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For more information, contact: Pamela Sparr, 301-439-6316

www.uuministryforearth.org

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTRY FOR EARTH: "The Earth's Destiny is Ours"

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE), an affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist denomination, is participating in the Interfaith Moral Action on Climate April 24th in Washington, DC. UUMFE will be joining a coalition of faith-based advocates in a day-long series of events from a sunrise vigil at the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial to an action on Capitol Hill where participants will present members of Congress with "ethical report cards."

UUMFE Board Co-chair Nancy King Smith stated, "The preface to our denomination's Statement of Conscience on climate change says it all: 'Earth is our home. We are part of this world and its destiny is our own.'

"Congress has not stepped up to the plate. On climate change, it is our local elected officials and everyday citizens who are leading the way. Maybe Congress should take its cues from us!

"I live in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio. Cleveland is a Rust-Belt city that has known a lot of hardship with high unemployment, poverty and a long history of racial injustice. I'm proud that my UU church is part of a great wave of suburban and urban collaboration to transform our region. As a region, we're engaged in a very hopeful, spirit-led process of reconciliation and renewal – social, economic, and environmental. Sustainability and justice are at the heart of that strategy. Reducing our collective carbon footprint and producing renewable energy are key pieces of our efforts.

"My experience is not unique. UUMFE members around the country are building the kind of coalitions and doing the deep work that is necessary to bring about the kind of changes we need to save ourselves and the planet."

In 2006, UUMFE members helped craft and pass what at the time was considered to be one of the strongest policy statements on climate change by a religious group. The Unitarian Universalist Association's Statement of Conscience on climate change began with a call for individual Unitarian Universalists to reduce their carbon footprint by 20 percent in just four years. It laid out a long list of actions for congregations and a 15-point policy advocacy agenda.

Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth has as its mission "to *connect and inspire an active community of UUs for environmental justice, spiritual renewal, and shared reverence for our Earth home.*"

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