



*There is nothing more tragic in all the world
than to know right and not to do it.
— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Mission Statement:

Religious Witness for the Earth (RWE) is a national interfaith network dedicated to public witness in defense of Creation. Seeing climate change and environmental devastation as issues of justice, RWE invokes the loving spirit, selfless courage, and moral authority of the civil rights movement. Through prayer, education, and nonviolent action, we join hands to protect the Earth, our beloved home.

Religious Witness for the Earth is:

- Interfaith – We welcome people of all religions and spiritual paths without discrimination.
- Independent – We work closely with many religious organizations but are beholden to none.
- Grassroots – We are a membership-based network of both clergy and laity.
- Activist – Our primary strategy is public witness, from outdoor worship to nonviolent civil disobedience.
- Nonviolent – Believing that any form of violence is spiritually harmful and strategically counterproductive, we aspire to love in all our endeavors.

Since its founding in February 2001, RWE has:

- Led simultaneous Interfaith Services of Prayer & Witness for Climate Action in every state capital of New England.
- Circulated a New England Interfaith Call for Climate Action signed by more than 300 clergy and hundreds of lay people.
- Organized a Prayer & Witness outside the US Department of Energy in Washington, DC, followed by nonviolent civil disobedience that resulted in 22 arrests (including 10 clergy).
- Circulated a Call for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge signed by over 170 clergy and hundreds of lay people.
- Met with members of Congress urging protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and action to end global climate change.
- Testified at state and federal hearings on energy conservation.
- Co-sponsored demonstrations at SUV dealers in Lynn and Northampton.
- Gained national media attention, including the Wall Street Journal, Christian Science Monitor, Boston Globe, PBS, and National Public Radio.

Co-Chairs of Religious Witness for the Earth:

Rev. Dr. Andrea Ayzajian, United Church of Christ
Dean of Religious Life, Mount Holyoke College, Northampton, MA

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation, Bethesda, MD;
Board of Trustees, Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life

Rev. Fred Small, First Church Unitarian, Littleton, MA

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