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November 2 Sacramento Event to Focus on Charitable Choice and Expanding Faith-Based Partnerships

In February, President Bush created the White House Office of Faith Based and Community Initiatives and sent legislation to Congress to expand the opportunities for faith-based organizations to deliver a variety of social services with public funds.

The California Council of Churches and the University of Southern California Center for Religion and Civic Culture will co-host a one-day conference Friday, November 2 in Sacramento to explore both the opportunities and challenges of public-private partnerships now being offered to the religious community by a variety of public sector funding streams, including the President's Initiative.

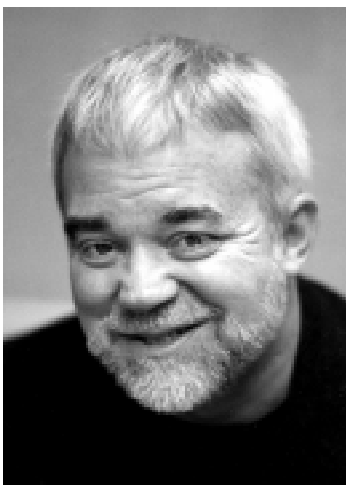
This is the second in a series of regional conferences around California to bring a broad spectrum of the religious community together, including clergy, lay leaders, and faith-based service providers, to explore recent developments in both California and Washington which call for an expanded social service role for the faith community.

The November conference will be key-noted by Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners* magazine and a national commentator on ethics and public life. He is also the convener of Call to Renewal, a national federation of churches, denominations and faith-based organizations working to overcome poverty and revitalize American politics.

A frequent speaker, he travels to more than 200 events a year to preach, teach and organize. He is a prolific writer whose columns appear in the *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *MSNBC*, and *Beliefnet*. His most recent book is *Faith*

Works: Lessons from the Life of an Activist Preacher (Random House, 2000). He regularly offers commentary and analysis for radio and television and teaches a course at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government on "Faith, Politics and Society."

In the last several years, Rev. Wallis has led more than 250 town meetings, bringing together pastors, civic and business leaders, and elected officials in the cause of social justice and moral politics. The Call to Renewal network that he convenes brings together people from African-American, Evangelical, Catholic, Pentecostal, and mainline Protestant churches to work on poverty.



Rev. Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners* magazine, will keynote Nov. 2 event.

The November 2nd event, to be held at St. Marks United Methodist church in Sacramento from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., and will also include a presentation on Charitable Choice by Dr. John Orr of the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture, California's leading authority on faith-based social services. A panel discussion representing the full spectrum of responses to Charitable Choice within the faith community, and a variety of skill-building workshops around child care, mentoring, job development, funding streams and emerging forms of faith-based social service work

around California will also be offered.

Cost is \$25, which includes lunch and a conference packet. A limited number of partial scholarships are available. For more information, connect to the Council's website at www.calchurches.org A registration form is located on the back panel of *Justice Seekers*, or you may register on-line. Registration deadline is Wednesday, October 31.

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California Interfaith Power & Light Responds to State's Energy Crisis

The California Council of Churches (CCC) invites you to join us in an exciting new project, **California Interfaith Power and Light**. Together with a variety of faith-based partners, the CCC founded this new organization earlier this year in an effort to unite faith communities across the state responding to California's energy crisis.

California Interfaith Power and Light (CIPL) wants to take a leadership role in solving our state's energy crisis by galvanizing the faith community to lead by example - conserving energy in our congregations, making our houses of worship more energy efficient, and utilizing renewable energy whenever possible.

Our efforts take on an increased urgency in the coming months. Energy shortages and escalating pollution from power plants threaten all of us, though the elderly, children, the poor, and people with asthma will be forced to bear the brunt of this power crisis.

The good news is that through CIPL, the faith community can make a meaningful contribution - reducing our energy consumption, pur-

Faithfulness and Energy

By Scott Anderson, Executive Director
California Council of Churches

In the midst of dealing with the tragedies of September 11, it seems that many other issues have understandably moved off our national radar screen. One of those issues is the energy crisis, particularly acute in California.

