



Labor in the Pulpit 2025

2025 Labor in the Pulpit Presentation Why Faith and Labor 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 or area or central labor council]. We are a federation of [number] unions representing [number] of 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, to ensure safe workplaces and to 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 how there is a 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 the rights of workers to organize unions to engage in collective bargaining.

[If possible, you can use a quote from the denominational statement found in [LIP Faith Group Statements_ Unions_ Collective Bargaining](#) or check additional statements in [What Faith Groups Say About Worker Justice](#). Also, here are some [Suggested Biblical Passages](#) that may 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 ensure all persons are treated with dignity and respect in the workplace.

What's Happening Now

Why would the faith community and labor want to develop a relationship?

First, as I pointed out, the faith community and organized labor share common values. In addition to the shared values mentioned earlier, we both believe in freedom of religion and democracy.

Second, the faith community and organized labor share constituencies. Labor union members are members of faith communities. Members of faith communities are members of labor unions.

Third, the social teachings and social witness of faith groups support the freedom to join a union as a moral and human right. We both share concerns about the fair treatment of workers, safe working conditions and adequate wages.

Fourth, the faith community and labor are an important part of any community. We are both concerned about many of the same issues that affect our communities. Getting to know each other better is vital to understanding the needs of our local communities and putting our shared values into action.

Now more than ever, the faith community and labor are called to work with each other against the forces that would destroy our social safety net and our democracy.



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What You Can Do

We are here this Labor Day weekend in hopes of establishing and strengthening the relationship between faith and labor during this perilous time—and that starts with local congregations.

The [name of SF/CLC/ALF] would like to develop an ongoing relationship with your congregation beyond the Labor Day weekend and not make this a one-time event.

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

Thank you for sharing your time with me this morning.

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@afcio.org.