

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, August 17, 2011

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PEOPLE OF FAITH CALL ON VERIZON TO PLAY FAIR
AND PLAN TO STAND WITH AMERICAN WORKERS THIS LABOR DAY

National – Nearly 1000 people of faith representing various denominations have signed a petition asking Lowell McAdam, CEO of Verizon, to play fair in negotiations with striking Verizon workers. Representatives of Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) will be delivering these signatures to Mr. McAdam later this week. IWJ is also asking congregations across the United States to keep faith with Verizon workers – and all American workers – by hosting a Labor in the Pulpit/On the Bimah/In the Minbar worship service this Labor Day weekend.

Jonathan Currie, National Organizer for IWJ, said, “People of faith in this country are deeply concerned with the way working families are being punished in this economy.”

Verizon has become the latest example of how even profitable corporations are demanding concessions from workers during this economic downturn. Verizon has made billions of dollars in revenues in recent years and rewarded its executives with millions. “There is no reason for a company like Verizon to demand huge cuts in pay and benefits from its workers,” Currie said. According to union leaders, Verizon’s demands include outsourcing jobs overseas, gutting pension security, eliminating benefits for workers injured on the job, eliminating job security, slashing paid sick leave and raising health care costs. The cuts amount to \$1 billion – roughly \$20,000 per worker.

Interfaith Worker Justice (IWJ) has provided resources to help worship leaders plan Labor in the Pulpit/On the Bimah/In the Minbar services since 1996. IWJ calls upon core religious tenets and traditions, such as justice, dignity and respect, in support of workers’ rights to organize and earn a living wage. For information about IWJ or Labor in the Pulpit, or to schedule an interview with Jonathan Currie, National Organizer at IWJ, contact Kelly Fryer at 312-310-7921.

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