Last May, a large group of our nation's religious leaders issued a statement which laid out three fundamental theological principles with respect to our national energy policy:

Conservation and Stewardship of God's Creation

Because we are called to "till and to tend the garden" (Gen. 2:15), we have a moral obligation to choose the safest, cleanest, and most sustainable sources of energy to protect and preserve God's creation. Energy conservation is faithful stewardship.

Conservation and Responsibility to Future Generations

The gifts of God's creation are to be conserved over time for God's children (i.e., Gen 9:12). By investing in clean technology, renewable energy, greater vehicle efficiency and safer power plans we help assure sustainability for

chasing "green electricity" where it is available, and encouraging California to move towards developing more renewable energy sources. CIPL can provide you and your congregation with the information you need to make wise energy choices that will sustain Creation and help loosen the grip of the state's energy crisis. By the end of this year, our goal is to sign up 1,000 congregations of all faiths across California.

We hope you will lend your support to this effort. The membership to CIPL is free—in return we ask you to fulfill at least one point of the enclosed congregational covenant, such as performing an energy audit, installing compact fluorescent light bulbs or installing solar panels on your buildings. In a sense, CIPL is a power company, generating "negawatts" through energy efficiency and clean megawatts by purchasing green power where it is available.

For more information, visit our CIPL website at www.interfaithpower.org or call our toll free number listed on the congregational covenant (page 3) for more information. JS

God's creation and God's justice. Energy conservation is an intergenerational responsibility.

Conservation and Justice



Scott Anderson and Sen. Joe Lieberman at Energy Policy Press Conference at U.S. Capitol.

The gifts of God's creation must be shared fairly among God's children. Energy policy must be an instrument of social and economic justice here and abroad. The first beneficiaries of a new energy policy should be the "the least among us," the poor, the vulnerable, and the sick who will need help with higher energy bills. Energy conservation is justice for all peoples and

nations.

I hope you and your congregation will explore ways in which you can respond faithfully to California's energy crisis. JS



CALIFORNIA INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT

California Council of Churches

Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life - Southern California

Episcopal Power and Churches

Lutheran Office of Public Policy - California

Interfaith Service Bureau

Northern California Interreligious Conference

Omar Ibn Al-Khattab Foundation

The Regeneration Project

Social Justice Department - Catholic Diocese of Sacramento

Southern California Ecumenical Council

Temple Emanu-El San Francisco

California Interfaith Power & Light seeks to be faithful stewards of God's Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. This ministry intends to protect the earth's ecosystems, safeguard public health, and ensure sufficient, sustainable energy for all.

Congregational Covenant

As a religious leader of my congregation, I pledge to support the goal of California Interfaith Power and Light and to do one or more of the following:

- Educate our congregants on energy production and usage in relation to global warming.
- Conduct an energy audit of our buildings to identify sources of energy waste and the potential financial savings of energy related improvements.
- Make energy efficiency improvements to our congregation's buildings.
- Utilize renewable energy by purchasing green power, installing solar panels, or contributing to a wind turbine fund.
- Analyze, reduce, and offset our greenhouse gas emissions with the goal of becoming a non-polluting congregation.
- Support public policies that contribute to our goals.

Congregation: _____

Denomination: _____ Number of Members in Congregation: _____

Referred by: _____

Contact: _____

Address: _____

Utility District: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please fax to: (510) 444-4743

1904 Franklin St #910, Oakland, CA 94612 • Phone (toll-free): 1 (866) 457-2476 / (510) 444-4078

www.interfaithpower.org

Clip and mail to: California Council of Churches, 2715 K Street, Suite D, Sacramento, CA 95816

Faith-Based Initiative Symposium - November 2, 2001

At St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 Saint Marks Way, Sacramento, CA 95864

Name _____ Address _____
City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____
Email _____ Congregation _____

Check all that apply:

\$25 registration (deadline October 31)

Need vegetarian lunch Partial scholarship requested. Amount \$ _____

Form of payment:

Check enclosed (made payable to the California Council of Churches)

Credit Card: VISA MasterCard

Name on Card (please print) _____

Card Number _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature _____

November 2 Event to Focus
on Faith-Based Initiative

Inside:

To:

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