



MEMBERS

African Methodist
Episcopal Church

American Baptist Churches

Armenian Church of America-
Eastern Diocese

Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

Christian Methodist
Episcopal Church

Church of God in Christ

Church of the Brethren

Episcopal Church

Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America

Greek Orthodox Church

Mennonite Church USA

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 Green Bay
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

Rev. Scott D. Anderson,
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Wisconsin Council of Churches Statement on "Right to Work" Legislation February 25, 2015

The "right-to-work" legislation scheduled for action by the state legislature in the next few weeks would have far-reaching impacts on working people in Wisconsin. As a potentially polarizing and certainly controversial change in our laws, it demands the most careful attention from both legislators and citizens. Whatever its merits, it needs to be weighed and considered from all angles, like any other major piece of public policy.

Citizens' confidence in their elected representatives is undermined when legislation is rushed through without sufficient time to know what it contains or to fully understand its implications. When there isn't enough time or opportunity for all who would be affected to have their voices heard, public participation is undermined and democracy is weakened.

Responsible analysis and evaluation of this legislation is especially difficult now, as we have before us the Governor's budget. It, too, needs to be carefully weighed and considered. The budget does have a timetable and should be passed in a timely manner. That does not mean that all legislation needs to be suspended for the duration, but there is no legitimate need to pass this particular legislation in such haste.

Those who are proposing this legislation should welcome the opportunity to present their case to the public in the fullest possible way and to take valid criticisms into account. All legislators and citizens need to be aware of the best arguments for adopting, modifying, or opposing this legislation. In particular we need to consider how this legislation could impact efforts to reduce poverty, close racial disparities and build economic opportunities for working families. Whatever the outcome, it needs to have the public support that grows from an informed confidence that it will truly serve the interests of the people of Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches does not take a position on the bill at the present time. However, we strongly urge the Legislature not to fast-track this bill. Rather, there must be enough time for the legislators to hear from their constituents, and for constituents to understand and weigh in on what is being done in their name.