



MEMBERS

American Baptist Churches

Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Church of God in Christ

Church of the Brethren

Episcopal Church

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

Greek Orthodox Church

Moravian Church

Orthodox Church in America

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Reformed Church in America

United Church of Christ

United Methodist Church

OBSERVERS

Roman Catholic

Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Diocese of LaCrosse

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Benedictine Women
of Madison

Church Women United

Interfaith Conference of
Greater Milwaukee

Leadership Conference of
Women Religious Region 9

Madison Area Urban Ministry

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TO: Governor's Task force on Global Warming

FROM: Peter Bakken, Public Policy Coordinator,
Wisconsin Council of Churches

DATE: August 6, 2007

My Name is Peter Bakken. I am Public Policy Coordinator for the Wisconsin Council of Churches is an association of thirteen Protestant and Christian Orthodox denominations in Wisconsin, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the United Methodist Church, the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the Episcopal Church. Together, we comprise some 3000 congregations and almost a million members, and reach every corner of this state.

We are grateful that the Governor has convened this Task Force, and we appreciate your investment of time, energy, and expertise in the critically important issue of how to reduce our state's contribution to global climate change. We also support the proposed Wisconsin Safe Climate Act (AB 157/SB81), which sets the goal of reducing our state's carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. The work of this Task Force will be crucial for developing policies to meet that goal.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches strongly affirms that we are all responsible for caring for the earth as the home we share with other living things, and which we must preserve in all its beauty, variety, and integrity for future generations. This sense of responsibility is a strong motive for reducing the impacts of climate change, especially on the most vulnerable and on those who will come after us.

Moral values not only provide the impetus to grapple with the complex technological and economic issues that this task force will confront; they also illuminate the path forward, and inform the choices that we, as a society, must make.

of the church and the healing and reconciliation of the world

The work groups of this task force reflect some of the variety of policy areas that are involved in combating climate change, such as energy production and use, transportation, industry, forestry and agriculture (although I would argue that urban and regional planning policy need to be taken explicitly into account as well).

In whatever area, the policies we adopt must be characterized by respect for the whole earth community and a comprehensive view of the common good. They must aim at sustainable sufficiency for all and respect the rights of all persons to a life-enhancing and life-sustaining environment. Our environmental policies must incorporate the principle of democratic participation, and an honest assessment of our limited ability to predict or control the effects of our interventions in nature. They must be supportive of those who, such as farmers, are the stewards of the land on our behalf.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony. Thank you again for all your work to protect the priceless gift of this marvelous and life-sustaining planet. Our best wishes and our prayers are with you.