



# Labor in the Pulpit 2024

## 2024 Labor in the Pulpit Presentation GOTV Message

### **Please note:**

1. Labor in the Pulpit presentations should be no longer than five minutes.
2. This is a sample presentation you can use to develop your own.

### **Guide:**

- Introduction and Why You Are Speaking
- What Faith and Labor Have in Common
- Personal Story About Your Union Involvement
- Connection Between the Faith Group and Labor
- What's Happening Now
- What You Can Do

### **Introduction and Why You Are Speaking**

Good morning.

I am honored to be here today, and I want to thank [name of clergy person] for arranging this opportunity to speak to you on this Labor Sunday.

My name is [name], and I am a member of [name of union]. I am representing the [name of state federation/central labor council/area labor federation]. We are a federation of [number] unions representing [number] union members. [Briefly describe your role in the labor movement.]

I am speaking here today as part of the AFL-CIO Labor in the Pulpit program, in which union members across the country address congregations about the relationship between faith and labor during the Labor Day weekend.

### **What Faith and Labor Have in Common**

Faith and labor share many values. We both affirm the dignity of human labor and workers; racial, social and economic justice; equality of all people; solidarity with the most vulnerable; justice in the workplace and freedom of association, which for us means workers' freedom to join a union for collective bargaining without fear of retaliation.

Labor Day offers a time for us to reflect on the progress working people have made over decades to create better lives for ourselves and our families, ensure safe workplaces and build a stronger economy. Faith and labor have been mutual partners in advocating for these advances, which include the eight-hour workday, workers' compensation, health and safety laws, unemployment compensation, restrictions on child labor, a minimum wage, the right to organize for collective bargaining and more.



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### Personal Story About Your Union Involvement

[Provide a short, personal story about how you became involved with the union and the connection between religious values and worker justice. Think about your story, which should be shared in **four to five sentences**. **Remember the time limit.**]

### Connection Between the Faith Group and Labor

The [name of the denominational group or faith group] has a long tradition of support for workers' right to organize unions to engage in collective bargaining.

[If possible, quote from the relevant denominational statement found in this [selection of Christian faith group statements](#). Additional statements may be found in the document [What Faith Groups Say About Worker Justice](#). Some [biblical passages](#) may also be useful.]

Historically, your faith group has supported the right of working people to organize unions as a fundamental human right and as essential to ensuring all people are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace.

### What's Happening Now

We are entering a time when those of us here in this place of worship have the opportunity and freedom to demonstrate the values that we share as faith and labor in the upcoming elections.

We need leaders who care about our whole lives, from putting food on the table to seeing our kids grow up happy, to having clean air to breathe, and safe places to live and worship—not political leaders who would hurt everyone by handing kickbacks to the rich, defunding our schools, and threatening our seniors with cuts to Medicare and Social Security.

Most of us seek to treat others the way we'd like to be treated. But then a handful of politicians try to divide us against each other, hoping that if we fear our neighbor, we might look the other way while they undermine our public schools, take away our health care and threaten programs that help feed us.

We are called to love our neighbor, and when we stand up for each other, we know we can demand a nation that works for all of us.



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### What You Can Do

On Election Day, November 5, faith and labor need to join together with people from all walks of life and vote for our future, just like we won better wages, safer workplaces, Medicare and civil rights in our past.

You can check whether you are registered to vote, or register to vote, by going to [www.aflcio.org](http://www.aflcio.org).

Make sure you haven't been unknowingly purged from the voting records.

Remember, if you aren't registered, you will not be able to cast your ballot on Election Day for the candidates who share our values of equity, justice and fair treatment for all.

We are also here this Labor Day weekend in hopes of strengthening the relationship between faith and labor, and it starts with local congregations.

The [name of state federation/central labor council/area labor federation] would like to develop an ongoing relationship with your congregation beyond the Labor Day weekend.

We would like this to be the beginning and not the end.

**For more information or if you have any questions or need any assistance, contact Michael Szpak, religion-labor coordinator in the AFL-CIO Civil, Human and Women's Rights Department, at 202-637-5284 or [mszpak@aflcio.org](mailto:mszpak@aflcio.org).**