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**Interfaith Forum to Highlight Need to Pass Democracy Reforms**

*Sr. Quincy Howard, OP: "The faith community is deeply concerned and fully engaged in the health of our democracy."*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On July 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> the Faithful Democracy coalition's "Faith In Democracy" Virtual Forum offers partner organizations a space to highlight the deep concerns and engagement of the faith community around threats to our democratic institutions.

The Forum features virtual events from national and state partner organizations and congregations to educate, advocate, and mobilize their membership on reforms to protect our democracy and the freedom to vote. Live events and viewings that recap faith-led efforts to ensure a free and fair 2020 election underscore the faith community's ongoing engagement to support democratic participation.

Featured partners include United Methodist Board of Church and Society (UMC), Faith in Public Life, Mormon Women for Ethical Government (MWEG), Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ), United Church of Christ (UCC), NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, The Episcopal Church USA, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, The Presbyterian Church USA, Religious Action Center for Reformed Judaism (The RAC), United Church of Christ, National Council of Churches, Franciscan Action Network (FAN), National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), Center for Common Ground, Arizona African American Christian Clergy Coalition (AACCC), Arizona Faith Network (AFN), and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice. Full programming is listed at [www.faithfuldemocracy.us/forum](http://www.faithfuldemocracy.us/forum).

Forum events energize members and congregants on the urgent need for federal reforms that protect and strengthen our democracy. The 2-day forum will be followed by a national faith-based grassroots mobilization campaign calling on Congress to pass the For the People Act. Faithful Democracy and West Virginia faith leaders will also host in-person prayer vigils across the state on July 21<sup>st</sup> urging passage of the bill by any means necessary.

**Sister Quincy Howard, OP, Coordinating Director, Faithful Democracy Coalition said:**

"Our lawmakers need to know that the faith community is fully engaged in passing critical democracy reforms. Faith-based congregations and organizations feel a real urgency to respond to threats on our democratic institutions. A healthy democracy is our means for creating a better world and therefore is a moral issue of the utmost importance. Our coalition is non-partisan, yet in full agreement that the For the People Act is the legislative response needed at this time.

"The Faith in Democracy Forum and subsequent grassroots mobilization are campaigns to demonstrate that people of faith nationwide are doing the mobilizing, civic engagement, and educational outreach to ensure participation. We expect these good faith efforts to be met by good faith legislative responses to protect the democratic institutions which are under attack. Congress must act. We are calling on the Senate to carve out a path to passage for S.1 quickly and are mobilizing people of faith to hold Congress and President Biden accountable for protecting our democracy for future generations."

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*[The Faithful Democracy Coalition](http://www.faithfuldemocracy.us) is an interfaith coalition of national and state-based congregations and faith-based organizations that educate and advocate for federal reforms that protect and strengthen our democracy.*