



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ground for Hope-Wisconsin – Major Interfaith Environmental Event in Milwaukee
Renowned Author and Native Leader Winona LaDuke Keynotes Oct. 21-22 Program

Picture a broad interfaith rainbow of hundreds of lay leaders, seminarians and clergy. Native American leader and renowned author Winona LaDuke delivers a memorable keynote address. Skilled presenters share resources and wisdom to empower faith communities for environmental action. Local leaders guide eco-spirit bus tours, connecting faith communities with regional eco-restoration efforts. A 'green' iftar – a traditional Muslim fast-breaking meal – provides nourishment and fellowship.

Welcome to Ground for Hope - Wisconsin, where national, regional and local presenters will help people of diverse faiths deepen their spirituality, enrich their preaching and teaching, and gain resources to use in their congregations and communities. The public is invited to this event; registration is available at www.greenfaith.org through the *Ground for Hope* tab on the carousel.

"We expect Winona LaDuke to speak about the spiritual and practical imperative to protect the earth and about communities working together to build a green, just future," said Tom Heinen, Executive Director of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, a major co-sponsor of the event. "She'll inspire and challenge us to be bold and committed in our efforts."

"Environmental action is one of the best new hopes of religious communities' lives," said Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director of GreenFaith, an interfaith group, which has organized Ground for Hope events in urban centers nationally. "This event represents a cutting edge of that movement."

Who Should Attend?

The event, which is open to clergy, lay leaders and seminarians from all religious traditions, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 21 from 2:00 -6:00 pm at the Islamic Society of Milwaukee Community Center followed by a "green' Iftar – an Islamic fast-breaking meal – from 6:00-8:00 pm at the same location.

The event will reconvene on Monday, Oct. 22 from 9:00 am – 3:30 pm at the Archbishop Cousins Center. Participants may attend either or both days.

NOTE: The first day of this event is NOT at the main Islamic Center at 13th St. & Layton Ave. The Islamic Society of Milwaukee's Community Center is at 815 W. Layton Ave., a few blocks east of the main center.

How to Register and Learn More?

Registration – which is open to the public - and workshop, schedule and presenter descriptions are available by clicking the *Ground for Hope* tab at www.greenfaith.org.

Who is Presenting?

The rich array of over 25 presenters includes Ken Leinbach of the Urban Ecology Center; Rev. Fletcher Harper, Director of GreenFaith; essayist, eco-preacher and public radio commentator Eric Hansen; Gretchen Mead of the Victory Garden Initiative; Rev. Willie Brisco of Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH); Tom Brandstetter, named *Guru of Green* by Radio Milwaukee; John Teller of the College of the Menominee Nation, Huda Alkaff of the Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin; Dr. Dan Weber of the Children's Environmental Health Sciences Core Center at the University of Wisconsin; and more.

Who are the Event's Organizers?

Ground for Hope-Wisconsin is a partnership of GreenFaith, the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee, the Conference's Interfaith Earth Network program, and many co-sponsors. GreenFaith, a national leader in the religious-environmental movement, has organized previous Ground for Hope events in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and New Mexico.

Additional co-sponsors include the Wisconsin Council of Churches; Cardinal Stritch University's Saint Clare Center for Catholic Life and the university's Center for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation; Greater Milwaukee Synod, ELCA; Green Seminary Initiative; Hindu Temple of Wisconsin; the Islamic Environmental Group of Wisconsin; Midwest Environmental Advocates; Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH); Milwaukee Urban Gardens; Racine Eco-Justice Center; Racine Interfaith Coalition (RIC); Sacred Heart School of Theology; Sikh Religious Society of Wisconsin; Southeast Wisconsin Unitarian Universalist Congregations; South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA; Tikkun Ha-Ir of Milwaukee; the Victory Garden Initiative; and Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light.

Interview Opportunities:

Winona LaDuke

Tom Heinen, Executive Director, Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee

Rev. Fletcher Harper, Executive Director, GreenFaith

Terri Lowder, Chair, Interfaith Earth Network

Founded in 1992, GreenFaith inspires, educates and mobilizes people of diverse religious backgrounds for environmental leadership.

The mission of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee is to uphold the dignity of every person and the solidarity of the human community. Its Interfaith Earth Network encourages people of diverse cultural, economic and faith perspectives to live, work, pray and worship in environmentally sustainable ways.

Visit www.greenfaith.org, www.interfaithconference.org, and www.interfaithearthnetwork.org for more information.