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May 19, 2020

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Waking the “sleeping giant” of religious climate activism
Rev. Fred Small to lead Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light

Waban, MA—After eight months of discernment and search, [Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light](#) has hired the [Rev. Fred Small](#) as its new executive director. A statewide network of over 250 congregations, MassIPL chose Small to lead its efforts to organize people of faith as “an irresistible force for climate justice.”

“We’re thrilled that Fred has joined the MassIPL team,” said Jim Nail, the group’s president. “His passion, experience, and range of skills really set him apart. We think he’s just the right leader to help take MassIPL to the next level of growth and impact in these challenging times.”

Small, 67, is a former staff attorney with [Conservation Law Foundation](#) and singer-songwriter. An ordained [Unitarian Universalist](#) minister, he left his position as Senior Minister of [First Parish in Cambridge](#) in 2015 to devote his energies to climate advocacy, especially among people of faith. He succeeds Vincent Maraventano, who retired as Mass IPL executive director last year.

“MassIPL has a fantastic track record of bringing conservation and renewable energy to houses of worship throughout the Commonwealth,” Small said. “They’ve asked me to expand their campaign to mobilize people of faith as climate activists in the public square.”

Small sees people of faith as “the sleeping giant” in the fight to stop climate change. “We need to wake the giant!” he said.

“It’s about time for some good news!” exclaimed [Bill McKibben](#), co-founder of [350.org](#), when informed of Small’s appointment. “Fred is one of the true stalwarts in the fight against climate change and one of the key figures in the religious environmental surge.”

“Fred understands the urgency of the crisis,” added [Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas](#), who taught him as a seminarian more than 20 years ago. “He views climate change through a religious and moral lens. He thinks strategically, engages politically, and articulates a compelling vision.” Bullitt-Jonas included Small’s writing in her recently published anthology [Rooted & Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis](#).

[Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light](#) is a statewide nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works with congregations and individuals across all religious traditions to provide a faithful response to climate change. Founded in [2002](#), it is one of 38 state affiliates of the national organization [Interfaith Power & Light](#), whose mission is to inspire and mobilize people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change.

Small lives in Cambridge with his wife Julie Wormser, Deputy Director of [Mystic River Watershed Association](#), their 16-year-old daughter, two cats, and six backyard chickens.

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