

[NAME OF SPEAKER] is available for interview requests. To schedule, please contact [INSERT CONTACT NAME AND INFO].

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[INSERT BIO ABOUT LABOR ORG]

# Suggested Talking Points

- Labor Day is an opportunity for people of faith to reaffirm their commitment to justice for working people and their ability to organize labor unions.
- It is a time for the religious community and organized labor to rediscover our common bonds: social justice, democracy, equality, the dignity of all people, social, racial and economic justice, fair treatment of all workers and the right to form unions.
- Faith and labor are inextricably linked together. Union members are choir members. Union activists are ushers, deacons and faith leaders. What affects one affects the other.
- That's why we are recommitting ourselves to working together in partnership to actualize our common values and address our shared concerns.
- Working people organize unions so that they have a voice in the workplace. By negotiating a union contract with their employer, workers can secure better pay, benefits, protections from discrimination and so much more in order to improve their well-being and livelihood.
- The social teachings and traditions of our faith supports the right of working people to organize unions and collectively bargain for workplace improvements. [If possible, refer to an appropriate statement for the faith group you are addressing, as found in [“What Faith Groups Say About Worker Justice.”](#)]
- The right of working people to organize without fear of reprisals is a fundamental human right and is essential to ensure everyone is treated with dignity and respect on the job.
- The Labor Day celebration connects the values of faith and the sacred worth of work. On this day, interfaith and ecumenical organizations, local religious leaders, state labor federations, central labor councils and area labor federations come together at events across the country to speak out about faith, work and labor.
- It is a hard-earned holiday that comes from the struggles of working people to secure the eight-hour day, health and safety laws, workers' compensation, restrictions on child labor, a minimum wage, unemployment compensation and the right to organize unions.
- This program (Labor in the Pulpit, Labor on the Bimah or Labor in the Minbar) aims to demonstrate the ways in which religious communities, unions and worker advocates can work together to achieve social and economic justice, and reflect on the shared values between faith communities and the labor movement.